(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
18 November 2004 (18.11.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/099241 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: C07K 14/18, C12N 9/12

(21) International Application Number: PCT/CA2004/000676

(22) International Filing Date: 5 May 2004 (05.05.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/469,604 9 May 2003 (09.05.2003) US

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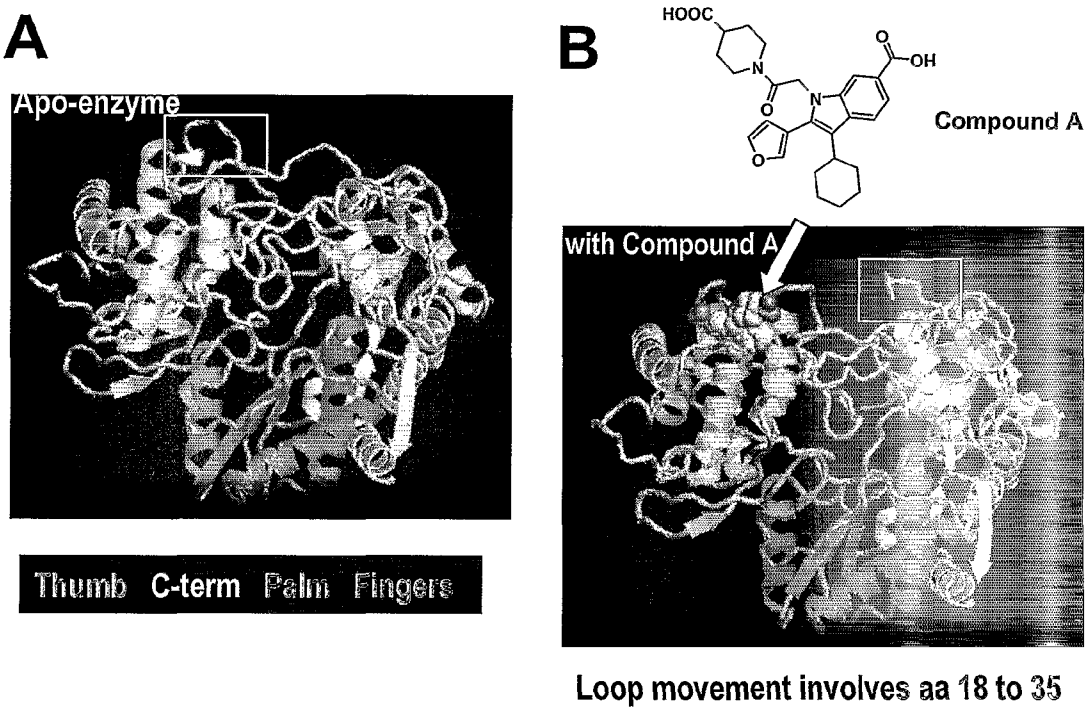
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(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,

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(54) Title: HEPATITIS C VIRUS NS5B POLYMERASE INHIBITOR BINDING POCKET



(57) Abstract: The HCV NS5B polymerase, when complexed with certain inhibitors, adopts a confirmation in which the finger loop region defined by amino acid residues 18 to 35 is displaced to expose a binding pocket defined generally by amino acid residues 392, 393, 395, 396, 399, 424, 425, 428, 429, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 500 and 503. This newly exposed binding pocket defines a novel target in the search of further chemical entities which are capable of binding to HCV NS5B and modulating, or preferably inhibiting, the polymerase activity of HCV NS5B.

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PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) **Designated States** *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*

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