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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
24 June 2004 (24.06.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/052930 A3

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: C07K 14/705, 14/54, 7/08, A61K 39/385, 9/127, 47/48

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/DK2003/000859

(22) International Filing Date:
11 December 2003 (11.12.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

PA 2002 01893	11 December 2002 (11.12.2002)	DK
60/432,532	11 December 2002 (11.12.2002)	US
PA 2003 00198	12 February 2003 (12.02.2003)	DK
60/446,707	12 February 2003 (12.02.2003)	US

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(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT (utility model), AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ (utility model), CZ, DE (utility model), DE, DK (utility model), DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE (utility model), EE, EG, ES, FI (utility model), 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, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK (utility model), SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

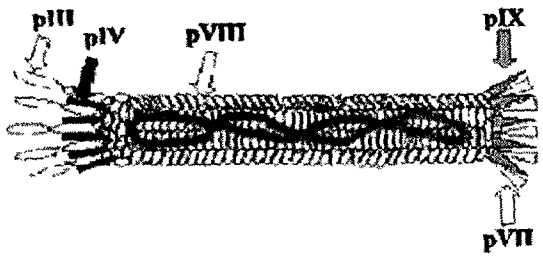
(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF,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

Published:
— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
29 July 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: TARGETING SINGLE EPITOPES



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to novel immunogenic agents that are capable of inducing specific B-cell immunity directed against one single epitope present in a self-antigen. The immunogenic agent is a chimeric binding protein that binds specifically to a first receptor, said first receptor being one that binds a second receptor present in an antigen of an animal, wherein said chimeric binding protein comprises: (a) a B-cell epitope in the form of a binding site that specifically binds the first receptor and which competes with the second receptor for binding to the first receptor, (b) a scaffold protein structure being autologous in said mammal, and (c) at least one tolerance breaking amino acid sequence, which is heterologous in said animal and which binds to an MHC Class II molecule in said animal. In preferred embodiments, the chimeric binding protein is in the form of an anti-idiotypic antibody having a tolerance-breaking aminoacid sequence introduced. The invention further relates to methods of preparing the immunogens and methods of using the immunogens in therapy. Also, the invention relates to proteins, nucleic acid fragments, recombinantly modified host cells and virus that are useful in the practice of the methods of the invention.

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