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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **OP-GEN, INC.** [US/US]; 708 Quince Orchard Road, Suite 160, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **LENNOX, Ronald, W.** [US/US]; 79 Washington Place, Apt 4fa, New York, NY 10011 (US). **DYKES, Colin, W.** [GB/US]; 906 Beacon Square Court #412, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 (US).

(74) Agents: **SCHOEN, Adam, M.** et al.; Brown Rudnick LLP, One Financial Center, Boston, MA 02111 (US).

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(54) Title: METHODS OF CHARACTERIZING SMALL NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES

(57) Abstract: The invention generally relates to methods of characterizing small nucleic acid molecules, such as plasmids or nucleic acid molecules obtained from a virus. In certain embodiments, the invention provides a method of characterizing a small circular nucleic acid molecule, the method including performing rolling circle amplification on a small circular nucleic acid molecule, thereby producing a concatamer, and generating an optical map of the concatamer, thereby characterizing the small circular nucleic acid molecule.



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