

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
30 March 2006 (30.03.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/034319 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:

C12Q 1/70 (2006.01) *C12N 7/04* (2006.01)
C12N 7/00 (2006.01) *C12N 7/08* (2006.01)
C12N 7/02 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2005/033760

(22) International Filing Date:

21 September 2005 (21.09.2005)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/611,824 21 September 2004 (21.09.2004) US
11/022,262 23 December 2004 (23.12.2004) US

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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, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY,
MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO,
NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK,
SL, SM, 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, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, 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

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

27 July 2006

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: PORCINE REPRODUCTIVE AND RESPIRATORY SYNDROME ISOLATES AND METHODS OF USE

(57) Abstract: A method of predicting the virulence of a new or uncharacterized PRRS virus isolate is provided wherein the isolate is injected into swine and allowed to replicate for a period of from about 3-15 days. During this period, the rate of virus growth and/or the magnitude of viremia is determined, and this data is compared with a corresponding growth rate and/or viremia magnitude of a PRRS virus isolate of known virulence, as a measure of the virulence of the new or uncharacterized isolate. Additionally, a method of selecting an isolate for inclusion in an immunogenic composition based on the predicted virulence is also provided, together with compositions incorporating attenuated forms of viruses predicted to be virulent.



WO 2006/034319 A3