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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
14 June 2007 (14.06.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/067782 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
C12N 5/06 (2006.01) *C12N 5/00* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2006/047083

(22) International Filing Date:
8 December 2006 (08.12.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/748,885 8 December 2005 (08.12.2005) 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, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, 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).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:
— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

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:
14 February 2008

(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR INDUCING THE ACTIVATION OF IMMATURE MONOCYTIC DENDRITIC CELLS

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides methods for inducing the maturation of immature dendritic cells (DC) and for activating those cells without the use of a dendritic cell maturation agent. The activated DC can be used for inducing an antigen specific T cell response. Methods of the invention can also comprise the addition of a directional maturation agent, such as interferon gamma, to induce a Th-I and/or Th-2 bias in the response obtained. The present invention also provides dendritic cell populations useful for activating and for inducing antigen specific T cells. Similarly, activated antigen specific T cell populations, and methods of making the same are provided.

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