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(54) Title: PRODUCTION OF INFECTIOUS HEPADNAVIRUS PARTICLES CONTAINING FOAMY RETROVIRUS ENVELOPE PROTEINS AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method for producing a hepadnavirus. .virion that is infectious in vitro. which comprises: (a) introducing into a cell *(i) a hepadnavirus* genome expression vector and (ii) a foamy retrovirus . envelope expression vector which comprises a nucleic acid encoding at least a fragment of a foamy virus envelope protein, and (b) culturing the cell thereby producing hepadnavirus virions comprising at least a fragment of a foamy virus envelope protein, wherein the hepadnavirus virions are infectious in vitro. A method for determining susceptibility for an anti- hepadnavirus drug, a method for determining replication capacity of a hepadnavirus from an infected patient, and method for identifying a mutation in a hepadnavirus nucleic acid that confers resistance to an anti-hepadnavirus drug are also provided.