



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷: C12N 15/13, 7/01, 15/36	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/61758 (43) International Publication Date: 19 October 2000 (19.10.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU00/00294 (22) International Filing Date: 7 April 2000 (07.04.00) (30) Priority Data: PP 9679 9 April 1999 (09.04.99) AU (71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): NORTH WESTERN HEALTH CARE NETWORK [AU/AU]; 10th floor, Connibere Building, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Flemington Road, Parkville, VIC 3050 (AU). SMITHKLINE BEECHAM CORPORATION [US/US]; Corporate Intellectual Property, 709 Swedeland Road - UW2221, King of Prussia, PA 19406-0939 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BARTHOLOMEUSZ, Angeline [AU/AU]; 64 Miller Street, Carnegie, VIC 3163 (AU). LITTLEJOHN, Margaret [AU/AU]; 8 Moore Street, Coburg, VIC 3058 (AU). AYRES, Anna [AU/AU]; 4 Ferry Crescent, West Brunswick, VIC 3055 (AU). LOCARNINI, Stephen [AU/AU]; 13 Carlisle Avenue, East St Kilda, VIC 3183 (AU).		(74) Agents: HUGHES, Edward, John, Langford et al.; Davies Collison Cave, Level 3, 303 Coronation Drive, Milton, QLD 4064 (AU). (81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, 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, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: VIRAL VARIANTS (57) Abstract The present invention relates generally to viral variants exhibiting reduced sensitivity to particular agents and/or reduced interactivity with immunological reagents. More particularly, the present invention is directed to hepatitis B virus variants exhibiting complete or partial resistance to nucleoside analogues and/or reduced interactivity with antibodies to viral surface components including reduced sensitivity. The present invention further contemplates assays for detecting such viral variants which assays are useful in monitoring anti-viral therapeutic regimes and in developing new or modified vaccines directed against viral agents and in particular hepatitis B virus variants.		