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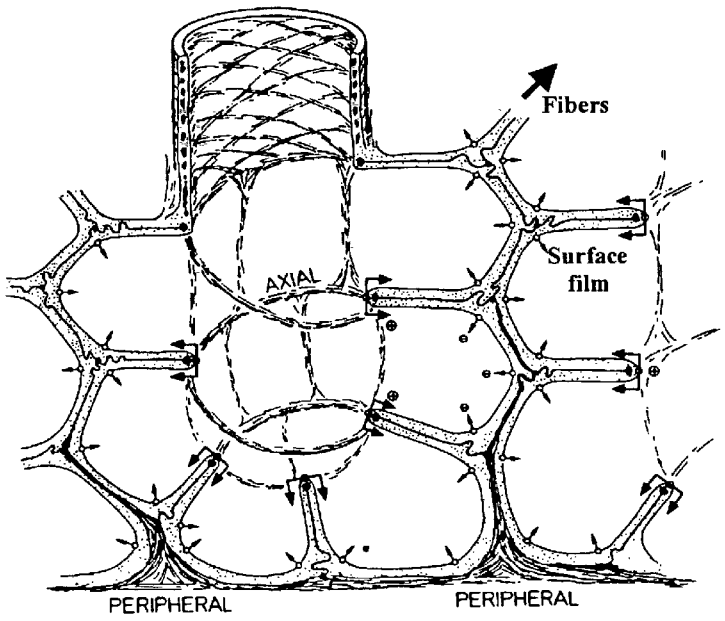
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR TREATING EMPHYSEMA



(57) Abstract: The present invention features compositions and methods for treating emphysema by reducing the amount of force the fibers in the lung (*e.g.*, the collagen and elastin fibers in the walls of the alveoli) must bear. More particularly, in one embodiment, the invention features a pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising a lipid that, when applied to an enlarged alveolus (*e.g.*, an alveolus having a diameter substantially larger than (*e.g.*, 5, 10, 20, 50 or 100 % or more than) the average alveoli in a healthy patient (*i.e.*, a patient with no discernable lung disease), exerts a surface tension within the alveolus that substantially reduces the stress on fibers within the alveolus when inflated by a normal inspiration. The composition can display a γ^* of about 30 to about 70 dynes/cm.

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