

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 July 2003 (10.07.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/056031 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C12Q 1/44**
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IT02/00811
- (22) International Filing Date:
19 December 2002 (19.12.2002)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
011100 21 December 2001 (21.12.2001) IE
- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except AG, BB, BR, BZ, CA, CO, CR, CU, DM, EC, GD, LC, MX, TT, US*): **AC-TIAL FARMACÊUTICA, LDA.** [PT/PT]; Rua dos Ferreiros, 260, P-9000-082 Funchal (PT).
- (71) Applicant (*for AG, BB, BR, BZ, CA, CO, CR, CU, DM, EC, GD, LC, MX, TT only*): **VSL PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.** [US/US]; 800 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 (US).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): **DE SIMONE, Claudio** [IT/IT]; Via Nuoro, 10, I-00040 Ardea (IT).
- (74) Agents: **CAVATTONI, Fabio** et al.; Cavattoni - Raimondi, Viale dei Parioli, 160, I-00197 Roma (IT).
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, 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, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: ANALYTICAL METHOD FOR DETECTING ALKALINE SPHINGOMYELINASE AND KIT FOR USE IN SUCH METHOD

(57) Abstract: An analytical fluorometric method and a kit for use in such method are disclosed for assessing the presence of alkaline sphingomyelinase (SMase) in the stools of a patient in need of such an assessment since alkaline SMase is a marker of serious pathological states, such as colon cancer.



WO 03/056031 A2