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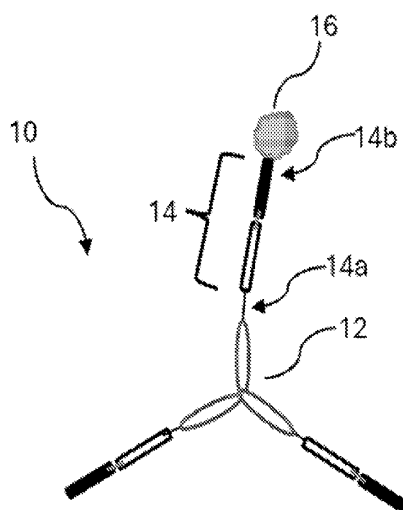


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: The present disclosure describes peptide nanospo-
nges comprising a plurality of self-assembled peptide building blocks. The plurality
of self-assembled peptide building blocks comprises a first peptide building
block comprising: a branched polymeric core comprising at least three arms; a
first block co-peptide covalently linked to one of said arms, wherein said first
block co-peptide comprises a first peptide block and a second peptide block
which is different from the first peptide block; a lipid-based capping moiety
covalently attached to the first block co-peptide; and a therapeutically active
compound covalently attached via a cleavable linkage to the first block co-
peptide. Advantageously, the block co-peptide is covalently attached to the
core such that it is resistant to enzymatic cleavage from the core.

[Continued on next page]

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