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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: BIONOVA CORPORATION [US/US]; 1533 - 34th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: LIAO, Jaw-Ching [-/-]; 3F No. 3 - 25 Valley, Chung-Cheng Road, Pan-Chiao, Taipei (TW). WANG, Cheng-nan [-/-]; 12th floor, No. 242, Kuang Fu South Road, Taipei (TW).

(74) Agents: KING, Joshua et al.; Seed and Berry L.L.P., 6300 Columbia Center, 701 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-7092 (US).

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(54) Title: DIAGNOSIS OF, AND VACCINATION AGAINST, A POSITIVE STRANDED RNA VIRUS USING AN ISOLATED, UNPROCESSED POLYPEPTIDE

(57) Abstract

The unprocessed polyprotein initially translated from the genome of a positive-stranded RNA virus contains epitopic configurations that are not retained in the processed proteins. The structural protein region, in particular, loses an epitopic configuration upon processing at the cleavage site between the genomic region encoding the core protein and the genomic region encoding the protein adjacent the core protein, such as the envelope protein in HCV. Compositions, methods and assays relating to the diagnosis and detection of the presence of the positive-stranded RNA virus, or antibodies to the positive-stranded RNA virus, in a sample. Compositions and methods for the induction of immune responses in, and vaccination of, an animal. Combination of the unprocessed core region with a non-structural protein such as an NS5 or an unprocessed NS3-NS4 fusion from HCV).