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(54) **Title: RECOMBINANT ADENO ASSOCIATED VIRUS (RAAV) ENCODING GJB2 AND USES THEREOF**

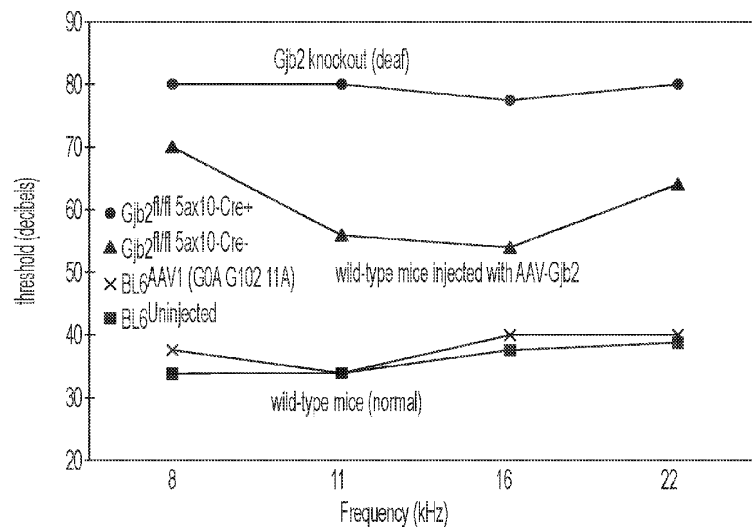


FIG. 2B

(57) **Abstract:** The present disclosure, at least in part, relates to compositions (e.g., isolated nucleic acid and rAAVs) and methods for treating Non-syndromic hearing loss and deafness (DFNB1) by delivering gap junction beta 2 (GJB2) protein to inner ear cells that normally express *GJB2* (e.g., fibrocytes and supporting cells of the organ of Corti and nearby regions). The isolated nucleic acid of the present disclosure comprises an expression cassette, wherein the expression cassette comprises a gap junction beta 2 (*GJB2*) gene regulatory element (GRE) (e.g., GJB2 enhancers, *GJB2* promoters, *GJB2* 5' UTR, and/or *GJB2* 3' UTR), and a nucleotide sequence encoding a GJB2 protein.

[Continued on next page]



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