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(54) Title: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RECOVERING CELLS AND THEIR ANALYSIS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for recovering and analysis cells. In particular, the present invention relates to the field of recovery and analysis of viable cells from fluid or gas. The cells may be recovered by filtration and nucleic acid molecules are eluted from the filter. Prior to elution, cells may be treated with a phenanthridium compound capable of penetrating dead or membrane compromised cells. Specifically embodied is the use of propidium monoazide (PMA), which prevents PCR amplification of nucleic acids derived from dead or membrane compromised cells, thereby permitting the differentiation between viable and dead cells.