(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
6 March 2014 (06.03.2014)

WIPO | PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2014/033546 A2

(51) International Patent Classification:
C12N 5/071 (2010.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2013/002501

(22) International Filing Date:
30 August 2013 (30.08.2013)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
61/696,059 31 August 2012 (31.08.2012) US
61/761,588 6 February 2013 (06.02.2013) US

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(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report (Rule 48.2(g))*

WO 2014/033546 A2

(54) Title: METHODS FOR PRODUCING CELLS HAVING A PHENOTYPE OF A PRIMARY HUMAN HEPATOCYTES AND COMPOSITIONS

(57) Abstract: The present disclosure provides methods and compositions relating to in vitro cultures of human hepatocyte cell lines which exhibit a primary human hepatocyte phenotype. Such cell lines are susceptible to infection by a hepatotrophic virus, such as HCV or HBV, and support both viral replication and high levels of viral particle production. Such in vitro cultures find use in pro - duction and study of hepatotrophic virus, as well as methods of screening (e.g., for antiviral drugs, assessing drug metabolism), and study of primary human hepatocytes.