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(54) Title: VECTORS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF SOLID TUMORS INCLUDING MELANOMA		
(57) Abstract The present invention is directed to the isolation and use of super-infective, tumor-specific vectors that are strains of parasites including, but not limited to, bacteria, fungi and protists. In certain embodiments, the parasites include, but are not limited to, the bacterium <i>Salmonella</i> spp., such as <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>, the bacterium <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> and the protozoan <i>Leishmania amazonensis</i>. In other embodiments, the present invention is concerned with the isolation of super-infective, tumor-specific, suicide gene-containing strains of parasites for use in treatment of solid tumors.		