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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
1 May 2003 (01.05.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/035851 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: C12N 5/00, 15/87, A61K 48/00, G01N 33/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/IL01/00976

(22) International Filing Date: 23 October 2001 (23.10.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **YISSUM RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM** [IL/IL]; P.O.Box 4279, 46 Jabotinsky Street, 91 042 Jeursalem (IL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant *(for US only)*: **MITRANI, Eduardo, N.** [IL/IL]; 22 reuven Street, 93 510 Jerusalem (IL).

(74) Agent: **G. E. EHRLICH (1995) LTD.**; 28 Bezalel Street, 52521 Ramat Gan (IL).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 03/035851 A1

(54) Title: IN VITRO MICRO-ORGANS, AND USES RELATED THERETO

(57) Abstract: Micro-organ cultures which include isolated populations of cells having specific characteristics are described. Salient features of the subject micro-organ cultures include the ability to be maintained in culture for relatively long periods of time, as well as the preservation of an organ microarchitecture which facilitates, for example, cell-cell and cell-matrix interactions analogous to those occurring in the source organ. The micro-organ cultures of the invention can be used in methods for delivering gene products to recipient subjects, for identifying cell proliferative and cell differentiating agents, and identification and isolation of progenitor and stem cells. In addition, the micro-organ cultures of the present invention can be used in methods for identifying inhibitors of cell proliferation, cell differentiation and viral infectivity. In other embodiments, the micro-organ cultures can be used for transplantation.