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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
6 December 2001 (06.12.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/092891 A3

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: C07K 14/705, G01N 33/92, A61P 3/06

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/16946

(22) International Filing Date: 25 May 2001 (25.05.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
09/578,900 26 May 2000 (26.05.2000) US

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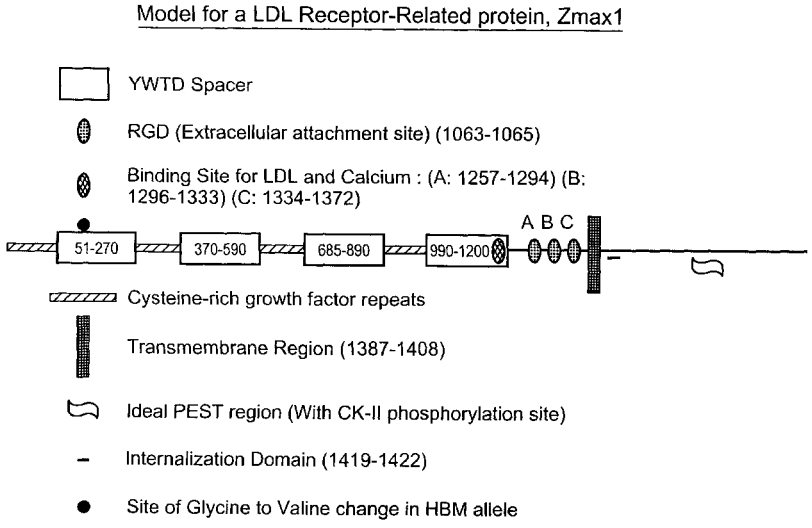
(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU,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

Published:
— *with international search report*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: REGULATING LIPID LEVELS VIA THE *ZMAX1* OR *HBM* GENE



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the high bone mass (*HBM*) gene, the corresponding wild-type gene (*Zmax1*), and mutants thereof. The genes identified in the present invention are implicated in regulation of physiological lipid levels, and thereby lipid-mediated diseases and conditions. The invention also provides nucleic acids, including coding sequences, oligonucleotide primers and probes, proteins, cloning vectors, expression vectors, transformed hosts, methods of developing pharmaceutical compositions, methods of identifying molecules involved in lipid level regulation in a subject. In preferred embodiments, the present invention is directed to methods for treating and preventing atherosclerosis, arteriosclerosis cardiovascular disease, atherosclerotic and arteriosclerotic associated conditions.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
25 July 2002

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.