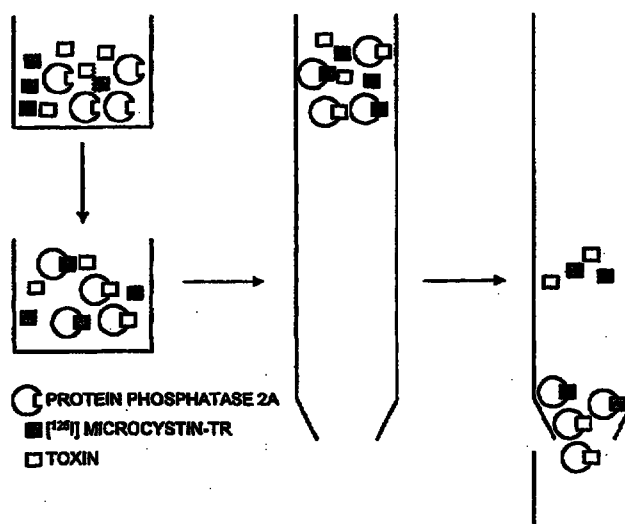




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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/03756 (22) International Filing Date: 11 November 1999 (11.11.99) (30) Priority Data: 9824772.9 11 November 1998 (11.11.98) GB (71) Applicant (for GB only): COCKBAIN, Julian [GB/GB]; 102 Cranbrook Road, London W4 2LJ (GB). (71)(72) Applicants and Inventors: DØSKELAND, Stein, Ove [NO/NO]; University of Bergen, Dept. of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Årstadveien 19, N-5009 Bergen (NO). SERRES, Margrethe, Hauge [NO/NO]; University of Bergen, Dept. of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Årstadveien 19, N-5009 Bergen (NO). FLADMARK, Kari, Espolin [NO/NO]; University of Bergen, Dept. of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Årstadveien 19, N-5009 Bergen (NO). (74) Agents: COCKBAIN, Julian et al.; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), DM, EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), 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, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, 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), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: ASSAY FOR PHOSPHATASE-TARGETING TOXINS**(57) Abstract**

The invention provides an assay method for determining phosphatase targeting toxins which inhibit protein phosphatases comprising contacting a solid support having an immobilized ligand immobilized thereon with: (i) a sample suspected of being contaminated with toxin and (ii) a non-immobilized ligand, wherein said immobilized ligand is capable of generating directly or indirectly detectable signal when uncomplexed, when complexed by said toxin, when complexed by a complex of said toxin and said non-immobilized ligand or when complexed by said non-immobilized ligand or said non-immobilized ligand is capable of generating a directly or indirectly detectable signal when uncomplexed or when complexed, separating a bound fraction from a non-bound fraction; and directly or indirectly determining the non-immobilized ligand bound to the immobilized ligand (the bound fraction) or non-complexed in aqueous solution (the non-bound fraction).