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(54) Title: CHARACTERIZATION AND ISOLATION OF SUBSETS OF HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS (HES) AND CELLS ASSOCIATED OR DERIVED THEREFROM

(57) Abstract: A sub-population of HES cells is identified which is positive for specific HES markers. These cell types are identified by expression of particular GCTM-2 antigens. A method based on the identification of GCTM-2 can differentiate between substantially undifferentiated or differentiated cell populations. Spontaneous differentiation often occurs in HES cultures resulting in non-homogeneous cell cultures. The invention also provides further sub populations of cells within differentiated cultures of HES cells that are SCL or epithelial in nature.