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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ANGIOTECH PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.** [CA/CA];
1618 Station Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6A 1B6 (CA).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **AVELAR, Rui** [CA/CA]; 1989 King Edward Avenue West, Vancouver, British Columbia V6J 2W7 (CA). **GORALTCHOUK,**

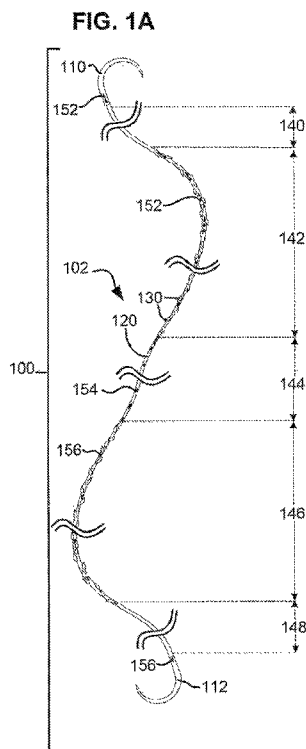
Alexei [CA/CA]; #314 8880 Jones Road, Richmond, British Columbia V6Y 3Z1 (CA). **HERRMANN, Robert, A.** [US/CA]; 1508 - 1082 Seymour St., Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 1X9 (CA). **LUSCOMBE, Brian, H.** [US/US]; 5 Oak Ridge Rd., Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920 (US). **D'AGOSTINO, William, L.** [US/US]; 19 Douglas Drive, Hamden, Connecticut 06518 (US).

(74) Agents: **MCMASTERS, David, D.** et al.; Angiotech, P.O. Box 2840, North Bend, Washington 98045 (US).

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(54) Title: CODED HETEROFUNCTIONAL SUTURES AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: A marked heterofunctional surgical filament. The filament comprises two or more sections having different features, and the different sections of the filament are provided with markers in order that they may be identified and differentiated. The filament may have retainers on the surface of one or more sections such that the filament can engage and retain tissue without knots. The markers may be used to indicate fixed features of a section of filament such as the presence and/or orientation of retainers. The markers may be utilized to indicate conditions of the filament such as tension. The markers may be directly readable or be machine-readable. The surgical filament is thin and flexible and may be used for suturing.



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