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- (71) **Applicant:** **XILIO DEVELOPMENT, INC.** [US/MA];
828 Winter Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451 (US).
- (72) **Inventors:** **ROZENFELD, Raphael**; c/o Xilio Development, Inc., 828 Winter Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451 (US). **ESKIOCAK, Ugur**; c/o Xilio Development, Inc., 828 Winter Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451 (US). **QIU, Huawei**; c/o Xilio Development, Inc., 828 Winter Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451 (US). **JOHNSON, Parker**; c/o Xilio Development, Inc., 828 Winter Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451 (US).

JENKINS, Kurt Allen; c/o Xilio Development, Inc., 828 Winter Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451 (US). **PED-ERZOLI-RIBEIL, Magali**; c/o Xilio Development, Inc., 828 Winter Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451 (US). **TOMAR, Dheeraj Singh**; c/o Xilio Development, Inc., 828 Winter Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451 (US). **O'DONNELL, Rebekah Kay**; c/o Xilio Development, Inc., 828 Winter Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451 (US).

(74) **Agent:** **JONES, Kevin**; Morrison & Foerster LLP, 425 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105 (US).

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(54) **Title:** MASKED IL-15 CYTOKINES AND THEIR CLEAVAGE PRODUCTS

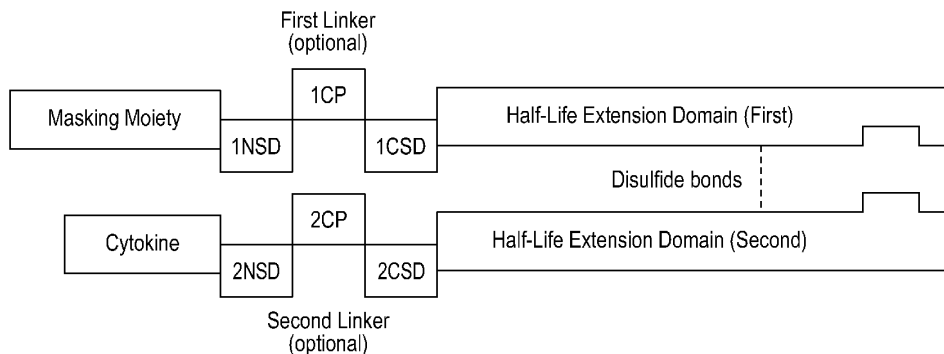


FIG. 2

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to masked IL-15 cytokines, comprising an IL-15 cytokine or functional fragment thereof, a masking moiety and a proteolytically cleavable linker. The masking moiety masks the IL-15 cytokine or functional fragment thereof thereby reducing or preventing binding of the IL-cytokine or functional fragment thereof to its cognate receptor, but upon proteolytic cleavage of the cleavable linker at a target site, the IL-15 cytokine or functional fragment thereof becomes activated, which renders it capable or more capable of binding to its cognate receptor.

[Continued on next page]

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