



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : C12N 15/61, 9/90, 15/85, 5/10, C12Q 1/533		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/43526
			(43) International Publication Date: 27 July 2000 (27.07.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/00938		(72) Inventors; and	
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(30) Priority Data:			
60/116,333	19 January 1999 (19.01.99)	US	
60/144,839	21 July 1999 (21.07.99)	US	
60/145,953	28 July 1999 (28.07.99)	US	
(63) Related by Continuation (CON) or Continuation-in-Part (CIP) to Earlier Applications			
US	60/145,953 (CON)		
Filed on	28 July 1999 (28.07.99)		
US	60/144,839 (CON)		
Filed on	21 July 1999 (21.07.99)		
US	60/116,333 (CON)		
Filed on	19 January 1999 (19.01.99)		
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		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, 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, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, 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> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
(54) Title: MAMMALIAN SERINE RACEMASE			
(57) Abstract			
High levels of D-serine occur in mammalian brain, where it appears to be an endogenous ligand of the "glycine site" of NMDA receptors. We have purified from rat brain a soluble enzyme that catalyzes the direct racemization of L-serine to D-serine. Purified serine racemase has a molecular weight of 37 kDa and requires pyridoxal 5'-phosphate for its activity. The enzyme is highly selective toward L-serine, failing to racemize any other amino acid tested. We have also identified polynucleotide sequences which encode mammalian, including human, serine racemase. Compounds which modulate the activity of mammalian serine racemase are useful for treating conditions and diseases which involve overstimulation of NMDA receptors, such as stroke and various neurodegenerative diseases.			