



## (51) International Patent Classification:

A01N 55/02 (2006.01) C30B 1/00 (2006.01)  
A61K 31/28 (2006.01)

## (21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2010/041427

## (22) International Filing Date:

8 July 2010 (08.07.2010)

## (25) Filing Language:

English

## (26) Publication Language:

English

## (30) Priority Data:

|            |                               |    |
|------------|-------------------------------|----|
| 61/223,944 | 8 July 2009 (08.07.2009)      | US |
| 61/226,153 | 16 July 2009 (16.07.2009)     | US |
| 61/228,250 | 24 July 2009 (24.07.2009)     | US |
| 61/235,574 | 20 August 2009 (20.08.2009)   | US |
| 61/249,804 | 8 October 2009 (08.10.2009)   | US |
| 61/263,648 | 23 November 2009 (23.11.2009) | US |
| 61/294,690 | 13 January 2010 (13.01.2010)  | US |

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI,

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(54) Title: NOVEL GOLD-BASED NANOCRYSTALS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENTS AND ELECTROCHEMICAL MANUFACTURING PROCESSES THEREFOR

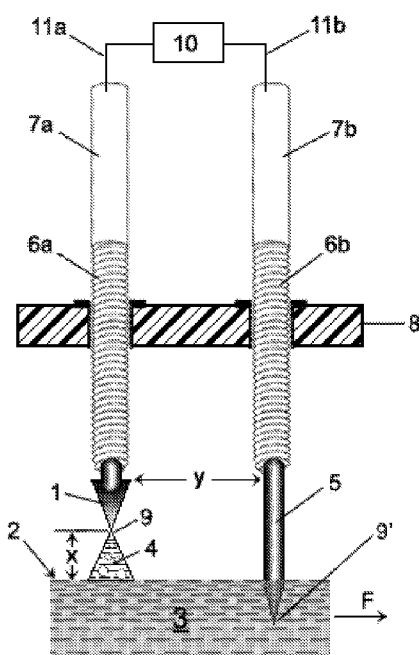


Figure 1a

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to novel gold nanocrystals and nanocrystal shape distributions that have surfaces that are substantially free from organic impurities or films. Specifically, the surfaces are "clean" relative to the surfaces of gold nanoparticles made using chemical reduction processes that require organic reductants and/or surfactants to grow gold nanoparticles from gold ions in solution. The invention includes novel electrochemical manufacturing apparatuses and techniques for making the gold-based nanocrystals. The invention further includes pharmaceutical compositions thereof and the use of the gold nanocrystals or suspensions or colloids thereof for the treatment or prevention of diseases or conditions for which gold therapy is already known and more generally for conditions resulting from pathological cellular activation, such as inflammatory (including chronic inflammatory) conditions, autoimmune conditions, hypersensitivity reactions and/or cancerous diseases or conditions. In one embodiment, the condition is mediated by MIF (macrophage migration inhibiting factor).



NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**(84) Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK,

**Published:**

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*