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(71) Applicant: **UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON  
TYNE** [GB/GB]; King's Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne  
and Wear NE1 7RU (GB).

(72) Inventors: **BIRCH-MACHIN, Mark Anthony**; c/o Uni-  
versity of Newcastle upon Tyne, King's Gate, Newcastle up-  
on Tyne Tyne and Wear NE1 7RU (GB). **STOUT, Roisin**

**Bridget**; c/o University of Newcastle upon Tyne, King's  
Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne and Wear NE1 7RU (GB).

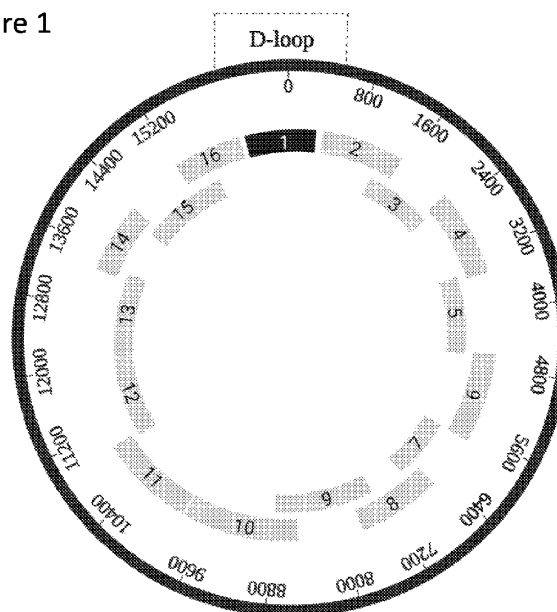
(74) Agent: **HGF LIMITED**; Document Handling - HGF  
(York), 1 City Walk, Leeds West Yorkshire LS11 9DX  
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(54) Title: METHODS FOR DETERMINING MITOCHONDRIAL DNA DAMAGE

Figure 1



(57) Abstract: The disclosure relates to methods of determining the level of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) damage in a cell population (for example a skin cell population). The invention further relates to methods of determining the ability of a test agent to prevent or repair mtDNA damage in a cell population, as well as methods for monitoring progression of mtDNA damage in a cell population. The invention also relates to kits for use in the methods of the invention, as well as use of a mtDNA fragment that the inventors have identified is especially susceptible to damage caused by environmental factors, such as UVR and/or pollution.

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