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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **BIOGEN IDEC MA INC.** [US/US]; 14 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **VIOLETTE, Shelia** [US/US]; 91 Simonds Road, Lexington, MA 02420 (US). **KOOPMAN, Louise, A.** [NL/US]; 64 Brook Street, Brookline, MA 02445 (US). **SIMON, Kenneth, J.** [US/US]; 92 Fifth St., Cambridge, MA 02141 (US). **WEINREB, Paul, H.** [US/US]; 18 Brundrett Ave., Andover, MA 01810 (US). **VAN VLIJMEN, Herman** [NL/NL]; Kanunick De Deckerstraat 58 2800, NL-2800 BE Mechelen (NL). **SALDANHA, Jose** [GB/GB]; 21 Fillebrook Avenue, Endfield Middlesex EN13BD (GB). **LUGOVSKOY, Alexey, A.** [RU/US]; 24 Center Street, Woburn, MA 01801 (US).

(74) Agents: **DEL BUONO, Brian, J.** et al.; Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C., 1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005 (US).

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(54) Title: ANTI-ALPHA V BETA 6 ANTIBODIES AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention is in the fields of cell biology, immunology and oncology. Specifically, the invention relates to humanized antibodies that recognizes v 6 integrins which comprises a variable region of nonhuman origin and at least -a portion of an immunoglobulin of human origin. The invention also relates to processes for their preparation, to pharmaceutical compositions comprising them and to methods of treating various diseases by administering humanized anti- v 6 antibodies. The invention also relates to the identification of differential expression of the integrin avß6 on the surfaces of tumor cells and tissues, the use of this differential expression in determining the metastatic potential of tumor cells, and methods of diagnosis and treatment/prevention of tumor metastasis and for elimination of residual metastatic tumor cells using ligands, particularly antibodies, that bind to integrin avß6.

WO 2007/008712 A3