(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
20 June 2002 (20.06.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/48316 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: C12N 5/06, 5/08, G01N 33/50

(21) International Application Number: PCT/BE01/00209

(22) International Filing Date:
11 December 2001 (11.12.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
00870300.1 13 December 2000 (13.12.2000) EP

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL** [BE/BE]; Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussels (BE).

(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **CORTVRINDT, Rita** [BE/BE]; Tramstraat, 37, B-1840 Londerzeel (BE). **SMITZ, Johan** [BE/BE]; Brabantsdal 15, B-1780 Wemmel (BE).

(74) Agents: **VANDERSTEEN, Pieter** et al.; Office Van Malderen, Place Reine Fabiola 6/1, B-1083 BRUSSELS (BE).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, 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, MZ, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, 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, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*
— *entirely in electronic form (except for this front page) and available upon request from the International Bureau*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 02/48316 A1

(54) Title: METHOD FOR IN VITRO CULTURE OF OVARIAN FOLLICLES

(57) Abstract: The present invention is related to a method for in vitro culture of mammalian ovarian follicles for bioassay purposes, comprising the following subsequent steps: - providing a suitable container for the in vitro culture, - selecting a follicle from an ovary of a mammal, said follicle comprising at least a theca or pre-theca cell, a granulosa cell and an oocyte, - an optional first cultur e step using an attachment prohibiting first medium free from oil, - a second culture step using an attachment promoting second medium free from oil arranged to, and - the retrieval of the matured follicle.