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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
13 December 2007 (13.12.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/143168 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
C07K 16/28 (2006.01) *A61K 39/00* (2006.01)
C12N 15/13 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2007/013062

(22) International Filing Date: 1 June 2007 (01.06.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/810,664 2 June 2006 (02.06.2006) US
60/843,232 8 September 2006 (08.09.2006) US

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(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, 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, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (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*
— *with sequence listing part of description published separately in electronic form and available upon request from the International Bureau*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
24 April 2008

(54) Title: HIGH AFFINITY ANTIBODIES TO HUMAN IL-6 RECEPTOR

(57) Abstract: A human antibody or an antigen-binding fragment which binds human IL-6 receptor (hIL-6R) with a K_D of about 500 pM or less and blocks IL-6 activity with an IC_{50} of 200 pM or less. The antibody or antibody fragment binds hIL-6R with an affinity at least 2-fold higher relative to its binding to monkey IL-6R.

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