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(71) Applicant: **ALCON INC.** [CH/CH]; Rue Louis-d'Affry 6, 1701 Fribourg (CH).

(72) Inventors: **BREITKOPF, Richard Charles**; 4320 Huntington Circle, Dunwoody, Georgia 30338 (US). **JING, Feng**; 5785 Seven Oaks Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005 (US). **WU, Daqing**; c/o Alcon Research, LLC, 11460 Johns Creek Parkway, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097 (US). **TRIEU, Jack W.**; c/o Alcon Research, LLC, 11460 Johns Creek Parkway, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097 (US). **ZHANG, Steve Yun**; c/o Alcon Research, LLC, 11460 Johns Creek Parkway, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097 (US).

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(54) Title: A METHOD FOR PRODUCING WETTABLE SILICONE HYDROGEL CONTACT LENSES

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method for producing coated silicone hydrogel contact lenses in a cost-effective manner. The method comprises treating the molding surfaces of polypropylene lens molds (or other hydrophobic plastic molds) with a vacuum UV or a corona plasma to increase the surface energies of the molding surfaces of the lens molds, cast-molding a silicone hydrogel lens formulation containing a relatively small amount of at least one carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer in the treated lens molds, and heating resultant cast-molded silicone hydrogel contact lenses in an aqueous coating solution comprising a water-soluble and thermally crosslinkable polymeric material to form a coated silicone hydrogel contact lens comprising a bulk silicone hydrogel material and a hydrogel layer covalently attached onto the bulk silicone hydrogel material.



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