

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

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
11 January 2024 (11.01.2024)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2024/008736 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
C12Q 1/6809 (2018.01) C12Q 1/6883 (2018.01)
(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2023/068428
(22) International Filing Date:
04 July 2023 (04.07.2023)

(25) Filing Language: English
(26) Publication Language: English
(30) Priority Data:
22183743.8 08 July 2022 (08.07.2022) EP

(71) Applicants: **EVONIK OPERATIONS GMBH**
[DE/DE]; Rellinghauser Strasse 1-11, 45128 Es-
sen (DE). **DEUTSCHES KREBSFORSCHUNGSZEN-
TRUM STIFTUNG DES ÖFFENTLICHEN RECHTS**
[DE/DE]; Im Neuenheimer Feld 280, 69120 Heidelberg
(DE).

(72) Inventors: **LINGENBERG, Annika**; Im Neuenheimer
Feld 280, 69120 Heidelberg (DE). **TÖNGES, Sina**; Im
Neuenheimer Feld 280, 69120 Heidelberg (DE). **LYKO,
Frank**; Im Neuenheimer Feld 280, 69120 Heidelberg (DE).
WHELAN, Rose; 4 Friend Way, Ambrosden Oxfordshire
OX25 2AY (GB). **BÖHL, Florian**; Am Schänzel 12, 60151
Neckargemünd (DE). **ROY, Suki**; #13-430, Blk 653A, Ju-
rong West Street 61, Singapore 641653 (SG). **NAGARA-
JAN, Sanjanaa**; Blk 521 Woodlands Drive 14, #11-357,
Singapore 730521 (SG). **GIATSI, Christos**; Wacholder-
weg 51, 63741 Aschaffenburg (DE). **PELZER, Stefan**;
Ludwig-Uhland-Str. 33a, 33335 Gütersloh (DE).

(74) Agent: **EVONIK PATENT ASSOCIATION**; c/o Evonik
Industries AG, Function Legal - IP Management, Bau
1042A, PB15, Paul-Baumann-Strasse 1, 45772 Marl (DE).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CV, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM,
DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,

HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG,
KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY,
MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MU, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA,
NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO,
RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH,
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS,
ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, CV,
GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SC, SD, SL, ST,
SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ,
RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ,
DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT,
LU, LV, MC, ME, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE,
SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a
patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: DETECTING ANTIBIOTIC AND/OR CHEMICAL USE IN AQUATIC ANIMALS USING EPIGENETIC MEANS

(57) Abstract: The present invention is related to a method of determining if a test animal and/or a test animal from which a product is derived has been treated and/or is currently undergoing treatment with at least one antibiotic and/or veterinary chemical, the method comprising: (a) determining a test methylation profile from the genomic material contained in a biological sample obtained from the test animal and/or the animal-derived product; and (b) comparing the test methylation profile obtained from (a) with a reference methylation profile obtained from a control animal of the same biological taxon of the test animal, where the control animal was not treated and/or is not currently undergoing treatment with at least one antibiotic and/or veterinary chemical, wherein a difference in the test methylation profile of (a) compared to the reference methylation profile from the control animal, is indicative of the test animal having been treated and/or is currently undergoing treatment with at least one antibiotic and/or veterinary chemical; and wherein the test animal is an aquatic animal; and the veterinary chemical is an anti-parasitic, an anti-viral, a feed additive, a water additive, a disinfectant, glutaraldehyde, and/or formalin used in aquaculture.

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