

CURRENT PATENTS GAZETTE



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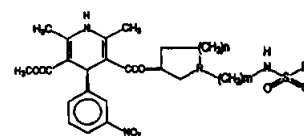
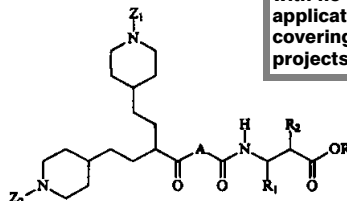
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DRUG PATENTING IN CONTEXT

Current Patents *Gazette* is the most rapid competitive intelligence service covering innovation in the pharmaceutical industry. Patent applications published during the past week have been classified and analysed, in order to place the inventions in context. For the most crucial innovations, those involving new chemical compounds, additional information is given in the form of front page images. These can be enlarged to show details of chemical structures and inventor teams, for example. Applications filed jointly, representing collaborative research, are highlighted, as are sequences of inter-related documents.

NEW THIS WEEK

Laboratoire Lafon make a good start to the new century with no less than nine new applications this week covering three separate projects.....



.....with claims to novel dihydropyridine calcium blockers (right) antithrombotic bispiperidines (top) and to the use of flavinoids in the treatment of cancer

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

We would like to apologize for poor quality of some of the graphs in last week's article on the merger between **Glaxo Wellcome** and **SmithKline Beecham**, particularly the factorial maps on pages 14 and 15. This was caused by insufficient resolution of the images during the printing process. We are happy to offer complimentary reprints of this article to any of our readers who require them: just email us at curpatltd@cursci.co.uk or phone using the number given inside on the Feedback panel (Page 29).

After four years of negotiations between the US NIH and the pharmaceutical company **DuPont**, NIH-funded scientists now have free use of the 'OncoMouse', a transgenic animal technology used to create mice that develop tumors (*Nature* **403**, 350; 2000). This is the second research tool that the company has made public in the past two years. The first was called **Cre-lox**, a technology that allows researchers to remove genes from specific cells and tissues. Both agreements differentiate between commercial and not-for-profit research. Commercially funded scientists must pay DuPont if they want to use either technique. Non-profit researchers, who can freely exchange animals altered with either technology, must alert DuPont if they distribute such animals to a commercial company.

New companies making an appearance in the *Gazette* this week include Hertfordshire-based **AdProTech**, which claims **polypeptide derivatives of angiogenesis inhibiting proteins**. The company was founded in 1997 and owns technology assets from various sources, which include **SmithKline Beecham**. Berlin-based company **Jerini Bio Tools** also features in Section D for the first time, claiming **determination of ligands for proteins**. Founded in 1994, the core technology of the company is the **Spot-Synthesis technique** for the synthesis of soluble and matrix-bound substance libraries. Elsewhere in the Biotech field, **MetaMorphix** returns after what seems a long absence, adding to its patents relating to growth differentiation factors (GDFs), this time claiming **GDF promoters**.

And finally, in the recent years, **SpectRx** and **Altea Technologies**, both based in Georgia, have filed a series of joint applications, such as WO9800193 or WO9944637, concerned with the **generation of micropores in skin, tissue and mucosas** to administer substances or to collect fluid samples through these pores. Previous methods for generating these pores were based on sonic, electromagnetic, mechanical or thermal energy, but now the companies have filed a patent disclosing a much more unusual approach: **controlled explosions**. In an application published this week, they claim a device for forming artificial openings in a biological membrane with a pyrotechnic charge. A quick search of international patent literature revealed a number of drug delivery devices based on explosive processes, notably inhalators. However, perhaps unsurprisingly, there is no evidence of any previous invention where explosive force is used directly against a body for the drug administration or analytical sampling.