

CURRENT PATENTS GAZETTE



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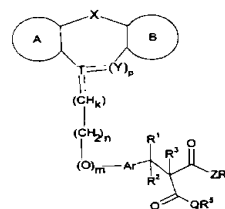
DRUG PATENTING IN CONTEXT

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. Applications filed jointly, representing collaborative research, are highlighted, as are sequences of inter-related documents.

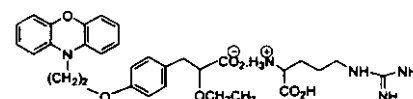
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NEW THIS WEEK



Novo Nordisk has four applications claiming a range of PPAR modulators (left/Page 7) related to heteroaromatic propionate derivatives from earlier this year....



.....while its collaborators at Dr Reddy's Research Found of Hyderabad have another three covering analogs of these antidiabetic agents (right/Page 20)

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Coelacanth Chemical Corporation of New Brunswick has two applications in rather different fields. In a new compound case there are claims to **PPAR-gantagonists** with potential in type II diabetes. There is no precedent for this patenting, but it seems to represent the first yield of potential products from the systematic design and discovery work that has until now characterized the company's work. It became clear in June that Coelacanth has accumulated considerable expertise in the generating of combinatorial libraries, prompting **Microcide Pharmaceuticals** to enter into an agreement for the supply of **potential antimicrobials for screening**. That announcement referred to the use of highly efficient and scaleable chemical reactions, using the term **ClickChem**. In addition to the PPAR case there is another from Coelacanth concerned with such platform technology, with claims to synthesis of azetidine derivatives, which may well be the building blocks of primary interest to Microcide. The latter's own patenting includes a recent case with claims to pattern recognition oriented cluster analysis, WO0036489.

The term **"targetshape"** appears, possibly for the first time, in an application from **Bios Group** of Santa Fe, New Mexico. It is used in describing a process designed to identify initial candidate molecules that are "at least somewhat dissimilar" to a chosen target molecule or targetshape. Further investigation reveals that Bios Group is no stranger to innovation, whether it be concepts or terminology. A recent US patent naming one of the present inventors is entitled "System and method for the synthesis of an economic web and the identification of new market niches", and it refers to a system and method called **Economic Web Sherpa**, intended to identify new growth opportunities and new locations of strategic competition for a company or other economic agent.

The **University of Geneva** is linked indirectly with the Bios invention, though it takes a March 1998 press release from **Ixsys** to reveal that link; **US5723323**, licensed to Ixsys for the directed evolution technology it claims, names Dr Stuart Kaufmann of Bios alongside the University's Dr Marc Ballivet. Another somewhat obscure link with academic work is implied by a **Degussa** application, describing aminoacid synthesis based on malonic acid derivatives researched at **Westfalischen Wilhelms-Universität**. **Stanford University** has contributed polyketide technology to **Kosan Biosciences**, whose territorially restricted application has claims to combinatorial biosynthesis, which may be extended to any modular polyketide synthase (PKS) or non-ribosomal peptide synthase (NRPS) FK-506 analogues.

Clues are accumulating in relation to **Pfizer's** ongoing interest in **PDE-IV inhibitors**, with a further application relating to synthesis of indazole derivatives. Use of such compounds in congestive heart failure was claimed in EP995439. **Boehringer Ingelheim** is claiming a synthesis which could be applied to **telmisartan**, **SB** seems to be lining up manufacturing technology for **lotrafiban**, and **Teva's** interest is in Organon's **mirtazapine**.

Many of the companies and institutions benefiting from Current Patents *Gazette* were represented at the **10th Epidos Annual Conference**, hosted by the **European Patent Office** last week in the hospitable city of Vienna. This is the second time the patent information users' conference has been to the "home" of **INPADOC**, and over 400 delegates were able to learn about the latest developments in **retrieval technology**. Major changes include a forthcoming relaxation of the requirement for translation of granted claims into all of the EPC languages, which has become an expensive burden to many applicants. This is particularly important as membership of the EPC grows: **Turkey** joins formally next week as the **20th member**, to be followed before long by a **further eight eastern European states**, from **Bulgaria** to **Estonia**.