

CURRENT PATENTS GAZETTE



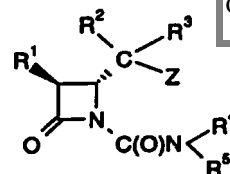
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DRUG PATENTING IN CONTEXT

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. 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



Azetidiones are the focus of three new application from Boehringer Ingelheim (CA) claiming their use in the treatment of Human Cytomegalovirus (HCMV).

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New Compounds- novel entities, with images of front pages adding valuable additional information

Section B

New Uses, Formulations & Methods of Treatment- developments extending and enhancing the utility of existing products, including diagnostic and analytical applications

Section C

Chemical Processes and Combinatorial Technology- inventions concerned with efficient generation of candidates for screening, and with scale-up of laboratory syntheses in support of development activity

Section D

Biotechnology- molecular biology, nucleic acids, proteins, transgenics and gene therapy

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HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

PCT and European applications appeared as normal this week, but the publication of **US patents** dated **April 13th** has been delayed. This delay is due to adoption of a new SGML procedure, as explained on the web site <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/>. In addition, there is currently a plan to clear a large backlog of pending US patent applications, and it is expected that the number of patents published each week will double as a result. The weekly average for 1998 was almost 3,500 patents, and so presumably we can expect around 7,000 US patents each week for the remainder of 1999. Many of these will turn out to be equivalent to publications seen already, but inevitably there will be some increase in the numbers of US patents included in Current Patents *Gazette*.

Indeno[1,2-*c*]-, naphtho[1,2-*c*]- and benzo[6,7]cyclohepta[1,2-*c*]pyrazoles as **protein tyrosine kinase inhibitors** feature in two **BASF** applications. These related invention are primarily the work of a US based team with some input into one application from workers at the **Knoll** (formerly Boots) site in the UK. Of the US based inventors, Barlozzari has worked for several years at BASF, concentrating on dolastatins and other antitumor peptides (WO9413695, WO9717364, WO9804278 and WO9804581), while Arnold appears to be new to the team. Previously associated with **Pfizer**, he has been working on a range of fused bicyclic pyrimidine derivatives, *eg* 4-(6- methyl-2,3-dihydro-indol-1-yl)-7H-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine, and 4-heterocyclyl- and 4-(substituted phenylamino)quinazolines (WO9523141 and WO9630347) in the role of tyrosine kinase inhibitors for neoplasm, prostatic hypertrophy, diabetes mellitus, angiogenesis, pancreatitis, renal disease and contraception (WO9640142 and WO9823613), which were reported to be under preclinical investigation. This apparent link between research at Pfizer and BASF has not been noted previously.

Motorola, a company more often linked with telecommunications of various types, has a case relating to the **detection of binding events on supported receptors**. The Company has several thousand patented inventions, but only a handful relating to electronic detection of molecular interactions, the earliest dating back about three years. **Oasis Biosciences**, claiming **combinatorial antisense libraries**, seems to be a new company, but has links to a team previously patenting in the name of **Genta**. Similarly **Pharmacopeia**, patenting a **rapid drying process for multiple chemical samples**, calls on the expertise of scientists who in the past have worked for companies as diverse as **Du Pont** and **General Motors**.

There is an international flavor among this week's biotechnology applications. One from the Brazilian agricultural company **Embrapa**, claims a process for obtaining transgenic leguminous plants. Another recent application from the company names **Cornell Research Foundation** as joint applicant, and other joint ventures have included **Netherlands-based Plant Genetic Systems**. **Northwestern University** has teamed up with **Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux** in an application claiming a means for analysis of microbial populations in a sample. An ongoing collaboration between **Pharmacia & Upjohn** and **Consejo Superior de Investigaciones** of Madrid seems to have entered new territory with an application claiming use of **β-recombinase in transgenic applications**.