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Patent Attorney's Docket No. 22338-10230

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Control Nos.:	90/007,542 90/007,859		Group Art Unit:	3991	
Confirmation Nos.:	7585 ('542) 6447 ('859)		Examiner:	B.M. Celsa	
Filed:	13 May 2005 23 December 2005	('542) ('859)			
Patent Owner:	Genentech, Inc. and City of Hope				
For:	Merged Reexaminations of U.S. Patent No. 6,331,415 (Cabilly et al.)				

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.550(b)

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Sir:

This communication responds to the non-final Office action mailed on August 16, 2006, setting an original due date of October 16, 2006. Owners timely requested an extension of time to respond. In a Decision mailed on October 17, 2006, the Office granted an extension of two weeks, to Monday, October 30, 2006, for Owners to file a response. As this reply is filed within the extended period for response, it is timely filed.

Patent Owners (Owners) respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

7

REMARKS

I.	PR	ELIMINARY N	1ATTERS		
	Α.	INFORMATION I	DISCLOSURE STATEMENT		
	В.	INTERVIEW SUM	1MARY		
	С.	OBSERVATION (ON THE OFFICE'S DETERMINATION CONCERNING CUMULATIVE PRIOR ART6		
	D.	PAST PTO ACTI	ONS SUPPORT FINDING THE '415 CLAIMS SEPARATELY PATENTABLE OVER		
	THE 567 CLAIMS				
II.	RE	SPONSE TO R	EJECTIONS		
	Α.	SUMMARY OF T	HE REJECTIONS		
	OF CLAIMS 1-4. 11, 13, 15-18, 21, 23-25 AND 33 OF THE '415 PATENT BASED ERPRETATION 1" HAS NO BASIS IN LAW OR FROM THE FILE WRAPPER OF THE 				
			Did Not Expressly Redefine the Meaning of the Claim Term "or" as '567 Claims		
			ution History of the '567 Patent Shows that "or" as Used in the '567 ns Has Its Ordinary Meaning11		
			cation of the '567 Patent Does Not Expressly or Implicitly "Redefine" the "or"		
			Does Not Accurately Identify the Differences Between the '415 and '567		
			aims Do Not "Read On" and Thus Render Unpatentable the '415 Patent Reasons of Obviousness-Type Double Patenting		
			May Not Use the Disclosure of the '415 and '567 Patents to Supply ments of the '415 Claims Relative to the '567 Claims		
		Obviou	Law Holds that the Office May Not Use Owner's Own Disclosure in an sness-Type Double Patenting Rejection to the Missing Elements of the laim		
		Structur Light C	tigen Binding Language in the '567 Patent Claims Refers to the e of the Variable Domain of the Claimed Immunoglobulin Heavy or hains, and Does Not Require Assembly of the Chains into a Functional oglobulin Molecule or Fragment		
			The Rejection of the '415 Claims Based on Claim Interpretation 1 of the is Factually and Legally Improper and Should Be Withdrawn		
ON CLAIMS 1-7 OF THE '567 PATENT, TAKEN IN VIEW OF AXEL, RI		ON CLAIMS 1-7	OF CLAIMS 1-4, 11, 13, 15-18, 21, 23-25 AND 33 OF THE '415 PATENT BASED OF THE '567 PATENT, TAKEN IN VIEW OF AXEL, RICE OR KAPLAN, FURTHER LLAS, AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF DEACON, VALLE 1981 OR OCHI IS IMPROPER27		
		Obviousnes	s-Type Double Patenting is to be Assessed in a Manner Analogous to s Assessments Under 35 U.S.C. §103 Using a Graham v. John Deere 		
		Skill in the A in View of th	aims Would Not Have Been Considered Obvious to a Person of Ordinary Art in Early April of 1983 Based on the '567 Claims, Considered Alone or he Various Combinations of References Employed by the Office, When a ham v. John Deere Analysis is Employed29		

- 2 -

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Reexamination Control Nos 90/007,542 & 90/007,859 (merged proceedings)

2	 Differences Between The Claims of the '567 Patent and the Claims of the '415 Patent. 	29
ł	b. The Correct Perspective for Evaluating Prior Art is a Person of Ordinary Skill in the Art as of Early April of 1983	30
c	c. The Expectations of a Person of Ordinary Skill in the Art in Early April of 1983 Would Have Been Shaped by Experiences in Producing Polypeptides Using Recombinant DNA Technology, the Nature of the Protein Being Produced, and Relevant Insights from Natural Processes in B-Cells	31
C	I. The Office May Not Disregard Pertinent Expert Testimony Correcting Erroneous Interpretations of the Teachings of the Prior Art	36
e	c. The Office's Rejection of the '415 Claims Based on the '567 Claims Taken in View of the Various Cited References Rests on a Flawed and Incorrect Analysis of the Claims and the Teachings of the Cited References	38
	(i) The Axel Patent Does Not Motivate One to Produce Heavy and Light Chains in a Single Transformed Host Cell	41
	(ii) Because Rice Describes Expression of One Exogenous Gene in One Host Cell, It Would Not Have Motivated a Person of Ordinary Skill in the Art to Modify the '567 Claims	46
	(iii) The Hypothetical Kaplan Disclosure Does Not Suggest Production of Multiple Immunoglobulin Chains in One Transformed Host Cell	53
f	C. Dallas Would Not Have Provided Any Additional Motivation to a Person of Ordinary Skill in the Art in April of 1983 to Modify the '567 Claims in View of Axel, Rice or Kaplan.	54
£	g. Deacon and Valle 1981 Do Not Remedy the Deficiencies of the Office's Rejection Based on the '567 Patent, Taken in View of Axel, Rice or Kaplan, Taken Further in View of Dallas	56
ł	n. Ochi Does Not Remedy the Deficiencies of the Office's Rejection Based on the '567 Patent, Taken in View of Axel, Rice or Kaplan, Taken Further in View of Dallas	
D Тнг	DEPENDENT CLAIMS OF THE '415 PATENT ARE NOT OBVIOUS	
	The Rationale for the Rejections of the Dependent Claims is Fundamentally Improper	
	The Cited Subsidiary References Provide No Evidence or Guidance That Makes the	
	Dependent Claims Obvious	65
8	. Claim 5	65
ł	D. Claims 6-8, 19, 20, and 26	66
c	Claims 9 and 29	67
C	I. Claims 10 and 27-32	68
6	c. Claim 12	68
f	Claim 14	69
£	g. Claim 22	69
ł	n. Claims 34-36	69
III. CONCL	USION	70

EXHIBIT A: Illustrative Differences between '567 and '415 Patent Claims

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I. Preliminary Matters

A. Information Disclosure Statement

Owners thank the Examiner for his indication that materials previously submitted to the Office have been fully considered. Owners request consideration of the additional materials provided in the accompanying information disclosure statement (PTO Form 1449).

B. Interview Summary

Owners thank Examiners Celsa, Jones and Padmashri for the courtesy of an interview held on September 27, 2006. At the interview, as summarized in the interview summary form, the representatives of Owners and the Examiners discussed a number of issues.

<u>First</u>, the Owners explained that the prosecution history of U.S. Patent No. 4,816,567 (the '567 patent) demonstrates that the term "or" as used in the claims has its conventional meaning (i.e., as referring to one of the enumerated alternatives). Owners explained that the actions of the PTO and of the Owners (then applicants) before and after the amendment which introduced claims 53, 57 and 63 plainly shows that neither the Owners nor the Office viewed "or" as meaning the "logical or" (i.e., meaning "and/or"). Owners indicated that they would provide the Office a summary of the relevant prosecution history of the '567 patent in this response.

Owners also sought a confirmation that "Claim Interpretation 1" and rejections premised on it were contingent on the Examiner's determination that the term "or" was being read as the "logical or" (i.e., as if the claims had been amended by replacing "or" with the words "and/or"). The Examiners concurred that this was the premise of the rejections under Claim Interpretation 1; namely, that the rejection is premised on the belief that the word "or" actually was intended to mean "and/or". The Examiners indicated that if the prosecution history and the specification showed that the term "or" was used with its ordinary meaning (i.e., as referring to alternatives), the rejections premised on Claim Interpretation 1 would be withdrawn.

Owners also discussed the relationship between the claims of the '415 and '567 patents. In particular, Owners referred to the explanation in their Response of November 25, 2005, which explained why the claims of the '415 patent cannot be interpreted as defining a "genus" of methods that includes "species" methods defined in the '567 patent. The Examiners confirmed

- 4 -

that rejections in the First Office Action based on such a finding were withdrawn in favor of the new rejections under the two claim interpretation theories set forth in the Office action mailed August 16, 2006 ("Second Office Action.")

Second, Owners discussed the obviousness-type double patenting rejections based on "Claim Interpretation 2." Owners emphasized the importance of using the proper perspective when considering the teachings of the various references cited in the Office Action; namely, what the references would have taught or suggested to a person of ordinary skill in the art in early April of 1983. Owners explained that each of the experts who had previously submitted declarations under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 was qualified to explain this perspective based on their respective experiences in the relevant time frame. Owners further addressed the teachings of the various cited prior art references, and explained why the '567 patent claims, considered in view of any or all of these references, would not have rendered the claims of the '415 patent obvious.

The Examiners agreed that the obviousness-type double patenting questions are to be evaluated by considering the question of non-obviousness of the '415 claims in view of the '567 patent claims, taken in view of other prior art. The Examiners also agreed that the question of "obviousness" must be considered from the perspective of a person of ordinary skill in the art in early April of 1983, including what the references would have taught such a person at that time.

Owners requested that the Examiners review the prosecution histories of the '415 and '567 patents. Owners noted, for example, that the Office had previously considered most of the references now being employed in the obviousness-type double patenting rejections. The Examiners indicated they would consider the prosecution histories of the '415 and '567 patents incidental to the consideration of Owners' response.

<u>Third</u>, Owners discussed the complex physical structure of immunoglobulins and the limited understanding that persons of ordinary skill in the art had in early April of 1983 regarding the processes of immunoglobulin gene expression and subsequent production and assembly of immunoglobulin proteins. The Owners also discussed the experiences of those working in the art in the relevant time frame concerning production of monomeric eukaryotic proteins having molecular weights much lower than those of tetrameric immunoglobulins. The

- 5 -

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