

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

INITIATIVE FOR MEDICINES, ACCESS & KNOWLEDGE (I-MAK), INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

GILEAD PHARMASSET LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2018-00123
Patent 8,735,372 B2

Before LORA M. GREEN, GRACE KARAFFA OBERMANN, and
WESLEY B. DERRICK, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

DERRICK, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Denying Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
35 U.S.C. § 314(a)

I. INTRODUCTION

Initiative for Medicines, Access & Knowledge (I-MAK), Inc. (“Petitioner”) requests an *inter partes* review of claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 8,735,372 B2 (“the ’372 patent”). Paper 2 (“Pet.”). Gilead Pharmasset LLC (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response. Paper 6 (“Prelim. Resp.”).

We have authority to determine whether to institute an *inter partes* review. 35 U.S.C. § 314(b); 37 C.F.R. § 42.4(a). We may not institute an *inter partes* review “unless . . . there is a reasonable likelihood that the petitioner would prevail with respect to at least 1 of the claims challenged in the petition.” 35 U.S.C. § 314(a). Applying that standard, for the reasons set forth below, we decline to institute an *inter partes* review because the Petitioner has not shown a reasonable likelihood that it would prevail in establishing the unpatentability of any challenged claim.

II. BACKGROUND

A. *Related Proceedings*

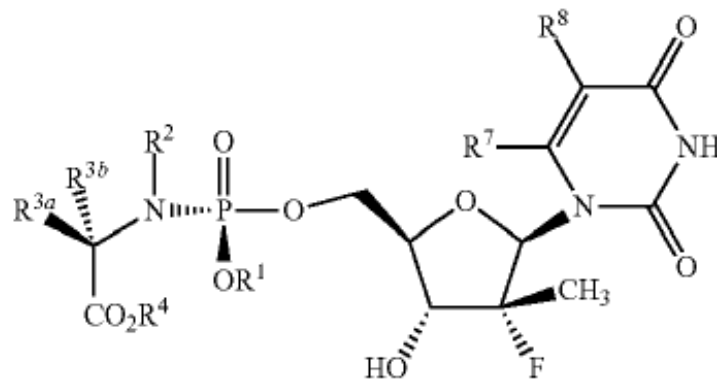
The parties identify identifies additional petitions filed by Petitioner for *inter partes* review of other patents owned by Patent Owner: IPR2018-00103 for review of U.S. Patent No. 7,429,572 B2; IPR2018-00119 and IPR2018-00120 for review of U.S. Patent No. 7,964,580 B2; IPR2018-00121 and IPR2018-00122 for U.S. Patent No. 8,334,270 B2; IPR2018-00125 for review of U.S. Patent No. 8,633,309 B2; and IPR2018-00126 for review of U.S. Patent No. 9,284,342 B2. Pet. 2, Paper 4, 2–3.

B. The '372 Patent (Ex. 1001)

The '372 patent is directed to a method of treating a human infected by hepatitis C virus comprising administering both an NS5a inhibitor and a prodrug of a nucleoside derivative. Ex. 1001 Abstract.

Claims 1 and 2 are reproduced below.

1. A method of treating a human infected by hepatitis C virus, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an NS5a inhibitor and an effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula:



wherein

R¹ is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, where the substituent [sic] of the substituted phenyl is at least one of a CH₃, OCH₃, F, Cl, Br, I, nitro, cyano, and a CH_{3-q}X_q, where X is F, Cl, Br, or I, and q is 1-3;

R² is hydrogen or CH₃;

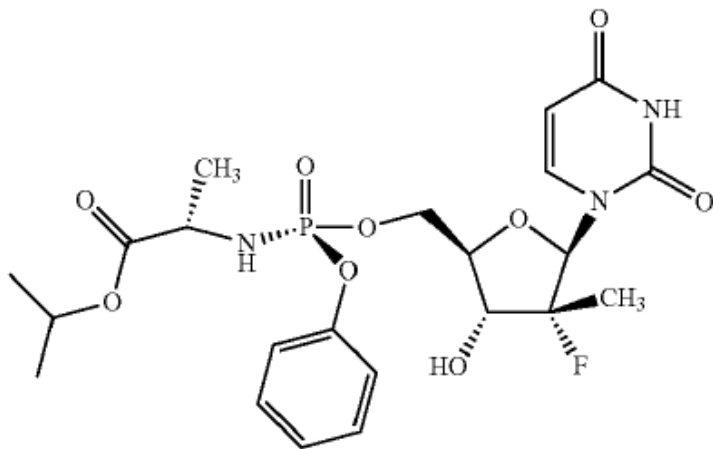
R^{3a} is H and R^{3b} is H, CH₃, CH(CH₃)₂, CH₂CH(CH₃)₂, CH(CH₃)CH₂CH₃, CH₂Ph, CH₂-indol-3-yl, -CH₂CH₂SCH₃, CH₂CO₂H, CH₂C(O)NH₂, CH₂CH₂COOH, CH₂CH₂C(O)NH₂, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂NH₂, -CH₂CH₂CH₂NHC(NH)NH₂, CH₂-imidazol-4-yl, CH₂OH, CH(OH)CH₃, CH₂((4'-OH)-Ph), CH₂SH, or lower cycloalkyl, or

R^{3a} is CH_3 , $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, CH_2Ph , CH_2 -indol-3-yl, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SCH}_3$, $\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}_2$, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}_2$, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NHC}(\text{NH})\text{NH}_2$, CH_2 -imidazol-4-yl, CH_2OH , $\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{CH}_3$, $\text{CH}_2((4'\text{-OH})\text{-Ph})$, CH_2SH , or lower cycloalkyl and R^{3b} is H;

R^4 is hydrogen, CH_3 , Et, ^iPr , ^nPr , ^nBu , 2-butyl, ^tBu , benzyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, N-methyl-aziridin-2-yl, N-methyl-azetidin-3-yl, N-methyl-pyrrolidin-3-yl, N-methyl-pyrrolidin-4-yl, N-methyl-piperidin-4-yl, lower haloalkyl, or di(lower alkyl)amino-lower alkyl; and

R^7 and R^8 are independently H, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, OCH_3 , SH, SCH_3 , NH_2 , NHCH_3 , $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, CH_3 , $\text{CH}_3\text{-}_q\text{X}_q$, where X is F, Cl, Br, or I and q is 1 to 3, vinyl, CO_2H , CO_2CH_3 , CONH_2 , CONHCH_3 , or $\text{CON}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, wherein R' is a C_{1-20} alkyl; a C_{1-20} cycloalkyl; a $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$ alkenyl, a $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$ alkynyl.

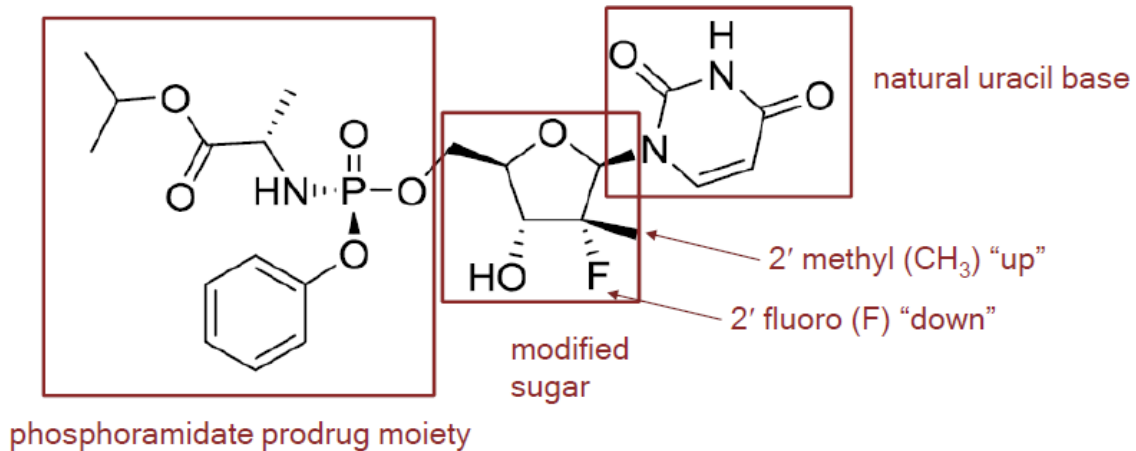
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is



Ex. 1001, 629:64–632:20.

Claim 2 sets forth a specific compound (i.e., sofosbuvir) for administration with an NS5a inhibitor, whereas claim 1 sets forth by formula and possible substituents a genus of compounds for

administration with an NS5a inhibitor. Pet. 36–38; Prelim. Resp. 4–5.
The structure of sofosbuvir, as annotated by Patent Owner, is depicted below:



Prelim. Resp. 4–5. The figure depicts the chemical structure of sofosbuvir with stereochemistry and identifies the compound's phosphoroamidate prodrug moiety, modified sugar, and natural uracil base. *Id.*

C. The Asserted Ground of Unpatentability

Petitioner asserts that claims 1 and 2 of the '372 patent are unpatentable based on the following ground. Pet. 3.

References	Statutory Basis
Sofia, ¹ Congiatu, ² and Serrano-Wu ³	§ 103

¹ Sofia et al., Poster #P-259, presented at the 14th Int'l Symposium on Hepatitis C Virus and Related Viruses, Glasgow, Scotland, UK, Sept. 9–13, 2007 (Ex. 1012).

² Congiatu et al., 49 J. MED. CHEM. 452–455 (2006) (Ex. 1011).

³ Serrano-Wu et al., US 2006/0276511 A1, published December 7, 2006 (Ex. 1013).

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