
News Release



Insert Therapeutics, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INSERT THERAPEUTICS, INC. RECEIVES FIRST PATENT ON ITS CYCLOSERT™ POLYMER TECHNOLOGY

Series of U.S. and international patent applications on composition, method of preparation and methods of use pending

Pasadena, CA – February 4, 2003 – **Insert Therapeutics, Inc.** today announced the issuance of U.S. Patent No. 6,509,323 titled “Linear Cyclodextrin Copolymers,” which contains broad claims covering the composition, method of preparation and methods of use of a new class of polymers for delivery of therapeutic compounds. These polymers, part of a family designated as Insert Therapeutics’ proprietary CycloSert™ technology platform, represent a significant advance in the use of cyclodextrins for delivery of therapeutic compounds.

The claims cover polymers containing repeating units of oxidized and un-oxidized cyclodextrin molecules, linked together in a linear chain. In contrast to other approaches that graft molecules onto a polymer, CycloSert incorporates the cyclodextrin molecules into the polymer “backbone,” resulting in a consistently replicable polymer. This feature will aid in scale-up and should result in more consistent commercial manufacture. Insert’s linear cyclodextrin-containing polymers can form complexes with compounds ranging in size from small molecule drugs to nucleic acids for improved drug delivery. When combined with small molecule drugs, the CycloSert polymers have been shown to significantly improve the solubility, stability, toxicity, efficacy and pharmacokinetic profiles of therapeutic compounds. Further, they can be designed to be neutral, positively charged or negatively charged and can be targeted with the attachment of cell surface receptor ligands. Unlike passive drug carriers, CycloSert polymers respond to biological mechanisms and micro-environmental conditions. This enables controlled release of their drug payload into the targeted tumor cell or other selected tissues.

The patent also covers methods for adding modifiers to the polymer/drug complex to enhance its stability in the bloodstream and to provide targeted delivery to tissues or cells of interest. This patent is the first U.S. Patent to issue from a series of pending U.S. and international applications covering technology exclusively licensed to Insert Therapeutics from the California Institute of Technology.

“Insert is building an extensive portfolio of patents and patent applications relating to its CycloSert drug delivery systems,” said Leonard R. Borrmann, Pharm.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Insert. “This patent is an important component of our intellectual property covering several aspects of our systemic delivery technology, from polymer compositions to drug targeting. Our goal is to provide substantial patent protection for the product candidates we are developing internally and through collaborations with our partners.”

INSERT THERAPEUTICS, INC.

Insert Therapeutics, Inc., a privately held biopharmaceutical delivery company, is pioneering the development of targeted, intracellular delivery systems for small molecule drugs and genes. Insert’s technologies are designed to facilitate the efficient uptake and release of a broad range of therapeutics directly into cells. The company’s proprietary delivery system CycloSert™ uses cyclodextrins as building blocks to create an entirely new class of drug delivery materials – linear cyclodextrin-containing polymers. Non-toxic and non-immunogenic at therapeutic doses, CycloSert is designed for repeat and/or continuous administration, even with nucleic acid drugs. For more information, visit www.insertt.com.

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