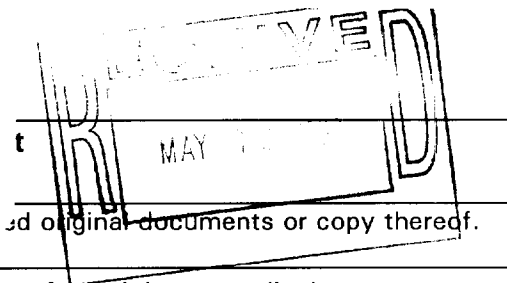


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5.13.99

05-26-1999



101047405



To the Assistant Commissioner for

Case: RDC 20025

1. Name of the conveying party (ies):

Walter FASSBIND
Emanuele JAPICHINO
Werner REY

Additional name(s) of conveying parties attached?

() Yes (X) No

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):

Name: F. Hoffmann-LaRoche, AG
Internal Address:

Address: 124 Grenzacherstrasse
CH-4070 Basle
Switzerland

Nature of Conveyance:

(X) Assignment () Merger
() Security Agreement () Change of Name
() Other

Additional name(s) attached? () Yes (X) No

Execution Date: November 13, 16
and 17, 1998

4. Application or Registration Number(s)

If this application is being filed with a new application, the execution date of the new application is

A. Patent Application Number(s)

09/200,082 filed November 25, 1998

B. Patent Registration Numbers

Additional Numbers attached ? () (X) No

5. Name and Address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: Intellectual Property Docket Administrator
Firm: Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione

Address: One Riverfront Plaza
City: Newark
State: New Jersey
Zip: 07102-5497

6. Total Number of applications and registrations involved:
1

7. Total Fee Enclosed (for two assignments)
Check No. 160499 in the Amount of \$80.00

8. Authorized to be Charged to Deposit Account
Number

(attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

9. Statement and Signature:

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document

Signature: W. Scott McNeen
Name: W. Scott McNeen, Reg. No. 33,964

Date: May 10, 1999

05/20/1999 NTHAI1 00000230 09200082

01 FC:581

(40.00 OP)

#0175528.01
100554-33518

PATENT
REEL: 009966 FRAME: 0809

Assignment

WHEREAS, I/WE

Walter Fassbind, Emanuele Japichino, Werner Rey

the ASSIGNOR(S), have invented certain new and useful improvements in

SAMPLE PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD

which are described and claimed in application for United States Letters Patent in respect of which a

Declaration and Power of Attorney was executed by **Walter Fassbind** on November 17, 1998

, **Emanuele Japichino** on Nov. 16, 1998, **Werner Rey** on November 13, 1998

which application is based upon the following foreign application(s)

in **Europe** on **December 2, 1997**, under **No. 97121117.2**

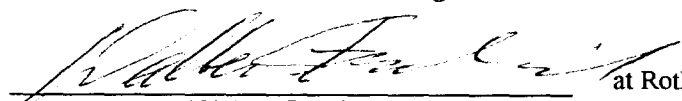
NOW, THEREFOR, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable considerations to me (us) in hand paid, the receipt and sufficiency whereof are hereby acknowledged, I/we have sold, assigned and set over, and by these presents do hereby sell, assign and set over unto

F. HOFFMANN-LA ROCHE AG, a Swiss Company
of 124 Grenzacherstrasse, CH-4070 Basle (Switzerland) the Assignee

and the said Assignee's legal representatives, successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest, in and to the said invention within the United States of America and its territories and possessions, and in and to said application and the Letters Patent of the United States of America that may be granted therefor, together with the right to extend the protection thereof to the various territories and possessions now owned or which may be acquired hereafter by the United States of America; and I/we do hereby request and authorize the Commissioner of Patents to issue said Letters Patent to the above-mentioned Assignee agreeably with the terms of this assignment.

UPON SAID CONSIDERATION, I/we do hereby covenant and agree with the said Assignee that I/we will not execute any writing or do any act whatsoever conflicting with these presents, and that I/we will at any time upon request without further or additional consideration, but at the expense of the said Assignee, execute such additional assignments and other writings and do such additional acts as said Assignee may deem necessary or desirable to perfect the Assignee's enjoyment of this grant, and render all necessary assistance in making application for and obtaining original, divisional, reissued, or extended Letters Patent of the United States of America on said invention, and in enforcing any rights or choses in action accruing as a result of such applications or patents, including but not limited to, giving testimony in any proceedings or transactions involving such applications or patents, and executing preliminary statements and other affidavits, it being understood that the foregoing covenant and agreement shall bind and inure to the benefit of the assigns and legal representatives of all parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Assignment has been executed by the Assignor(s)


Walter Fassbind

at Rotkreuz, Switzerland, on 17. November 1998


Emanuele Japichino

at Rotkreuz, Switzerland, on 16. November 1998


Werner Rey

at Rotkreuz, Switzerland, on 13. November 1998