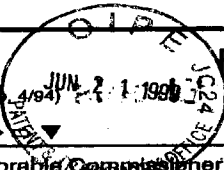


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original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Hartmut Worch, Michael Thieme, Dieter Scharnweber, Sophie Rossler and Martina Stolzel

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached?  Yes  No

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies)

Name: Merck Patent GmbH

Internal Address: (same as below)

Street Address: Frankfurter Strasse 250  
6493 Darmstadt  
Germany

City: State: ZIP:

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached?  Yes  No

3. Nature of conveyance:

- Assignment  Merger
- Security Agreement  Change of Name
- Other

Execution Date: June 11, 1999

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):

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

A. Patent Application No.(s)  
09/297,220

B. Patent No.(s)

6-21-99

Additional numbers attached?  Yes  No

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

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Internal Address: (same as below)

Street Address: 11896 N. Highway 14  
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City: Tijeras State: NM ZIP: 87059

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1

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41).....\$ 40.00

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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.

Robert W. Becker  
Name of Person Signing

*Robert W. Becker*  
Signature

June 21, 1999  
Date

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ASSIGNMENT DIVISION

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June 21, 1999

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01 FC:581 40.00 CH

*Bernice Marquez*  
Bernice Marquez, Sec'y

PATENT  
REEL: 010040 FRAME: 0445

**ASSIGNMENT**

WHEREAS, we Hartmut Worch, Michael Thieme, Dieter Scharwaber, Sophie Rössler, Martina Stözel of Bernhardstrasse 2/a, 01069 Dresden; Altröschwitz 5, 01326 Dresden; Bautzner Landstrasse 180, 01324 Dresden; Saalhausener Strasse 37, 01159 Dresden; Zollner Ring 4a, 01723 Kesselsdorf; all of Germany have invented an improvement in

**METALLIC OBJECT WITH A THIN POLYPHASE OXIDE COATING AND PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURE THEREOF**

for which an application for Letters Patent of the United States

[ ] is being made herewith; (PCT/DE97/02465)  
[X] was filed on Oct. 23, 1997 under Serial No. Unknown.

AND WHEREAS, Merck Patent GmbH, Frankfurter Strasse 250 D-64293 Darmstadt, Germany

is desirous of acquiring an interest in the same;

Now, Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, ~~we~~ we hereby assign to the said Merck Patent GmbH

its assigns and legal representatives, all the right, title and interest in and to said invention for the United States and its territories, and in and to said Letters Patent, continuations, divisions, reissues and extensions thereof in the United States, and hereby request that said Letters Patent issue accordingly. For said considerations, we, Hartmut Worch, Michael Thieme, Dieter Scharwaber, Sophie Rössler, Martina Stözel

agree to execute all papers that may be necessary to file applications in the United States for said invention and to assign the same to said Merck Patent GmbH

or any assignee acquiring title to said invention, and to execute any other papers that may be needed in connection with filing said applications and securing patents thereon.

In Testimony whereof, this assignment is being executed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 1999.

Hartmut Worch  
Hartmut Worch

Dieter Scharwaber  
Dieter Scharwaber

Martina Stözel  
Martina Stözel

Michael Thieme  
Michael Thieme

Sophie Rössler  
Sophie Rössler

TOTAL F. 03