

Form PTO 1585

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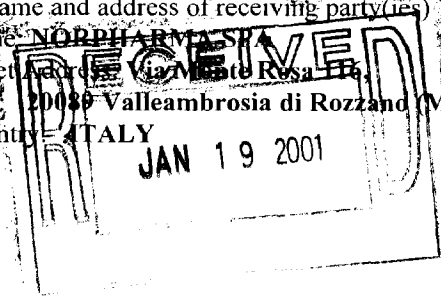
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To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof

1. Name of conveying party(ies): Leone DALL'ASTA; Umberto CASAZZA; and Giovanni COTTICELLI

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies): NORPHARMA S.p.A. Street Address: Via Monte Rosa 11, City: 20049 Valleambrosia di Rozzano (Milano) Country: ITALY



3. Nature of conveyance: [X] Assignment [] Merger [] Security Agreement [] Change of Name [] Other: Execution dates: December 21, 2000

4. Application numbers or patent numbers: If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: N/A.

A. Patent Applications 09/690,301

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional Numbers attached? [] Yes [X] No

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

Name: Maria Luisa Palmese Internal Address: KENYON & KENYON Street Address: One Broadway City: New York State: New York ZIP: 10004

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1

7. Total fee (37 C.F.R. 3.41) \$ 40.00 [] Enclosed [X] Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number: 11-0600 (Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

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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.

Maria Luisa Palmese (Reg. No. 34,402) Name of Person Signing

[Signature]

1/16/01 Date

Total Number of pages comprising cover sheet: 3

OMB No. 0651-0011 (exp. 4/94)

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box Assignments Washington DC 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Dated: 1/16/01 Signature: [Signature] Maria Luisa Palmese (Reg. No. 34,402)

Handwritten notes and markings in the bottom left corner.

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, we,

Leone DALL'ASTA
Via Friuli 11
20135 Milano, Italy
Citizenship: Italy

Umberto CASAZZA
Via Mazzini 7
22078 Turate (Como), Italy
Citizenship: Italy

and

Giovanni COTTICELLI
Via Penati 8
20063 Cernusco Sul Naviglio (Milano), Italy
Citizenship: Italy

have made new and useful improvements in **PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF 5-CARBOXYPTHALIDE**, for which an application for Letters Patent was filed on October 17, 2000 and was assigned Serial No. 09/690,301, and

WHEREAS, **NORPHARMA SPA**, a corporation organized under the laws of Italy, having a place of business at **Via Monte Rosa 116, 20089 Valleambrosia di Rozzano (Milano), Italy**, who, together with their successors and assigns, is hereinafter called "Assignee," is desirous of acquiring the title, rights, benefits, and privileges hereinafter recited,

NOW, THEREFORE, for valuable consideration furnished by Assignee to us, receipt and sufficiency of which we hereby acknowledge, we hereby, without reservations:

1. Assign, transfer, and convey to Assignee the entire right, title, and interest in and to said inventions and discoveries, said application for Letters Patent of the United States of America, any and all other applications for Letters Patent on said inventions and discoveries in the United States of America, including all divisional, renewal, substitute, continuation, and Convention applications based in whole or in part upon said inventions or discoveries, or upon said applications, and any and all Letters Patent, reissues, and extensions of Letters Patent granted for said inventions and discoveries or upon said applications, and every priority right that is or may be predicated upon or arise from said inventions, said discoveries, said applications, and said Letters Patent.

2. Authorize Assignee to file patent applications in the United States of America for any or all of said inventions and discoveries in our name or in the name of Assignee or otherwise as Assignee may deem advisable, under an International Convention or otherwise.

3. Authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks of the United States of America to issue or transfer all said Letters Patent to Assignee, as Assignee of the entire right, title, and interest therein or otherwise as Assignee may direct.

4. Warrant that we have not conveyed to others any right, title, or interest in said inventions, discoveries, applications, or patents or any license to use the same or to make, use, or sell anything embodying or utilizing any of said inventions or discoveries; that we have good right to assign the same to Assignee without encumbrance; and that we are aware of no claim to the contrary.

5. Bind our heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, as well as ourselves to do, upon Assignee's request and at Assignee's expense, but without additional consideration to us or them, all acts reasonably serving to assure that the said inventions and discoveries, the said patent applications, and the said Letters Patent shall be held and enjoyed by Assignee as fully and entirely as the same could have been held and enjoyed by us, our heirs, legal representatives, and assigns if this assignment had not been made; and particularly to execute and deliver to Assignee all lawful application documents including petitions, specifications, and oaths, and all assignments, disclaimers, and lawful affidavits in form and substance as may be requested by Assignee; to communicate to Assignee all facts known to us relating to said inventions and discoveries or the history thereof; to furnish Assignee with any and all documents, photographs, models, samples, and other physical exhibits in our control or in the control of our heirs, legal representatives, or assigns which may be useful for establishing the facts of our conceptions, disclosures, and reduction to practice of said inventions and discoveries; and to testify to the same in any interference, arbitration, or litigation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this
21st day of December, 2000.



Leone DALL'ASTA



Umberto CASAZZA



Giovanni COTTICELLI