



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<b>(51) International Patent Classification</b> <sup>6</sup> : <b>A61K 38/20</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 98/36768</b> <b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 27 August 1998 (27.08.98)
<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/EP98/01127 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 23 February 1998 (23.02.98) <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 97200515.1      21 February 1997 (21.02.97)      EP <b>(34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed:</b> NL et al. <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> VLAAMS INTERUNIVERSITAIR INSTITUUT VOOR BIOTECHNOLOGIE [BE/BE]; Rijvisschestraat 118, bus 1, B-9052 Zwijnaarde (BE). <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> GROOTEN, Johan, Adriaan, Marc [BE/BE]; Violierstraat 23, B-9920 Lovendegem (BE). DOOMS, Hans, Peter, Raf [BE/BE]; Dikkebus seweg 118, B-8900 Ieper (BE). FIERIS, Walter, Charles [BE/BE]; Beukendreef 3, B-9070 Destelbergen (BE). <b>(74) Agents:</b> VAN SOMEREN, Petronella et al.; Arnold & Siedsma, Sweelinckplein 1, NL-2517 GK The Hague (NL).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.            Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> USE OF INTERLEUKIN-15		
<b>(57) Abstract</b>  <p>The invention relates to the use of IL-15 or active variants thereof and/or IL-15 activity enhancing compounds for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for manipulating memory cells of the immune system, such as manipulating viability and/or responsiveness of said memory cells. The IL-15 activity enhancing compound is for example lipopolysaccharide (LPS). The invention further relates to the use of IL-15 inhibiting or eliminating compounds for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for manipulating memory cells of the immune system. Such inhibiting or eliminating compounds are for example anti-IL-15 antibodies, anti-IL-15R<math>\alpha</math> antibodies, fragments of these antibodies, e.g. the Fab or F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragment, soluble IL-15R<math>\alpha</math>, fusion proteins consisting of soluble IL-15R<math>\alpha</math>, and Fc fragment, compounds, e.g. peptides, binding and/or inhibiting functional IL-15 receptor, IL-15 antisense oligonucleotides.</p>		