

(12) PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATION

(21) Application No.7152/DELNP/2013 A

(19) INDIA

(22) Date of filing of Application :12/08/2013

(43) Publication Date : 23/01/2015

(54) Title of the invention : METHODS OF MODULATING CELL SURFACE RECEPTORS TO PREVENT OR REDUCE INFLAMMATION

(51) International classification :H04N
(31) Priority Document No :60/757,751
(32) Priority Date :10/01/2006
(33) Name of priority country :U.S.A.
(86) International Application No :PCT/US2007/060222
Filing Date :08/01/2007
(87) International Publication No : NA
(61) Patent of Addition to Application Number :NA
Filing Date :NA
(62) Divisional to Application Number :5733/DELNP/2008
Filed on :08/01/2007

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(57) Abstract :

The invention includes a method of distinguishing among oral bacteria species to determine whether a species is orally deleterious. Such method includes contacting at least one bacterium or portion of a bacterium of a species of oral bacteria a gingival cell; and detecting the presence of an indicator compound. The substantial absence of an indicator material signifies that the species of bacteria is not a deleterious species. Also included within the scope of the invention are methods for determining the anti-inflammatory effect of an agent. Such methods include contacting the cell with the agent in the presence of a deleterious bacterium or portion of such bacterium and detecting the presence of an indicator compound. The substantial absence of an indicator material signifies that agent is an antiinflammatory agent.

No. of Pages : 12 No. of Claims : 13