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To Whom It May Concern:

Dr. George Pieczenik filed a master combinatorial chemistry patent on August 28, 1985. The WIPO (87/01374) publication date is March 12, 1987. This filing is prior to any other patent filing and/or publication in this area. I believe it will take precedence over any of the several patents on combinatorial chemistry filed subsequently.

The patent claims random nucleotide libraries that code for random peptide libraries separately and on display phage. It also claims random monoclonal and polyclonal libraries and the use of combinations of the two in a matrix to identify molecular surfaces, antibody specificity, lead compounds for drug discovery, receptors and antigenic determinants.

This general field has expanded explosively during the past six years and has created great excitement among academic and industrial chemists and biologists. Several companies have been founded solely for the purpose of developing the synthetic process and exploring the commercial potential of the libraries. It holds great promise for drug discovery in the pharmaceutical industry. I know of no other scientific breakthrough that has a potential of such magnitude.

I have known Dr. Pieczenik since 1972 when he worked in my laboratory at The Rockefeller University and later in Dr. Norton Zinder's laboratory here at Rockefeller. Dr. Preczenik is a highly intelligent and most imaginative scientist. He has several other "firsts" in a range of disciplines. He has also published some very important papers, for example one on the Origin of Protein Synthesis in 1976 with three major figures in science, Francis Crick, Sidney Brenner and Aaron Klug.

I reiterate that this master patent on combinatorial chemistry is extremely important.

Sincerely,

Bruce Merrifield

Bruce Merrifield
The John D. Rockfeller Professor

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