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[54] GEL-IN-MATRIX CONTAINING A FRACTURED HYDROGEL

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[58] **Field of Search** 521/28, 55; 424/443, 424/439, 441, 444, 409, 485; 428/308.4, 289, 402, 403, 404, 407.3; 523/122

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A three dimensional porous matrix, such as a reticulated open-cell foam, having within its matrix structure a mechanically-fractured hydrogel containing a network of fracture channels. The mechanically-fractured hydrogel may be a gel that has been partially dewatered by compression of the gel in situ.

The porosity of the gel-in-matrix makes it useful for chromatographic applications and for immobilization of biologically-active components, where efficient, intimate contact of the hydrogel with a liquid medium is important.

50 Claims, No Drawings