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[54] **PROCESS FOR MAKING LOW DENSITY HYDROGEL MATERIALS HAVING HIGH SURFACE AREAS**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **521/66**; 521/65; 521/141; 521/155; 521/170; 521/186; 521/187

[58] **Field of Search** 521/66, 65, 141, 521/155, 170, 186, 187

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A process for making a crosslinked, highly porous body derived from a water-soluble, hydrogel polymer, wherein the porous body is characterized in that it has an open-celled 3-dimensional lattice structure, a density of less than about 1.0 g/cm^3, a surface area of equal to or greater than about 30 m^2/g, and a compression strength of equal to or less than about 75% yield at 300 psi.

10 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets