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[54] **IONICALLY COVALENTLY CROSSLINKED AND CROSSLINKABLE BIOCOMPATIBLE ENCAPSULATION COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS**

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[58] **Field of Search** 524/56, 54, 28; 424/488, 499; 435/177, 178

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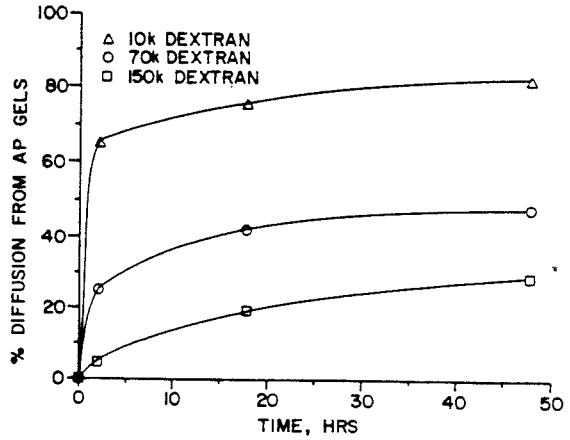
[57] **ABSTRACT**

Crosslinked biocompatible compositions comprising an ionically crosslinked component and a covalently crosslinked component for encapsulating biologics are disclosed. In accordance with the present invention, also disclosed are crosslinkable biocompatible mixtures comprising an ionically crosslinkable component and a covalently crosslinkable component. Methods for encapsulating biologics with the crosslinked and crosslinkable biocompatible compositions are provided. Also, retrievable macrocapsules for encapsulating microcapsules or biologics are disclosed.

36 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets