

**United States Patent** [19]

**Bell et al.**

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[54] **SKIN-EQUIVALENT PREPARED BY THE USE OF PUNCH BIOPSY**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... 435/1

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 435/1, 240; 424/95

[56] **References Cited**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An improvement in the preparation of living skin-equivalents from contracted hydrated collagen lattices having keratinocyte cells on the surface is disclosed herein. In this improvement, punch biopsies of skin are employed to provide a source of keratinocyte cells to the lattices.

**10 Claims, 2 Drawing Figures**