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[54] **TREATMENT OF VASCULAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASES BY MODULATION OF ENDOGENOUS NITRIC OXIDE PRODUCTION OR ACTIVITY**

[75] Inventors: **John P. Cooke**, Palo Alto; **Victor J. Dzau**, Los Altos; **Gary H. Gibbons**, Palo Alto, all of Calif.

[73] Assignee: **The Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University**

[*] Notice: This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of application No. 08/336,159, Nov. 8, 1994, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/076,312, Jun. 11, 1993, Pat. No. 5,428,070.

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **A23L 1/305**; A61K 9/00; A61K 31/195

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **514/564**; 424/439; 424/441; 426/648; 426/656; 514/565

[58] **Field of Search** 930/290; 530/358; 426/648, 656, 657; 514/310, 557, 564, 565, 20; 424/439, 441

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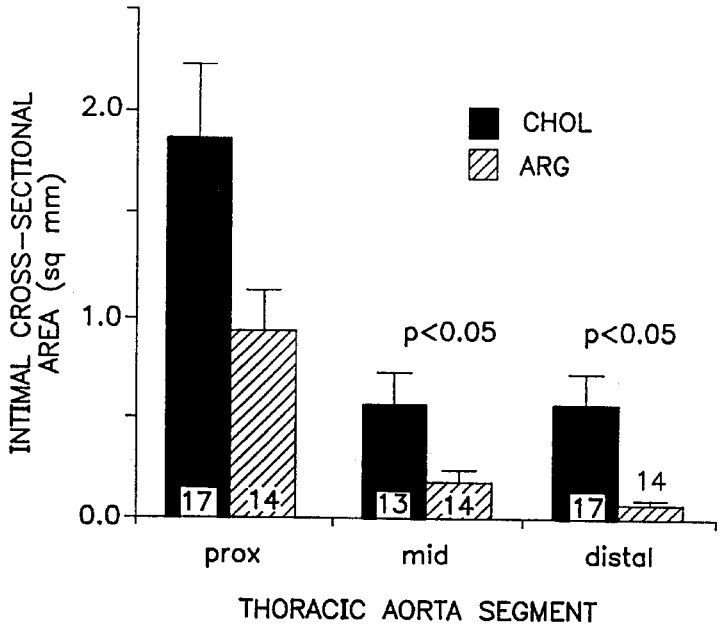
Primary Examiner—Jeffrey E. Russel

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bertram I. Rowland; Flehr Hohbach Test Albritton & Herbert LLP

[57] **ABSTRACT**

Atherogenesis and restenosis are treated by long term administration of physiologically acceptable compounds which enhance the level of endogenous nitric oxide or other intermediates in the NO induced relaxation pathway in the host. Alternatively, or in combination, other compounds may be administered which provide for short term enhancement of nitric oxide, either directly or by physiological processes. In addition, cells may be genetically engineered to provide a component in the synthetic pathway to nitric oxide, so as to drive the process to enhance nitric oxide concentration, particularly in conjunction with the administration of a nitric oxide precursor.

10 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets