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(12) **United States Patent**
Stamler et al.(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,916,471 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Jul. 12, 2005**(54) **RED BLOOD CELLS LOADED WITH S-NITROSOTHIOL AND USES THEREFOR**

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(75) Inventors: **Jonathan S. Stamler**, Chapel Hill, NC (US); **Joseph Bonaventura**, Beaufort, NC (US); **John R. Pawloski**, Raleigh, NC (US); **Timothy J. McMahon**, Durham, NC (US)Stamler, J. et al., "S-Nitrosylation of Proteins with Nitric Oxide: Synthesis and Characterization of Biologically Active Compounds," *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 89:444-448 (1992).(73) Assignee: **Duke University**, Durham, NC (US)Langford, E.J. et al., "Inhibition of Platelet Activity by S-Nitrosoglutathione During Coronary Angioplasty," *The Lancet*, 344:1458-1460 (1994).

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 138 days.

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/724,305, filed on Nov. 28, 2000, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 08/873,679, filed on Jun. 12, 1997, now Pat. No. 6,203,789, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. PCT/US96/14664, filed on Sep. 13, 1996, which is a continuation of application No. 08/616,255, filed on Mar. 15, 1996, now Pat. No. 6,153,186.

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Primary Examiner—Jean C. Witz(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP(57) **ABSTRACT**

Red blood cells can be loaded with low molecular weight nitrosylating agents, such as S-nitrosothiols, to act as a delivery system for NO⁺ groups to tissues. Loaded red blood cells can be used in methods of therapy for conditions which are characterized by abnormal O₂ metabolism of tissues, oxygen-related toxicity, abnormal vascular tone, abnormal red blood cell adhesion, or abnormal O₂ delivery by red blood cells. Such treatment of red blood cells can be extended to in vivo therapies, with the object to achieve an increase in the ratio of red blood cell S-nitrosothiol to hemoglobin.

30 Claims, 24 Drawing Sheets