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Summary of UK Patent Applications

Wound Dressing. GB 2268885A.
Filed 20 March 1992, published 26 January 1994.
Applicants—Smith and Nephew plc, London.
A wound dressing contains a water insoluble, water swellable cross-linked cellulose derivative, water and a polyol compound and comprises a gel wherein the cellulose derivative comprises less than 10% of the gel by weight.

Processing for Producing Cellulose Moulding. GB 2269559A.
Filed 19 November 1992, published 16 February 1994.
Applicants—Asahi Kagei, Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, Osaka, Japan.
A process is described for producing cellulose mouldings which comprises solidifying a cellulose dope substantially comprising an alkali soluble cellulose and a 5–15% aqueous alkali solution in an aqueous acid solution at low temperature, then stretching and heat-treating.

Preparation of Cellulose Ethers. GB 2270314A.
Filed 30 August 1992, published 9 March 1994.
Applicants—Leipziger Arzneimittelwerk, GmbH, Leipzig, Germany.
In a process for the preparation of cellulose, ion exchangers an initially moist heated cellulose is first impregnated with an etherifying agent, partially or completely dried and then etherified by adding an aqueous alkali metal hydroxide and heating.

Alginate–Bioactive Agent Conjugates. GB 2270920A.
Filed 25 September 1992, published 30 March 1994.
Applicants—Keele University, UK.
The alginate and bioactive agent are connected via an acid labile biodegradable spacer linkage. The conjugate is effective for delivering bioactive agents to targets existing in low pH environments either at the target surface or in the target interior.

Treating Lignocellulosic Material with Acetic Anhydride. GB 2271570A.
Filed 15 October 1992, published 20 April 1994.
Applicants—D. G. Rogers (UK), M. P. Boyle (UK) and J. P. Fouche (France).
Reaction of lignocellulosic material with acetic anhydride vapour greatly increases dimensional stability and resistance to biological attack and is carried out in the absence of any co-solvent or added catalyst in a simple way, very speedily and without the need for distillation/rectification. Partially dried or dry lignocellulose material is treated with acetic anhydride vapour for a very short time.

Carrier Fluid for the Suspension and Delivery of Water Soluble Polymers. GB 2271572A.
Filed 8 October 1993, published 20 April 1994.
Applicants—Merck and Co. Int., New Jersey, USA.
A carrier fluid for suspending and delivering water soluble polymers is described. The carrier fluid is based on polyethylene glycol, glycerol and one or more viscosifying polysaccharides (especially welan or rhamsan gum). It can be used to suspend other polysaccharides such as xanthan and unlike other reported carrier fluids it is non-toxic and does not contain particulate material.

Improvements in or Relating to Organic Compounds. GB 2272447A.
Filed 17 November 1992, published 18 May 1994.
Applicant—R. Muzzarelli (Italy).
A film forming product that can be used on packaging salts from the reaction between chitosan and a methoxyphenyl-containing aldehyde, ketone or acid preferably derived from a natural product such as lignin.

Biodegradable Polyethylene Composition. GB 2272699A.
Filed 23 November 1993, published 23 May 1994.
Applicants—Yukong Ltd, Seoul, Korea.
The patent describes a biodegradable film prepared by bonding starch and polyethylene using a coupling agent such as maleic anhydride. Examples describing the reaction in an extruder with corn starch are given.

Biodegradable Polyethylene Composition. GB 2272700A.
Filed 23 November 1993, published 23 May 1994.
Applicants—Yukong Ltd, Seoul, Korea.
The patent describes a biodegradable polyethylene composition chemically bonded with starch comprising 100 parts by weight of matrix resin, 5–400 parts by weight of starch and small quantities of a radical initiator, a Lewis acid catalyst, an auto-oxidizing agent and a plasticizer.