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(54) **BIOMARKERS FOR A SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE) DISEASE ACTIVITY IMMUNE INDEX THAT CHARACTERIZES DISEASE ACTIVITY**

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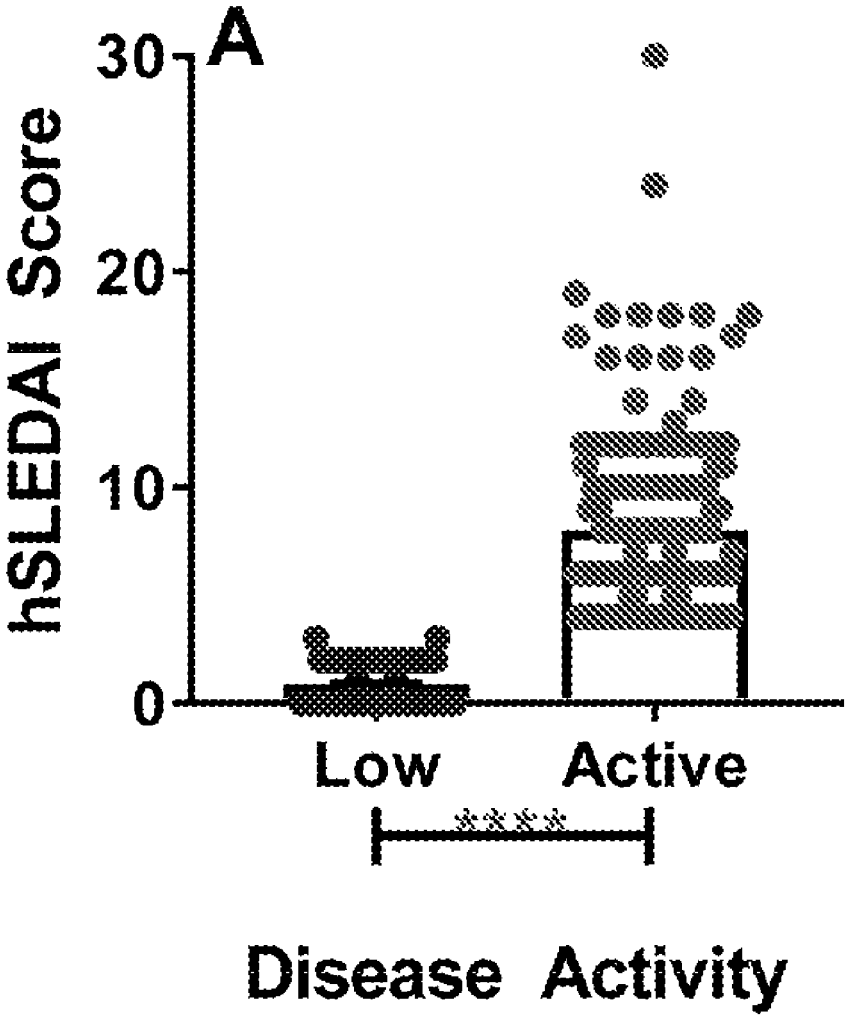
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention includes a method of characterizing disease activity in a systemic lupus erythematosus patient (SEE), comprising: obtaining a dataset associated with a blood, serum, plasma or urine sample from the patient, wherein the dataset comprises data representing the level of one or more biomarkers in the blood, serum, plasma or urine sample from each of (b) to (g); at least one innate serum or plasma mediator biomarker; at least one adaptive serum or plasma mediator; at least one chemokine/adhesion molecule biomarker; at least one soluble TNF superfamily biomarker; the inflammatory mediator biomarker SCF; at least one SLE-associated autoantibody specificity biomarker; and calculating a Lupus Disease Activity Immune