



**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**  
**Non-confidential Abstract of Technology Disclosure**

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**Title:**

**A Marker for Prenatal Diagnosis and Monitoring**

**CUHK Ref. No.:**

04/MED/169

**Inventor(s):**

Professor Dennis Y M LO, Department of Chemical Pathology

**Patent Status:**

- ◆ US Patent Pending
- ◆ Australian Patent Pending
- ◆ European Patent Pending
- ◆ Canadian Patent Pending

**Non-confidential abstract:**

The present invention relates to new methods for diagnosing a pregnancy-associated disorder by analyzing fetal DNA present in the mother's blood. More specifically, this invention relies on the discovery that the maspin gene is differentially methylated in fetal DNA and in maternal DNA and provides these new diagnostic methods that distinguish fetal DNA from maternal DNA and detect prenatal disorders based on abnormalities in fetal DNA level and methylation status.

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