Dated: March 9, 1999.

William K. Hubbard,

Acting Deputy Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 99–6265 Filed 3–12–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

Notice of Listing of Members of the Food and Drug Administration's Senior Executive Service Performance Review Board

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the members of the FDA Performance Review Board (PRB). This action is intended to ensure that members of the PRB's are appointed in a manner that provides consistency, stability, and objectivity in performance appraisals, and that notice of the appointment of members of the board be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arlene S. Karr, Office of Human Resources and Management Services (HFA–408), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301–827–4183.

The following persons will serve on FDA's PRB, which oversees the evaluation of performance appraisals of FDA's Senior Executive Service members in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4):

Michael A. Friedman, Chairperson
Robert J. Byrd
Margaret J. Porter
Sharon Smith Holston
Linda A. Suydam

Dated: February 11, 1999.

Jane E. Henney,

Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

[FR Doc. 99–6267 Filed 3–12–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Government-Owned Inventions; Availability for Licensing

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The inventions listed below are owned by agencies of the U.S. Government and are available for licensing in the U.S. in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally-funded research and development. Foreign patent applications are filed on selected inventions to extend market coverage for companies and may also be available for licensing.

ADDRESSES: Licensing information and copies of the U.S. patent applications listed below may be obtained by writing to Joseph Hemby, J.D., at the Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852–3804; telephone: 301/496–7057 ext. 265; fax: 301/402–0220; e-mail: jh259b@nih.gov. A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement will be required to receive copies of the patent applications.

A Novel ATP Binding Cassette Responsible for Cytotoxin Resistance

Michael C. Dean, Susan Bates, Tito A Fojo, Rando Allikmets (NCI)
Serial No. 60/110,473 filed 30 Nov 98

This technology describes a new human gene (ABCP) that is a member of a subfamily that includes several multidrug resistance (MDR) transporters. It is highly expressed in placenta and is amplified 10–12 fold in the MCF ADVp3000 cells (mitoxantrone-resistant cells), but not in the SI–m1–0 (human colon carcinoma cells). The gene is important in the study of MDR and the development of drugs to block the transporter's function in MDR, as well as important in the role in placental function and fetal health. Mutations in this gene may predispose individuals to miscarriages or birth defects. The described technology may have utility as a diagnostic marker for drug resistance and drug screening for drugs that block the gene. The gene may also be a diagnostic marker for tumors of the breast and other tissues. Monoclonal antibodies to the ABCP gene are described in this technology. Also described are methods for overexpressing the ABCP gene in a cell. Protein and cDNA sequences of the ABCP gene are also disclosed.

Cloning and Characterization of Two Novel Human Factors, p52 and p75, That Mediate Transcriptional Activation and/or Pre-mRNA Splicing

Hui Ge (NICHD)
Serial No. 60/108,248 filed 13 Nov 98

This technology involves two novel, human transcriptional co-activators, p52 and p75 which are 52kd and 75kd polypeptides purified with Positive Co-factor 4 (PC4) and are involved in the regulation of transcription. Mediation of transcription is extremely important since it is involved in almost every biological function. The co-activator, p52, has been implicated in pre-mRNA through interaction with Alternative Splicing Factor (ASF)/Splicing Factor 2 (SF2). Pre-mRNA splicing can generate multiple mRNAs for different proteins with different functions from a single gene, which is considered to be essential for the viability of many vertebrate organisms. These factors control and regulate gene expression of most genes and thus may have diagnostic, prognostic, and therapeutic utilities in the detection and treatment of many cancers and other genetic disease. The technology further describes the isolation of the cDNAs encoding the two transcriptional co-activators. The two co-activators share a region of 325 residues; however, they show distinct co-activator properties. Both co-activators interact directly with the VP16 activation domain and with components of the general transcription machinery. Sp1, a glutamine rich cellular activator which can bind the GC-box present in many cellular and viral promotors, is essential for the activation of the HIV–1 gene and others, requires the presence of the transcriptional co-activator p52. Thus, the technology may have a therapeutic utility in the prevention and therapy of AIDS.

Triplex Mediated Site Directed Mutagenesis

TA Winters, K Mezhevaya, I Panyutin, RD Neumann (CC)
DHHS Reference No. E–285–98/0 filed 08 Oct 98

This technology describes triple helix forming oligonucleotides (TFOs) which specifically bind to a target site in a DNA molecule to induce double strand breaks (DSB's). These TFO's are labeled with ^{125}I and are used to generate mutations at specific target sites. DNA DSB's are known to be highly mutagenic. Auger emitting radioisotopes such as ^{125}I are known to induce DNA DSB's when they disintegrate in close proximity to, or within the DNA duplex. In addition, radionuclides such as ^{125}I which emit ~20 Auger electrons upon disintegration would be expected to produce DSB sites that also contain base damage proximal to the strand break ends.

Potential applications of this technology include diagnostics or therapeutics where site specific mutagenic disruption or knock-out of target genes involved in genetic diseases such as cancer, HIV, human hepatitis B

or C, human herpes, or Parkinson's disease is desired. Other applications include inducing site specific reversion mutations in defective disease causing genes to produce a phenotypic shift back to wild type.

Additionally, this technology could be used for in situ identification and in-vivo imaging of diagnostic gene rearrangements as well as monitoring/assessing the efficacy of gene therapy by specifically activating or deactivating transferred genes without affecting endogenous cellular genes.

A Method of Reversing Resistance to Cisplatin Utilizing a Dominant-Negative Construct

Maria Bonovich, Eddie Reed, Charles Vinson (NCI)
Serial No. 60/103,330 filed 07 Oct 98

This technology describes an acidic amphipathic domain (A–Zip) transcription factor, A–FOS, a dominant negative, that has high binding affinity with a basic leucine zipper (B–ZIP) transcription factor, AP–1, to selectively prevent binding of AP–1 to the Excision Repair Cross-Complementing-1 (ERCC1) DNA repair gene at the cis element of cisplatin resistant cells. Binding is selectively inhibited at the cis-element of the ERCC1 promotor region which is important or ERCC1 expression in cisplatin resistant cells and thus ERCC1 transcription is preferentially inhibited in the cisplatin resistant cells. Increased mRNA expression of ERCC1 is associated with resistance in cancer cells, particularly ovarian cancer cells, to chemotherapeutic drugs such as cisplatin. ERCC1 is involved in DNA repair of damage caused by adducts which are formed by cisplatin. The AP–1 transcription complex, consisting of Jun and Fos, is thought to upregulate ERCC1 in cancer cells, such as ovarian cancer cells. In particular, the application describes an adenoviral replication defective infection system which delivers A–Zip's to a cell, resulting in heterodimerization with AP–1, thus competing with the ERCC1 gene for binding of AP–1 and selectively inhibiting the expression of ERCC1 in cisplatin resistant cells and not parental cells. Thus, this invention has utility as a therapeutic method in the treatment of cancer.

Identification of the Factor in Bone Responsible for Prostate Cancer Cell Metastasis

K Jacob, H Kleinman, D Benayahu (NIDCR)
Serial No. 60/102,918 filed 02 Oct 98

This technology describes a bone matrix protein which may be a member of the bone matrix protein family of osteonectin/SPARC/BM40, a chemoattractant. Also described is the role protein plays in making breast, and particularly prostate cancer cells highly invasive, migratory, and metastatic to bone. Osteonectin is a 32,000 dalton bone-specific protein that binds selectively to both hydroxyapatite and collagen. The level of the receptor for osteonectin may be a marker of metastatic potential for both breast and prostate cancer, lending itself as an assay for determining the diagnosis and prognosis of prostate and breast cancer. Levels of osteonectin in serum may also have utility as a marker of prostate cancer.

PB39, A Novel Isolated Complete cDNA Whose Function Is Dysregulated in Prostate Cancer

Rodrigo Chaugui, Lance A. Liotta, Kristina A. Cole (NCI) Serial No. 60/094, 137 filed 14 Jul 98

This technology describes the identification and cloning of two cDNAs derived from a human prostate cancer. In addition, the technology describes the cDNA for the murine homolog as well as the murine genomic sequence has been determined. The human gene is located on chromosome 11 and the gene product appears to exist in two forms, PB–39A (adult) and PB–39B (fetal). The products of the gene, which correspond to these cDNAs, are over-expressed in prostate cancer and PB–39 is over-expressed in prostate intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN). PIN is an early precursor of cancer; therefore, the PB–39B gene product may serve as an early marker for prostate cancer. The over-expression of PB–39A or PB–39B in prostate cancer when compared to normal tissue indicates that either may be used in the diagnosis of prostate cancer. Early results indicated that PB–39B may be a more reliable indicator (3/4 samples were positive for PB–39B while 5/11 samples were positive for PB–39A).

Screening Assays for Compounds That Cause Apoptosis and Related Compounds

CC Harris, XW Wang (NCI)
Serial No. 08/675,631 filed 01 Jul 96

This technology describes peptides which may be useful as therapeutics due to their ability to cause apoptosis and assays which can be used to screen compounds for their ability to cause apoptosis. Preferably, the peptides are derived from the carboxy (COOH) terminus of the amino acid sequence of the known protein p53. More preferably, the peptides correspond to amino acids 367–387, 319–393, 350–380, 355–375, and 360–370 of the COOH terminus of p53. In particular, a single peptide derived from amino acid residues 360–370 of p53 is described. Diseases and conditions which have been linked to defects in apoptosis include cancer, heart attack, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and stroke.

Dated: March 5, 1999.

Jack Spiegel,

Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer.

[FR Doc. 99–6204 Filed 3–12–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Government-Owned Inventions; Availability for Licensing

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The invention listed below is owned by an agency of the U.S. Government and is available for licensing in the U.S. in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally funded research and development.

ADDRESSES: Licensing information and a copy of the U.S. patent application referenced below may be obtained by contacting J.R. Dixon, Ph.D., at the Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852–3804 (telephone 301/496–7056 ext 206; fax 301/402–0220). A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement is required to receive a copy of any patent application.

Title: "Anthrax Lethal Factor is a MAPK Kinase Protease"

Inventors: Drs. Nicholas S. Duesbery (NCI–FCRDC), Craig Webb (NCI–FCRDC), Stephen H. Leppla (NIDCR), and Dr. George Vande Woude (NCI–FCRDC)
DHHS Ref. No. E–066–98/0—Filed April 1, 1998

Anthrax toxin, produced by *Bacillus anthracis*, is composed of three proteins; protective antigen (PA), edema factor (EF), and lethal factor (LF). PA by itself has little or no toxic effect upon cells, but serves to bind cell surface receptors and mediate the entry of EF and LF into the cell. EF has been identified as an adenylate cyclase and together with PA forms a toxin (edema toxin; EdTx) which can induce edema formation when injected subcutaneously. LF and PA together form a toxin (lethal toxin; LeTx) which can cause rapid lysis of certain