compute our improved local measures of diffusion anisotropy. Images or maps of water diffusion anisotropy are increasingly being used to gather structural information about fibrous tissue, such as white matter fibers as well as cardiac and skeletal muscle fibers in vivo, in health, disease, development, and aging. This invention results not only in a more accurate measurement of diffusion anisotropy, but it improves image quality and reduces scanning time in clinical and biological applications of DT–MRI. Since the reduction in diffusion anisotropy has been shown to be sensitive to nerve fiber degeneration, this new data should be useful in studies to screen for and determine the efficacy of neuroprotective agents, as well as streamline multi-site and longitudinal clinical trials designed to assess their safety and efficacy.

A New Class of Anti-Tumor Agents

Christopher J. Michejda (NCI), Richard H. Smith, Jr.

Serial No. 07/179,622 filed 29 Mar 1988; U.S. Patent 4,9023,970 issued 08 May 1990; Licensing Contact: Girish Barua; 301/496–7056, ext. 263; e-mail: gb18t@nih.gov

Substituted triazenes are potentially useful anti-tumor agents. Examples of substituted triazenes in clinical use include 5-(dimethyltriazeno)imidazole-4-carboxamide (DTIC), which is used in the treatment of metastatic melanoma and some soft tissue sarcomas, and the recently approved temozolomide, which is used in brain cancer. The National Institutes of Health has developed compounds which have many advantages over known triazene anti-cancer compounds. Advantages include a novel mechanism of action for at least one of them, namely, 1-(2-chloroethyl)-3-(N-methylcarbamoyl)-methyltriazene, which is a highly selective, non-toxic anti-tumor compound, their well understood chemistry, and ease of synthesis of new analogs.

The technology covers compounds of the series of 1-(2-chloroethyl)-3-acyl-3-alkyltriazenes and a method for their synthesis. Some of the subject acyl triazenes generate 2-chloroethyldiazonium ions at very easily controlled rates, while others require metabolic activation to release the electrophilic agent.

Several of the acyltriazenes have shown excellent in vivo activity against human tumor xenografts in nude mice and low toxicity. These compounds are good candidates for development as anti-tumor drugs.

Dated: August 3, 1999.

Jack Spiegel,

Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 99–20456 Filed 8–6–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

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 contacting Susan S. Rucker, J.D., Patent and Licensing Specialist, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852–3804; telephone: 301/496–7057 ext. 245; fax: 301/402–0220; e-mail: sr156v@nih.gov. A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement will be required to receive copies of the patent applications.

Lentivirus Vector System

SK Arya (NCI)

Serial No. 60/115,247 filed 07 Jan 1999

This application relates to the field of gene therapy. More, particularly the application describes a vector system useful in gene therapy. The vectors employed in this system are lentiviral vectors, particularly retroviral vectors based on HIV2. Retroviral vectors based on HIV2, unlike most other retroviral vectors such as MuLV, are capable of infecting non-proliferating cells thereby making them useful in situations where other retroviral vectors are not. The vector system uses a two vector approach to minimize the possibility of HIV infection and comprises a transfer vector, for carrying the foreign gene of interest, and a packaging vector. The vector system demonstrates an improved ability to package the gene of interest when compared to a control without a loss in production of the transgene. In the experimental system this increase was 25 fold. This improved packaging ability is one means to address current low viral titers which are problematic in the gene therapy field.

This research has been published, in part, in Human Gene Therapy 1998 June 10; 9(9): 1371–86.

Thymosin β4 Promotes Wound Repair

KM Malinda, HD Kleinman (NIDCR) and A Goldstein

Serial No. 60/094,690 filed 30 Jul 1998

This application describes the use of the compound thymosin β4 as an agent for promoting wound healing. Thymosin β4 is a small, 43 mer, 4.9 kDa, peptide which can be produced by chemical synthesis or recombinantly. Studies using a punch model for wounds in rats have shown that providing thymosin β4 either by systemic delivery (intraperitoneal) or topical delivery accelerates wound healing and that extracellular matrix deposition occurs in the wound bed. In addition, thymosin β4 has been shown previously to promote endothelial cell migration and to promote angiogenesis.

Mammalian Selenoprotein Differentially Expressed in Tumor Cells

VN Gladyshev (NCI), DL Hatfield (NCI), JC Wooten (NLM) and K Jeang (NIAID)

PCT/US99/07560 filed 06 Apr 1999 and Serial No. 60/080,850 filed 06 Apr 1998

This application describes the identification, cloning, and sequencing of a human protein which contains selenium. A murine homolog has also been identified. The gene encoding the protein has been localized to the short arm of chromosome 1 at 1p31. Early work indicates that levels of the protein and/or mRNA are decreased in prostate, liver, ovarian and fallopian tube cancers and in lymphoma. Thus, levels of the protein or mRNA may be useful clinically as diagnostic or prognostic tools. The fact that other selenium proteins are known to be involved in the immunological response and the fact that this protein was originally detected in T cells leads to a hypothesis that the protein may play a role in the immunological response. Antibodies and tools for expressing the protein recombinantly may be useful in conducting further research on the functionality of this protein. This selenoprotein may potentially mediate a chemopreventative effect of selenium in prostate cancer.

This research has been published, in part, in JBC 1998 Apr 10; 272(15): 8910–15.

Methods of Stimulating Proliferation and Differentiation of Human Pancreatic Cells Ex Vivo

JS Rubin (NCI), A Hayek, GM Beattie, T Otonkoski, V Quaranta

Serial Nos. 08/732,230 filed 14 Apr 1997; U.S. Patent 5,888,705 issued 30 Mar 1999; PCT/US9/05521 filed 28 Apr 1995, and 08/235,394 filed 29 Apr 1994; U.S. Patent 5,857,309 issued 24 Dec 1996

These patents and applications generally relate to methods which may be used in treating diabetes. In particular, they describe methods for culturing pancreatic islet cells which will later be transplanted into patients. The culture of the pancreatic islet cells is carried out in the presence of hepatocyte growth factor/scatter factor (HGF/SF) under conditions such that differentiation and/or proliferation of the pancreatic islet cells occurs and insulin production is stimulated or increased. These insulin-producing pancreatic islet cells can then be transplanted into patients having diabetes mellitus (Type I diabetes).

This work has also been published in Otonkoski T et al. Diabetes 43(7): 947–53 (Jul 1994), Hayek A et al. Diabetes 44(12): 1458–60 (Dec 1995), Otonkoski T et al. Endocrinology 137(7): 3131–9 (Jul 1996), and Beattie, GM et al. Diabetes 45(9): 1223–8 (Sep 1996).

Date: August 3, 1999.

Jack Spiegel,

Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer Office of Technology Transfer National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 99–20458 Filed 8–6–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P 5

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meetings:

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The contract proposals and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the contract proposals, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Special Emphasis Panel R13 Review Mtg.

Date: August 10, 1999.

Time: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIEHS, 79 T. W. Alexander Drive, Building 4401, Conference Room 3446, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: J. Patrick Mastin, Scientific Review Administrator, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233 MD EC–24, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (919) 541–1446.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Special Emphasis Panel Contract Review on Pathology Support.

Date: August 12, 1999.

Time: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate contract proposals.

Place: NIEHS, 79 T. W. Alexander Drive, Building 4401, Conference Room 3446, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: David Brown, Scientific Review Administrator, Nat'l Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (919) 541–4964.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.113, Biological Response to Environmental Health Hazards; 93.114, Applied Toxicological Research and Testing; 93.115, Biometry and Risk Estimation—Health Risks from Environmental Exposures; 93.142, NIEHS Hazardous Waste Worker Health and Safety Training; 93.143, NIEHS Superfund Hazardous Substances—Basic Research and Education; 93.894, Resources and Manpower Development in the Environmental Health Sciences, National Institute of Health, HHS).

Dated: August 3, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 99–20459 Filed 8–6–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Aging; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the National Advisory Council on Aging.

The meeting will be open to the public as indicated below, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Advisory Council on Aging.

Date: September 23–24, 1999.

Open: September 23, 1999, 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Agenda: Call to Order; Report of Review of NIA Minority Research Program; Program Highlights and Presentation on Perspectives on Minority Aging.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Shannon Building, Wilson Hall, 1 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Open: September 24, 1999, 8:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Agenda: Report on Working Group on Program and Discussion on NIA Strategic Plan.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Shannon Building, Wilson Hall, 1 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Closed: September 24, 1999, 10:30 a.m. to Adjournment.

Agenda: To review and evaluate review of Applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Shannon Building, Wilson Hall, 1 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Contact Person: Miriam F. Kelty, Director, Office of Extramural Affairs, National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health, 7201 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 2C218, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–496–9322.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.866, Aging Research, National institutes of Health, HHS)