in particular clear cell renal carcinoma (cRCC). In particular, antibody-based or nucleotide-based diagnostics are contemplated in the applications. Various techniques have been used to examine VHL mutations including FISH (fluorescent in situ hybridization), southern blotting, PCR–SSCP and complete sequencing of the VHL gene.

There are numerous publications detailing the work of Dr. Linehan and his colleagues regarding the VHL disease gene. Two of these are Hum Mutat 12(6): 417–23 (1998) and Biochim Biophys Acta 1243 (3): 201–10 (March 18, 1996).

Dated: February 18, 1999.

Jack Spiegel,

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

[FR Doc. 99–4661 Filed 2–24–99; 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 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 the indicated licensing contact at the Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852–3804; telephone: 301/496–7057; fax: 301/402–0220. A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement will be required to receive copies of the patent applications.

Chimeric Virus-Like Particles for the Induction of Autoantibodies

John T. Schiller, Bryce Chackerian and Douglas R. Lowy (NCI)
Serial No. 60/105,132 filed 21 Oct 98
Licensing Contact: Robert Benson; 301/496–7056 ext. 267; e-mail: rb20m@nih.gov

This invention provides methods and constructs for inducing a B cell mediated antibody response against a self-antigen or tolerogen. Given that many disease states can be alleviated by decreasing the effect of a self-antigen, this invention has broad applicability. Autoantibody therapy might be preferable to monoclonal antibody therapy in some instances because the concentration of the therapeutic antibody would likely remain in an effective range for longer periods, an antibody response to the therapeutic antibody response would not be expected, and a polyclonal autoantibody response might be more effective than the monospecific response of a monoclonal antibody. The inventors have found that by presenting an epitope from the self-antigen as a highly organized array on the surface of virus-like particles (VLP), such as papillomavirus VLPs, that antibodies are raised against the self-antigen. Any therapeutic or prophylactic treatment which involves using monoclonal antibodies against a self-antigen can be replaced with the methods and VLPs of this invention. Examples of such diseases include autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease, or cancers such as breast cancer. The invention is also useful for producing mouse anti-self-antigen sera or monoclonal antibodies which should find myriad uses. The inventors have demonstrated a potential anti-HIV treatment by raising antibodies against the HIV co-receptors CCR5 in a mouse model system. Bovine papillomavirus L1 protein containing an epitope from an extracellular domain of CCR5 formed VLPs which raised anti-CCR5 antibodies. These antibodies blocked binding by the normal CCR5 ligand, RANTES, and, more importantly, blocked entry of HIV into the cells.

High-Stability Prokaryotic Plasmid Vector System

Stuart J. Austin (NCI)
Serial No. 60/108,253 filed 12 Nov 1998
Licensing Contact: J. Peter Kim; 301/496–7056 ext. 264; e-mail: jk141n@nih.gov

Plasmids used in vaccine production, production of biopharmaceuticals, and products of industrial importance are often unstably maintained, and loss of the plasmid from the host is a common limitation for efficient product yield. Accordingly, the subject invention could be particularly useful in continuous flow applications, e.g, large fermentation vat productions, where accumulation of cells that have lost the producer plasmid leads to long-term decline in product yield.

The present invention relates to the identification of a locus for plasmid stability. The scientists have mapped, sequenced, and characterized this locus. The DNA element appears to be highly effective in promoting the stable maintenance of a variety of unstable plasmids.

Identification of a Region of the Major Surface Glycoprotein (MSG) Gene of Human Pneumocystis carinii

Joseph Kovacs et al. (CC)
Serial No. 60/096,805 filed 17 Aug 1998
Licensing Contact: J. Peter Kim; 301/496–7056 ext. 264; e-mail: jk141n@nih.gov

Pneumocystis carinii is an important life-threatening opportunistic pathogen of immuno-compromised patients, especially for those with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

The present invention provides for methods and kits for detecting *Pneumocystis carinii* infection in humans. More specifically, nucleic acid amplification (for example, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification of human *Pneumocystis carinii* MSG-encoding genes (approximately 100 copies of which are present per genome), may provide a particularly sensitive and specific technique for the detection of *Pneumocystis carinii* and the diagnosis of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PNP).

Ratio-Based Decisions and the Quantitative Analysis of cDNA Microarray Images

Y Chen (NHGRI)
Serial No. 60/102,365 filed 29 Sep 98
Licensing Contact: John Fahner-Vihtelic; 301/496–7735 ext. 270; e-mail: jf36z@nih.gov

The present invention relates to the quantitative analysis of gene expression by hybridizing fluor-tagged mRNA to targets on a cDNA microarray. A method and system of image segmentation is provided to identify cDNA target sites. The comparison of gene expression levels arising from cohybridized samples is achieved by taking ratios of average expression levels for individual genes. A confidence interval is developed to quantify the significance of observed differences in expression ratios. This technology has been implemented into a computer program called ArraySuite and provides a user-friendly display for the operator to view and analyze the results of the experiment.

Pressure Mediated Selective Delivery of Therapeutic Substances

SM Wiener, RF Hoyt, JR DeLeonardis, RR Clevenger, RJ Lutz, B Safer (NHLBI)
Serial No. 60/086,565 filed 21 May 98
Licensing Contact: John Fahner-Vihtelic; 301/496–7735 ext. 270; e-mail: jf35z@nih.gov

The present application describes a system and method for improved regional, organ, tissue, tissue-compartment, and celltype-specific delivery of therapeutic agents via infusion of those agents into body lumens under controlled pressure and volume conditions. Methods of varying the pressure and flow rates for given body targets and depths are also disclosed along with methods of determining the proper protocol for a given target tissue. This application also includes designs for access cannulas, catheters, access ports, and other devices for controlled, targeted delivery of therapeutic agents, including drugs and gene therapy vectors. Local administration of drugs, gene therapy vectors, and other therapeutic agents in accordance with this invention can permit organ, tissue, tissue-compartment, and celltype-specific delivery, thereby maximizing administration to intended tissue targets using therapeutically effective dosages while simultaneously reducing the risk of systemic delivery and toxicity.

Dated: February 18, 1999.

Jack Spiegel,

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

[FR Doc. 99–4662 Filed 2–24–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; 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 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 Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel, Innovative Technologies for the Molecular Analysis of Cancer: SBIR/STTR Initiative.

Date: March 22–23, 1999.

Time: 7:00 pm to 12:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Gaithersburg Hilton, 620 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

Contact Person: Sherwood Githens, Ph.D., Scientific Review Administrator, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, Special Review, Referral and Resources Branch, Executive Plaza North, 6130 Executive Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301/435–9050.

Name of Committee: National Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel, Innovative Technologies for the Molecular Analysis of Cancer: Phased Innovation Award.

Date: March 23–24, 1999.

Time: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Gaithersburg Hilton, 620 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

Contact Person: Sherwood Githens, Ph.D., Scientific Review Administrator, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, Special Review, Referral and Resources Branch, Executive Plaza North, 6130 Executive Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301/435–9050.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.392, Cancer Construction; 93.393, Cancer Cause and Prevention Research; 93.394, Cancer Detection and Diagnosis Research; 93.395, Cancer Treatment Research; 93.396, Cancer Biology Research; 93.397, Cancer Centers Support; 93.398, Cancer Research Manpower; 93.399, Cancer Control, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: February 18, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 99–4653 Filed 2–24–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; 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 the meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Cancer Institute.

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 provision set forth in sections 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended for the review, discussion, and evaluation of individual intramural programs and projects conducted by the National Cancer Institute, including consideration of personnel qualifications and performance, and the competence of individual investigators, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Cancer Institute, Subcommittee B—Basic Sciences.

Date: March 8, 1999.

Open: March 8, 1999, 8:00 am to 10:15 am.

Agenda: Joint Session with Board of Scientific Advisors, National Cancer Institute, Report of the Director, NCL.

Place: National Cancer Institute, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 31, C Wing, 6th Floor, Conference Room 10, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Closed: March 8, 1999, 10:30 am to 11:30 am, Joint Meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Cancer, Institute, Subcommittee A—Clinical Sciences and Epidemiology and Subcommittee B—Basic Sciences.

Agenda: To Review and evaluate personal qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.

Place: National Cancer Institute, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 31, C Wing, 6th Floor, Conference Room 10, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Closed: March 8, 1999, 12:00 pm to 5: pm, Board of Scientific Counselors, National Cancer Institute, Subcommittee B—Basic Sciences.

Agenda: To Review and evaluate personal qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.

Place: The Hyatt Regency, Chesapeake Suites, One Bethesda Metro Center, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Contact Person: Florence E. Farber, Ph.D., Executive Secretary, Office of Advisory Activities, Division of Extramural Activities, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6130 Executive Boulevard, EPN 609, Rockville, MD 20892, (301) 496–2378.

Name of Committee: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Cancer Institute, Subcommittee A—Clinical Sciences and Epidemiology.

Date: March 8–9, 1999.

Closed: March 8, 1999, 10:30 am to 11:30 am, Joint Meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Cancer Institute, Subcommittee A—Clinical Sciences and Epidemiology and Subcommittee B—Basic Sciences.

Agenda: To review and evaluate personal qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.