vivo. The model system can be used to screen compounds which inhibit or stimulate bone formation. A protocol using marrow stromal fibroblasts is also presented. Use of the protocol results in the formation of self-maintained human bone which supports hematopoiesis. The marrow stromal fibroblasts combined with the described delivery vehicles can be implanted into humans to augment bone implants or to repair bone defects.

This research has been published in J Bone Miner Res 1997 Sep;12(9):1335–47 and Transplantation 1997 Apr 27;63(8):1059–69.

Synthesis and Purification of Hepatitis C Virus Like Particles In Vitro

TJ Liang and TF Baumert (NIDDK).

Serial No.: 60/030,238 filed 8 Nov 96; PCT/US97/05096 filed 25 Mar. 97.

Licensing Contact: Carol Salata, 301/496–7735 ext 232.

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a major causative agent of posttransfusion and community-acquired hepatitis world-wide. Analysis of the structural features of HCV has been hampered by the inability to propagate the virus efficiently in cultural cells and the lack of a convenient animal model. This invention discloses the production and purification of HCV-like particles in eukaryotic cells. Infection of insect cells with a recombinant baculovirus containing the cDNA for the HCV structural proteins resulted in the formation of HCV-like particles in cytoplasmic cisternae of the insect cells. Sucrose gradient purification HCV-like particles exhibited similar biophysical properties as putative HCV virions. HCV-like particles, purified in large quantities, may be useful in HCV vaccine development or in diagnostic kits.

An Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) to Detect Antibodies to a Nonstructural Protein of Hepatitis A Virus (HAV)

RH Purcell, T Schultheiss, D Stewart, S Emerson (NIAID).

Serial No.: 60/013, 333 filed 13 Mar. 96; PCT/US97/03428 filed 13 Mar. 97.

Licensing Contact: George Keller, 301/496–7735 ext 246.

The current invention embodies an assay which can differentiate between an individual who has been vaccinated against Hepatitis A Virus (HAV), and one who has actually been infected with the virus. HAV infection results in the production of antibodies against both structural and nonstructural proteins of the virus. Inactivated HAV vaccines, which are commonly used for immunization against HAV, cause the production of antibodies against the structural proteins. Assays currently in use for determining exposure to HAV measure only antibodies to structural proteins, and therefore are incapable of differentiating between individuals who have been infected with HAV and those who have merely been immunized with the inactivated virus.

The assay embodied in the current invention is capable of detecting antibodies to the 3C proteinase, which is a nonstructural protein of HAV. This assay, which utilizes an ELISA for the detection of such antibodies, should represent a significant improvement over assays which are currently available.

Restriction Display (RD–PCR) of Differentially Expressed mRNAs

JN Weinstein, J. Buolamwini (NCI).

Serial No.: 60/011, 379 filed 09 Feb 96; PCT/US97/02009 filed 7 Feb. 97.

Licensing Contact: J. Peter Kim, 301/496–7056 ext 264.

This invention provides a kit and methods for detecting gene expression in cells by reverse transcribing mRNA molecules into cDNA, and selectively amplifying a subset of the cDNA by a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to present a two-dimensional display of the fragments or for cloning into a vector using restriction enzyme recognition sites added during the PCR. In one aspect of this invention, only cDNA corresponding to the 3′ end of the mRNA is amplified and displayed or cloned. In another aspect of the invention, cDNA corresponding to the entire mRNA molecule is amplified for display or cloning. The method and kit may be useful in characterizing cells based on their mRNA content, representing expressed genes, and discovering therapeutics that alter cellular gene expression by characterizing cells of different types under a variety of physiological conditions. In addition to drug discovery, this approach may be used whenever expression of mRNA is to be assessed, for example, in studies of malignant transformation, carcinogenesis, immune activation, and developmental biology.

Selective Elimination of T-Cells that Recognize Specific Preselected Targets

A Rosenberg (FDA).

Serial No.: 60/002, 964 filed 30 Aug. 95; PCT filed 30 /Aug. 96.

Licensing Contact: Jaconda Wagner, 301/496–7735 ext 284

The invention relates to methods and compositions for the elimination of T cells that recognize specific preselected targets which can be used to threat autoimmune diseases and graft rejection.

The invention provides a method for selectively inhibiting or killing T cells that recognize a specific preselected target molecule and also for modified killer cells that bear a signal transduction molecule to which is attached the preselected target molecule. Recognition of the preselected molecule by a T cell activates the killer cell which then kills or inhibits the T cell. Where the preselected molecule is an extracellular domain of an MHC from a xenograft or an allograft, treatment of the graft recipient with the modified killer T cells delays or inhibits graft rejection. Similarly, where the preselected molecule is an MHC that binds the antigenic determinant of the autoimmune disease, treatment of the organism with the modified T cells mitigates the autoimmune response directed against the antigenic determinant.

This research was published in Transpl Immunol 1993; 1(2):93–9.

Dated: January 16, 1998.

Barbara M. McGarey,

Deputy Director, Office of Technology Transfer.

[FR Doc. 98–1967 Filed 1–27–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of General Medical Sciences; Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 United States Code Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following National Institute of General Medical Sciences Initial Review Group (IRG) meeting:

Name of IRG: Minority Biomedical Research Support.

Date: March 10–12, 1998.

Time: March 10—8 p.m.–11 p.m.; March 11—8:30 a.m–6 p.m.; March 12—8:30 a.m.–adjournment.

Place: Holiday Inn—Bethesda, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

Contact Person: Dr. Michael A. Sesma, Scientific Review Administrators, NIGMS, Natcher Building—Room 1AS–19, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, Telephone: 301–594–2048.

Purpose/Agenda: To evaluate and review research training grant applications.

The meeting will be closed in accordance with the provisions set forth in secs. 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C. The

discussions of these applications could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material and personal information concerning individuals associated with these applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. (93.821, Biophysics and Physiological Sciences; 93.859, Pharmacological Sciences; 93.862, Genetics Research; 93.863, Cellular and Molecular Basis of Disease Research 93.880, Minority Access Research Careers (MARC); and 93.375, Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS)], National Institutes of Health)

Dated: January 22, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98–1961 Filed 1–27–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; Closed 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 following National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) meeting.

Name of SEP: SBIR Fast Track Initiative (teleconference).

Date: February 3, 1998.

Time: 9:00 a.m.-adjournment.

Place: Natcher Building, 45 Center Drive, Room 5AS25U, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.

Contact Person: Tommy L. Broadwater, Ph.D., Scientific Review Administrator, Natcher Building, 45 Center Drive, Rm 5AS25U, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, Telephone: 301–594–4953.

Purpose/Agenda: To evaluate and review contract application.

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

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

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. [93.846, Project Grants in Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease Research], National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 22, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98–1962 Filed 1–27–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; Closed 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 following National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Special Emphasis Panel meeting:

Name of SEP: ZDK1 GRB4–C2B.

Date: February 13, 1998.

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Room 6as–37A, Natcher Building, NIH (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact: William Elzinga, Ph.D., Review Branch, DEA, NIDDK, Natcher Building, Room 6as–37A, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892–6600, Phone: (301) 594–8895.

Purpose/Agenda: To review and evaluate contract proposals.

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

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.847–849, Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases; Digestive Diseases and Nutrition; and Kidney Diseases, Urology and Hematology Research, National Institutes of Health)

Dated: January 20, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98–1964 Filed 1–27–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Aging; 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:

Name of SEP: National Institute on Aging Special Emphasis Panel, Calcium Regulation in Brain Aging and Alzheimer's Disease.

Date of Meeting: February 12, 1998.

Time of Meeting: 1 p.m. to adjournment.

Place of Meeting: Wyndham Garden Hotel, 1938 Stanton Way, Lexington, Kentucky 40511.

Purpose/Agenda: To review one grant application.

Contact Person: Dr. Maria Mannarino, Scientific Review Administrator, Gateway Building, Room 2C212, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892–9205, (301) 496–9666.

Name of SEP: National Institute on Aging Special Emphasis Panel, The Einstein Aging Study (Teleconference).

Date of Meeting: February 24, 1998.

Time of Meeting: 1:30 p.m. to adjournment.

Place of Meeting: Gateway Building, 7201 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Purpose/Agenda: To review a program project.

Contact Person: Dr. Maria Mannarino, Scientific Review Administrator, Gateway Building, Room 2C212, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892–9205, (301) 496–9666.

Name of SEP: National Institute on Aging Special Emphasis Panel, Molecular Mechanisms of T Cell Aging in Mice.

Date of Meeting: February 27, 1998.

Time of Meeting: 1:00 p.m. to adjournment.

Place of Meeting: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Purpose/Agenda: To review a program project grant.

Contact Person: Dr. James Harwood, Scientific Review Administrator, Gateway Building, Room 2C212, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892–9205, (301) 496–9666.

Name of SEP: National Institute on Aging Initial Review Group, Neurosciences of Aging Review Committee.

Date of Meeting: March 16–18, 1998.

Times of Meeting: March 16—7 p.m. to recess, March 17—8 a.m. to 6 p.m., March 18—8 a.m. to adjournment.

Place of Meeting: Hyatt Regency Hotel, 7400 Block of Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

Purpose/Agenda: To review grant applications.

Contact Person: Dr. Maria Mannarino, Dr. Louise Hsu, Scientific Review Administrators, Gateway Building, Room 2C212, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892–9205, (301) 496–9666.

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

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.866, Aging Research, National Institutes of Health)