

heterobifunctional linking molecule. In particular this invention provides a water-soluble analogue of the antitumor drug, geldanamycin. The analogue is expected to exhibit superior solubility under physiological conditions due to the unique configuration and thus permits the use of water-insoluble parent compounds.

Human and Rat gb2 GABA_B Receptors

J Clark, T Bonner (NIMH)
Serial No. 60/087,274 filed 29 May 98
Licensing Contact: Charles Maynard,
301/496-7735, ext. 243

Disruption of GABAergic neurotransmission has been implicated in a number of neurological and psychiatric disorders. GABAergic neurotransmission is mediated by two very different types of GABA receptors, the ligand-gated ion channels or GABA_A receptors, and the seven transmembrane domain G protein-coupled GABA_B receptors. GABA_B receptors have been shown to modulate adenylyl cyclase and phosphoinositide hydrolysis, inhibit voltage-sensitive calcium currents, and stimulate potassium currents and phospholipase A₂. New GABA_B receptor cDNAs, designated hgb2 and rgb2 GABA_B, have been isolated from both rat and human. The rat and human gb2 receptors share ~95% amino acid identity with each other and 27% identity with the gb1.

Therapeutic Blockage of ICER Synthesis To Prevent ICER-Mediated Inhibition of Immune Cell Activity

PA Cohen, J Bodor, D Weng, GK Koski, BJ Czerniecki (NCI)
Serial No. 60/076,293 filed 27 Feb 98
Licensing
Contact: Girish Barua, 301/496-7056
ext. 263

This invention relates to the use of antisense to the ICER (Inducible cAMP Early Repressor) to protect cells of the immune system against ICER suppression by tumors and infectious pathogens.

Normal functioning of the host's immune cells encompasses the recognition and destruction of cancer cells and infectious pathogens. Such immunologic activities are critically dependent upon local antigen-presenting cell (APC) function and T cell restimulation. It is apparent, however, that tumors and infectious pathogens can escape recognition and rejection through local inhibition of APC and lymphocyte function, through diverse mechanisms including prostaglandin secretion. It has recently been discovered that sustained

inhibition of APC and lymphocyte function is inducible with cAMP activating stimuli in tandem with other coordinate stimuli, resulting in sustained intracellular expression of the inhibitory nuclear regulatory molecule ICER (Inducible cAMP Early Repressor).

The present invention potentially prevents inhibitory effects of tumors and infectious pathogens on APC and lymphocyte function by utilizing ICER antisense to block ICER synthesis in cells of the immune system. The goal of such treatment is to prevent ICER synthesis in lymphocytes and APC responding to inhibitory stimuli secreted or induced by tumors and infectious pathogens, thereby rendering the immune system less vulnerable to ICER-mediated immunosuppression.

Signal Transduction Inhibitors of Allergic Reactions

B Vonakis, H Metzger, H Chen (NIAMS)
Serial No. 09/020,116 filed 06 Feb 98
Licensing Contact: Kai Chen, 301/496-7735 ext. 247

Allergic reactions affect nearly 40 million persons in the United States. Allergic reactions are due to a sequential interaction beginning with the extracellular aggregation of the high affinity receptor for IgE (FcεRI) followed by intracellular tyrosine phosphorylation which initiates a further cascade of events eventually leading to histamine and cytokine release. The reaction is initiated by Lyn kinase which is pre-associated with the FcεRI. It was shown that the introduction of a unique portion of the N-terminal region of Lyn A kinase into cells inhibits the receptor tyrosine phosphorylation in a dose and time-dependent manner. Without receptor phosphorylation, allergic reactions can not occur. The NIH is looking for a company to license and independently develop the technology or to work in collaboration with the NIH scientists via a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement to further research and develop the allergy treatment. It is believed that this technology may ultimately lead to an anti-allergy drug or allergy therapy.

Method and System for Identifying Acid-Fast Structures in Slide-Mounted Biological Specimens

AE Lash, LA Liotta (NCI)
Serial No. 60/066,234 filed 20 Nov 97
Licensing Contact: John Fahner-Vihtelic,
301/496-7735 ext. 270

The present application describes a system and method for screening subjects who are suspected of having a mycobacterial infection. After obtaining

a specimen of interest, a digitized photomicrographic image of a magnified field of the specimen is color filtered to remove pixels in the red to magenta range. The pixels are grouped and analyzed to determine if they form any structures having an elongated shape associated with mycobacteria. Upon identification of target organisms, an alarm sounds and the section of interest is displayed by the system. Problems associated with locating mycobacteria on a slide and determining their morphological appearance, once found, are virtually eliminated with this invention.

Resonant Structure for Spatial and Spectral-Spatial Imaging of Free Radical Spin Probes Using Radiofrequency Time Domain Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Spectrometry

N Devasahayam et al. (NCI)
Serial No. 60/047,786 filed 27 May 97;
PCT/US98/10467 filed 21 May 98
Licensing Contact: John Fahner-Vihtelic,
301/496-7735 ext. 270

The present application represents a significant improvement in resonators for use in electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) imaging systems. This apparatus is designed to detect time domain EPR responses from spin probes after pulsed excitation using radiofrequency irradiation in the range of 60-400MHz. The invention is configured into an array of numerous surface coils of appropriate diameters connected in a parallel fashion with suitable spacing between individual surface coils to form a volume type resonator. This technology provides necessary capabilities and improvements in EPR systems and overcomes obstacles associated with implementation of EPR spectroscopy diagnostic imaging.

Dated: September 18, 1998.

Jack Spiegel,

Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Officer of Technology Transfer.
[FR Doc. 98-25709 Filed 9-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; Notice of 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 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 Cancer Institute Initial Review Group, Subcommittee F—Manpower & Training

Date: November 18–20, 1998.

Time: 6:30 pm to 5:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: St. James Hotel, 950 24th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20037.

Contact Person: Mary Bell, Scientific Review Administrator, Division of Extramural Activities, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, PHS, DHHS, 6130 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20892, (301) 496-7978.

(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: September 18, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98-25695 Filed 9-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; Notice of 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 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 Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel, Pediatric Brain Tumor Clinical Trials Consortium.

Date: November 15–17, 1998.

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Double Tree Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.

Contact Person: Ray Bramhall, Scientific Review Administrator, Special Review, Referral and Resources Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6130 Executive Blvd., Rockville, MD 20892, (301) 496-3428.

(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: September 18, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; Notice of 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 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 Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel, Chemoprevention in Genetically-Identified High-Risk Groups: Interactive Research and Development Projects (RFA: Ca-98-012).

Date: November 4–5, 1998.

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Ramada Inn, 1775 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.

Contact Person: Gerald G. Lovinger, Scientific Review Administrator, Grants

Review Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6130 Executive Boulevard/EPN—Room 630D, Rockville, MD 20892-7405, 301/496-7987.

(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: September 18, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; Notice of 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 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 Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel, Innovative Cancer Control Initiative in Cancer Centers.

Date: October 20–21, 1998.

Time: 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Gaithersburg Residence Inn, 9721 Washingtonian Boulevard, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

Contact Person: Lalita D. Palekar, Scientific Review Administrator, Special Review, Referral and Resources Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6130 Executive Boulevard/EPN-622B, Rockville, MD 20892-7405, 301/496-7575.

(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;