

*Contact Person:* Abubakar A. Shaikh, DVM, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 6166, MSC 7892, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1042.

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:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date:* December 3, 1998.

*Time:* 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

*Contact Person:* Timothy J. Henry, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4180, MSC 7808, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1147.

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:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date:* December 4, 1998.

*Time:* 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

*Contact Person:* Syed M. Quadri, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4144, MSC 7804, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1211.

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:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date:* December 4, 1998.

*Time:* 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

*Contact Person:* Gloria B. Levin, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5206, MSC 7848, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1017.

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. 93.306, Comparative Medicine, 93.306; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: November 20, 1998.

**LaVerne Y. Stringfield,**

*Committee Management Officer, NIH.*

[FR Doc. 98-31738 Filed 11-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Prospective Grant of Exclusive License: Drug and Method for the Therapeutic Treatment of Ovarian Cancer and Mesotheliomas

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209 (c)(1) and 37 CFR 404.7(a)(1)(i) that the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, is contemplating the grant of an exclusive world-wide license to U.S. Patent Applications 08/776,271 entitled: "Mesothelium Antigen and Methods and Kits for Targeting it" and 60/067,175 entitled: "Antibodies, Including Fv Molecules and Immunoconjugates having High Binding Affinity for Mesothelin and Methods for their Use" and corresponding foreign patent applications to NeoPharm, Inc. having a place of business in Bannockburn, Illinois. The patent rights in these inventions have been assigned to the United States of America and the contemplated license may be limited to the use of the SS(dsFv)-PE38 immunotoxin and relevant patent applications for the therapeutic treatment of ovarian cancer and mesotheliomas.

**DATES:** Only written comments and/or applications for a license which are received by NIH on or before March 1, 1999, will be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the patent applications, inquiries, comments and other materials relating to the contemplated licenses should be directed to: J.R. Dixon, Ph.D., Technology Licensing Specialist, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852-3804. Telephone: (301) 496-7735 ext. 206; Facsimile: (301) 402-0220. A signed Confidentiality Agreement will be required to receive copies of the patent applications.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The technology disclosed in USPA 08/776,271 relates to the discovery of a differentiation antigen termed mesothelin which is associated with mesotheliomas and ovarian cancers. The 08/776,271 technology includes uses for the amino acid and nucleic acid sequences for mesothelin, recombinantly expressed mesothelin antigen, methods for targeting and/or detecting the antigen and its expression

level as an indication of the presence of tumor cells, and kits for such detection. In normal tissue, mesothelin is limited in its expression to mesothelial cells and basal cells of the trachea (low expression).

The provisional 60/067,175 patent application is directed to anti-mesothelin antibodies, including Fv molecules, with particularly high affinity for mesothelin, and immunoconjugates employing them. Also described in the provisional and application are diagnostic and therapeutic methods using the antibodies.

**Note:** Mesothelin is a differentiation antigen present on the surface of ovarian cancers and mesotheliomas. Because in normal tissues, mesothelin is only present on mesothelial cells, it represents a good target for antibody mediated delivery of cytotoxic agents.

The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless within ninety (90) days from the date of this published notice, NIH receives written evidence and argument that establishes that the grant of the license would be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

The field of use may be limited to the use of the SS(dsFv)-PE38 immunotoxin under the relevant patent applications for the therapeutic treatment of ovarian cancer and mesotheliomas.

Applications for a license [i.e., completed "Applications for License to Public Health Service Inventions] in the field of use of the SS(dsFv)-PE38 immunotoxin and the relevant Patent Applications for the therapeutic treatment of ovarian cancer and mesotheliomas filed in response to this notice will be treated as objections to the grant of the contemplated licenses. Comments and objections will not be made available for public inspection and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Dated: November 16, 1998.

**Jack Spiegel,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-31732 Filed 11-27-98; 8:45 am]

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