lecithin-cholesterol acyltransferase activity. The plasma protein enzyme lecithin-cholesterol acyltransferase (LCAT) catalyzes the transfer of fatty acid from the sn-2 position of lecithin to the free hydroxyl group of cholesterol. Various mutations of the LCAT gene are known. Individuals who are homozygous for a non-functional LCAT mutant have classic LCAT deficiency disease, characterized by clouding of the cornea, normochromic anemia and glomerulosclerosis. Mutations of the LCAT gene that result in some residual LCAT activity lead to Fish Eye disease, characterized by opacity of the cornea and hypoplastic anemia. Thus there is a need for compositions and methods for the prevention and therapeutic treatment of atherosclerosis and conditions associated with LCAT deficiency. This invention satisfies this need by providing compositions and methods for increasing the serum level of LCAT activity.


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


Alteration of gene transcription by inhibition of specific transcriptional regulatory proteins has important therapeutic potential. Synthetic double-stranded phosphorothioate oligonucleotides with high affinity for the target transcription factor can be introduced into cells as decay cis-elements to bind the factors and alter gene expression. The CRE (cyclic AMP response element)—transcription factor complex is a pleiotropic activator that participates in the induction of a wide variety of cellular and viral genes. Because the CRE cis-element, TGAACGTCA, is palindromic, a synthetic single-stranded oligonucleotide composed of the CRE sequence self-hybridizes to form a duplex/hairpin. The CRE-palindromic oligonucleotide can penetrate into cells, compete with CRE enhancers for binding transcription factors, and specifically interfere with CRE- and AP-1-directed transcription in vivo. These oligonucleotides restrained tumor cell proliferation, without affecting the growth of noncancerous cells. This decay oligonucleotide approach offers great promise as a tool for defining cellular regulatory processes and treating cancer and other diseases.

This research has been published in J. Biol. Chem. 274, 1573–1580 (1999).

This invention is available for licensing on an exclusive or non-exclusive basis.


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

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 invention listed below is owned by an agency of the U.S. Government and is 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.

ADDRESSES: Licensing information and a copy of the U.S. patent application referenced below may be obtained by contacting J.R. Dixon, Ph.D., at the Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852–3804 (telephone 301/496–7056 ext 206; fax 301/402–0220; E-mail: jd212@nih.gov). A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement is required to receive a copy of any patent application.

Entitled: Transcription Factor Decay and Tumor Growth Inhibitor.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of General Medical Sciences; 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 Institute of General Medical Sciences Special Emphasis Panel, Trauma and Burn.

Date: March 10, 1999.

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, NIGMS, Office of Scientific Review, Natcher Building, Room 1A519K, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Bruce K. Wetzel, PhD., Scientific Review Administrator, Office of Scientific Review, NIGMS, Natcher Building, Room 1A5-19, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594-3663.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.375, Minority Biomedical Research Support; 93.821, Cell Biology and Biophysics Research; 93.859, Pharmacology, Physiology, and Psychological Research; 93.862, Genetics and Developmental Biology Research; 93.88, Minority Access to Research Careers; 93.96, Special Minority Initiatives, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; 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 Institute of Child Health and Human Development Initial Review Group, Population Research Subcommittee.

Date: March 11, 1999.

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: 6100 Executive Blvd., Room SE01, Rockville, MD 20852, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Jon M. Ranhand, Phd., Health Scientist Administrator, Division of Scientific Review, National Institute of Child Health, and Human Development, 6100 Executive Blvd., Rm SE01, MSC 7510, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-6884.

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. 93.209, Contraception and Infertility Loan Repayment Program; 93.864, Research for Infertility Loan Repayment Program; 93.866, Research for Mothers and Children; 93.929, Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; Amended Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel, February 26, 1999, 9:00 a.m. to February 26, 1999, 10:00 a.m., Hotel Washington, 15th St. & Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20005, which was published in the Federal Register on January 28, 1999, 64 FR 4456.

The meeting will now be held as a teleconference on March 2 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at NIH/NINDS, Federal Building, Room 9C10, 7550 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20892. The meeting is closed to the public.


LaVerne Y. Stringfield,
Committee Management Officer, NIH.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; Amended Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the National Institute Of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel, February 23, 1999, 3:30 PM to February 23, 1999, 4:30 PM, 7550 WISCONSIN AVENUE, FEDERAL BUILDING, ROOM 9C10, BETHESDA, MD 20814-9592 which was published in the Federal Register on February 17, 1999, 64 FR 7902.

The meeting will be held as a teleconference on March 2, 1999 from 3:00-4:00 PM at NIH/NINDS, Federal Building, Room 9C10, 7550 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20892. The meeting is closed to the public.


LaVerne Y. Stringfield,
Committee Management Officer, NIH.