diagnostic pathologist or researcher views the thin tissue section through the glass slide on which it is mounted and chooses microscopic clusters of cells to study. When the cells of choice are in the center of the field of view, the operator pushes a button, which activates a near IR laser diode integral with the microscope optics. The pulsed laser beam activates a precise spot on the transfer film immediately above the cells of interest. At this precise location the film melts and fuses with the underlying cells of choice. When the film is removed, the chosen cell(s) are tightly held within the focally expanded polymer, while the rest of the tissue is left behind. This allows multiple homogeneous samples within the tissue section or cytological preparation to be targeted and pooled for extraction of molecules and analysis. This technology is available for licensing on a non-exclusive basis.

Dated: October 29, 2001.

Jack Spiegel,

Director, Division of Technology, Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health.

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BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

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.

Recombinant Proteins of the Swine Hepatitis E Virus and Their Uses as a Vaccine and Diagnostic Reagents for Medical and Veterinary Applications

Xiang-Jin Meng, Robert H. Purcell, Suzanne U. Emerson (NIAID)

DHHS Reference No. E–304–98/0 filed May 7, 2001

Licensing Contact: Carol Salata; 301/496–7735 ext. 232; e-mail: *salatac@od.nih.gov*

This invention is based on the discovery of the swine hepatitis E virus (swine HEV), the first animal strain of HEV identified and characterized, and its ability to infect across species. The inventors have found that the swine HEV is widespread in the general pig population in the United States and other countries and that swine HEV can infect non-human primates. The inventors have amplified and sequenced the complete genome of swine HEV. The capsid gene (ORF2) of swine HEV has been cloned and expressed in a baculovirus expression system.

The possibility that swine HEV may infect humans raises a potential public health concern for zoonosis or xenozoonosis in the United States and perhaps other countries. Therefore, it is likely that a vaccine based on the recombinant capsid protein of swine HEV will protect humans against zoonotic, as well as other, HEV infections and pigs against infection with the swine HEV. Also, diagnostic reagents based on these recombinant proteins of swine HEV will be very useful in screening donor pigs used in xenotransplantation and in detecting swine HEV or similar virus infection in humans. The diagnostic reagents may also be useful for veterinary studies and monitoring pig herds in general.

Polymorphic Human $GABA_A$ Receptorα-6 Subunit

David Goldman, Nakao Iwata, Mark Shuckit (NIAAA)

DHHS Reference No. E–061–98/0 filed February 19, 1999 and DHHS Reference No. E–061–98/1 filed February 18, 2000

Licensing Contact: Pradeep Ghosh; 301/496–7736 ext. 211; e-mail: *ghoshp@od.nih.gov*

Gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) is a key inhibitory neurotransmitter in the mammalian central nervous system. Evidence indicates that GABA receptors are associated with various neuropsychiatric disorders. Currently, there are no reliable and sensitive markers on the market for the molecular diagnosis of alcoholism or anxiety disorders, although both groups of disorders are thought to involve GABA function. Alcohol modulates GABA function and shows cross-tolerance with benzodiazepines. Anxiety disorders are treated with benzodiazepines. Also, there are no molecular predictors of interindividual variation in response to the commonly used benzodiazepine drugs [such as valium) which act through $GABA_A$ receptors. The α-6 subunit of $GABA_A$ receptors is sensitive to alcohol and in a rat genetic model a genetic variant of the α-6 subunit had been directly related to sensitivity to alcohol and benzodiazepine drugs. This invention pertains to a particular polymorphism in the human α-6 subunit gene. This relatively common human sequence variant predicts sensitivity to both benzodiazepine drugs and ethanol. In children of alcoholics this substitution also correlates with susceptibility to alcoholism. Thus, this invention presents commercial opportunities both as a diagnostic screening tool in alcoholism, anxiety disorders and other neuropsychiatric diseases, and as a predictive tool for therapeutic and pathological responses to commonly administered benzodiazepine drugs.

Dated: October 29, 2001.

Jack Spiegel,

Director, Division of Technology, Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Children's Health Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106–310), Title I, section 104, mandated the establishment of an Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) to coordinate autism research and other efforts within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). In April 2001, Secretary Tommy Thompson delegated the authority to establish the IACC to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) at the NIH has been designated the lead for this activity.

The meeting will be open to the public, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other