

administration of six doses within an eighteen (18) month period, followed by annual boosters; (3) there is no defined vaccine-induced protective level of antibody to PA by which to evaluate new lots of vaccines; and (4) AVA is comprised of a wild-type PA. It has been suggested that a vaccine comprising a modified purified recombinant PA would be effective, safe, allow precise standardization, and require fewer injections.

This invention claims methods of producing and recovering PA from a cell or organism, particularly a recombinant cell or microorganism. The invention claims production and purification of modified PA from a non-sporogenic strain of *Bacillus anthracis*. In contrast to other previously described methods, greater quantities of PA are obtainable from these cells or microorganisms. Specifically, a scalable fermentation and purification process is claimed that is suitable for vaccine development, and that produces almost three times more product than earlier-reported processes. This is accomplished using a biologically inactive protease-resistant PA variant in a protease-deficient non-sporogenic avirulent strain of *B. anthracis* (BH445). One of the PA variants described in the patent application lacks the furin and chymotrypsin cleavage sites.

The invention also relates to PA variants, and/or compositions thereof, which are useful for eliciting an immunogenic response in mammals, particularly humans, including responses that provide protection against, or reduce the severity of, infections caused by *B. anthracis*. The vaccines claimed in this application are intended for active immunization for prevention of *B. anthracis* infection, and for preparation of immune antibodies.

Dated: January 15, 2002.

**Jack Spiegel,**

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

[FR Doc. 02-1613 Filed 1-22-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Heart, Lung, and Blood 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 Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Special Emphasis Panel Mentored Scientist Development Award.

*Date:* February 18-19, 2002.

*Time:* 7:00 PM to 4:30 PM.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Holiday Inn—Chevy Chase, 5520 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20815.

*Contact Person:* Roy L. White, PhD, Review Branch, NIH, NHLBI, Rockledge Building II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 7196, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-435-0291.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.233, National Center for Sleep Disorders Research; 93.837, Heart and Vascular Diseases Research; 93.838, Lung Diseases Research; 93.839, Blood Diseases and Resources Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 16, 2002.

**LaVerne Y. Stringfield,**

*Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 02-1608 Filed 1-22-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; Notice of 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.

The meetings 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 Neurological Disorders and Stroke Initial Review Group Neurological Sciences and Disorders K.

*Date:* February 10-11, 2002.

*Time:* 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Hawthorne Suites, Riverwalk, 830 N. St. Mary's, San Antonio, TX 78205.

*Contact Person:* Katherine M. Woodbury, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch, NINDS/NIH/DHHS, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Blvd, Suite 3208, MSC 9529, Bethesda, MD 20892-9529, 301-496-9223.

*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Initial Review Group Neurological Sciences and Disorders A.

*Date:* February 10-11, 2002.

*Time:* 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Hawthorne Suites, Riverwalk, 830 N. St. Mary's, San Antonio, TX 78205.

*Contact Person:* Richard D. Crosland, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch, Division of Extramural Research, NINDS/NIH/DHHS, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Blvd, Suite 3208, MSC 9529, Bethesda, MD 20892-9529, 301-496-9223.

*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Initial Review Group Neurological Sciences and Disorders C.

*Date:* February 25-26, 2002.

*Time:* 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Radisson Barcelo Hotel, 2121 P St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

*Contact Person:* Alan L. Willard, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch, Division of Extramural Research, NINDS/NIH/DHHS, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Blvd., Suite 3208, MSC 9529, Bethesda, MD 20892-9529, 301-496-9223.

*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Initial Review Group Neurological Sciences and Disorders B.

*Date:* February 25-26, 2002.

*Time:* 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Radisson Barcelo Hotel, 2121 P St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

*Contact Person:* W. Ernest Lyons, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch, NINDS/NIH/DHHS, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Blvd., Suite 3208, MSC 9529, Bethesda, MD 20892-9529, 301-496-4056.

*Name of Committee:* Training Grant and Career Development Review Committee.

*Date:* February 28-March 1, 2002.

*Time:* 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Westin Grand Hotel, 2350 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037-1417.

*Contact Person:* Raul A. Saavedra, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific