Tina M. Cheatham,
Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Government-Owned Inventions; Availability for Licensing

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The inventions listed below are owned by an agency 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.

Chromatography Apparatus and Method
Yoichiro Ito (NHLBI)

Licensing Contact: Michael Shmilovich; 301/435–5019; shmilovm@mail.nih.gov.
Available for licensing for industrial scale-up production and commercial distribution is an improved countercurrent chromatography apparatus comprising a disk having a series of interconnected and elongated compartments coupled by ducts that form a portion of a groove in a surface of the disk. At least some of the elongated compartments have an aspect ratio of at least greater than two and a width greater than twice the width of the connecting ducts and a length of about 10 to 20 times the length of the connecting ducts. This apparatus may also be used for a large-scale industrial separation by coaxially rotating in centrifugal or gravitational fields.

HIV–1 Infection Detection Assay for Seroconverted HIV–1 Vaccine Recipients
Hana Golding, Surender Khurana (FDA/CBER)

Licensing Contact: Michael Shmilovich; 301/435–5019; shmilovm@mail.nih.gov.
Available for licensing and commercial distribution is an assay method and kit having diagnostic peptide fragments derived from human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV–1). The new serology assay includes HIV–1 peptide fragments epitopes that map to HIV–1 GAG–p6, and gp41 genes. These epitopes are broadly reactive with early sera from HIV infected individuals, do not illicit protective antibodies, do not illicit immunologic cytotoxicity and are readily removable from current and future HIV–1 candidates. The assay is advantageous in detecting HIV–1 early breakthrough infections in seroconverted vaccine recipients while being able to distinguish between individuals with bona fide breakthrough infections versus non-HIV infected vaccine recipients presenting only vaccine borne antibodies. For example, 90% of vaccine recipients receiving a Canarypox construct expressing a plurality of HIV antigens (Env, Gag, Pol, HIV Protease, Nef) followed by an envelope protein boost, scored positive in FDA licensed enzyme immunoassay, rapid test, and Western blot (Marta-Louise Ackers et al., J Infect Dis. 187:879 (2003)). Such seroconversion has a negative impact on phase III efficacy trials of prophylactic HIV vaccines that require early detection of breakthrough infections and also exclude non-HIV infected vaccine recipients from the pool of potential blood donors.

Flow-Through, Thermal-Expansion-Compensated Microcells for Analytical Transmission Infrared and Other Light Spectroscopies
Edward Mertz (NICHD), James Sullivan (ORS)
Available for licensing and commercial distribution are optical cells that are spectroscopically, thermally and mechanically stable and can be used for spectroscopic measurement in transmission, reflection, transmission-reflection, emission, or scattering modes without modification of standard spectrometers. The cell handles liquid samples and biological or solid samples equilibrated with bathing fluid which does not interfere with the light beam, allows liquid sample or bathing fluid to be exchanged without cell reassembly, requires only a small amount of sample (down to 0.1µl), allows for different sample gaps (0.2–1000µm) to be easily and inexpensively set, and allows spectral measurements to be taken over wavelengths ranging at least from the mid-infrared to the vacuum ultraviolet. The inventive cell and methods allows mid-infrared to the vacuum ultraviolet.

FIG. 1


Simultaneous HDL/LDL/Total Lipoprotein Single Tube Homogeneous Assay

Alan T. Remaley, Maureen Sampson, Gyorgy Csako (CC)


Licensing Contact: Michael Shmilovich; shamillov@mail.nih.gov.

Available for licensing is an invention in an invention in which a single tube assay is used for determining high-density lipoprotein (HDL-C), low density lipoprotein (LDL-C), and total cholesterol, and triglyceride. This technology may also be used to simplify the procedure for the point of care testing of hyperlipidemia.