Licensing Contact: Jesse Kindra; 301/435–5559; *kindraj@mail.nih.gov*

Disclosed are methods of using previously unknown soluble forms of CD22 (sCD22) present in the serum of subjects with B-cell leukemias and lymphomas to assess tumor burden in the subjects. Also disclosed are methods of diagnosing or prognosing development or progression of a B-cell lymphoma or leukemia in a subject, including detecting sCD22 in a body fluid sample taken or derived from the subject, for instance serum. In some embodiments, soluble CD22 levels are quantified. By way of example, the B-cell lymphoma or leukemia can be hairy cell leukemia, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Soluble CD22 in some embodiments is detected by a specific binding agent, and optionally, the specific binding agent can be detectably labeled.

Also disclosed are methods of selecting a B-cell lymphoma or leukemia therapy that include detecting an increase or decrease in sCD22 levels in a subject compared to a control, and, if such increase or decrease is identified, selecting a treatment to prevent or reduce B-cell lymphoma or leukemia or to delay the onset of B-cell lymphoma or leukemia.

Other embodiments are kits for measuring a soluble CD22 level, which kits include a specific binding molecule that selectively binds to the CD22, e.g. an antibody or antibody fragment that selectively binds CD22.

Further disclosed methods are methods for screening for a compound useful in treating, reducing, or preventing B-cell lymphomas or leukemias, or development or progression of B-cell lymphomas or leukemias, which methods include determining if application of a test compound lowers soluble CD22 levels in a subject, and selecting a compound that so lowers sCD22 levels.

In addition to licensing, the technology is available for further development through collaborative research opportunities with the inventors.

Dated: February 10, 2006.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

[FR Doc. E6–2362 Filed 2–17–06; 8:45 am]

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, 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.

Human Sweet and Umami Taste Receptor Variants

Dennis Drayna and Un-Kyung Kim (NIDCD)

U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/671,173 filed 13 Apr 2005 (HHS Reference No. E–099–2005/0–US–01)

Licensing Contact: Susan Carson; 301/435–5020; *carsonsu@mail.nih.gov*

The complexity of taste discrimination (salty, sour, sweet, umami and bitter) varies between human individuals and populations. Sweet and umami (the taste of glutamate) tastes play a major role in the perception of calorically-rich and essential nutrients and there are well-documented differences in individual perception of sweet and umami flavorings, many of which appear to be genetic in origin. Studies of individuals within and between populations that vary in any of the taste receptors should be of direct interest to the multi-billion dollar food and flavoring industry as the characterization of such variants could be used to aid in the development of a variety of taste improvements in foods and orally administered medications. NIH researchers previously characterized bitter taste receptor variants in world wide populations [Human Mutation 26, 199–204; HHS Ref. No. E–222–2003/0] and have now extended their studies to the sweet and umami receptors in global populations.

The group of Dr. Dennis Drayna at NIDCD have now discovered novel coding sequence polymorphisms in the human TAS1R genes. These genes encode dimeric receptors that sense sweet taste (as TAS1R2+TAS1R3) and the taste of umami (as TAS1R1+TAS1R3). To achieve maximum genetic diversity, TAS1R receptors from a panel of 30 Europeans, 20 East Asian, 10 Native Americans, 8 South Asians and 20 sub-Saharan Africans were sequenced. Approximately 60% of the identified SNPs caused an amino acid substitution in the encoded receptor protein. This variation may account for individual preferences in sweet and umami tastes in foods and could be of use in the understanding and control of dietary preferences that lead to obesity and diabetes.

These novel variants and methods of use are available for licensing and should be of particular use to those using sensorial analysis in the food and flavoring industry where the use of taster panels in the development of flavors and flavor enhancers for different foods is key to the development of new food products and taste masking compounds. The ability, for example, to genetically match taster individuals employed by industry with the target consumer populations can both guide improved formulations and marketing decisions as well as reducing the total sample size in the testing of new products in this highly competitive industry.

The Human Taste Receptor Haplotype patent portfolio is also available for licensing and includes: HHS Ref No. E–169–2001/0–PCT–02, Phenylthiocarbamide Taste Receptor, International Publication No. WO 2003/008627, PCT filed 19 July 2002 and global IP and HHS Ref. No 222–2003/1: Variants of Human Taste Receptor Genes, International Publication No. WO 2005/007891, PCT filed 18 June 2004 and global IP.

In addition to licensing, the technology is available for further development through collaborative research opportunities with the inventors.

Genes for Niemann-Pick Type C Disease

Eugene D. Carstea (NINDS) *et al.*

U.S. Patent No. 6,426,198 issued 30 Jul 2002 (HHS Reference No. E–122–1997/0–US–03)

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/208,731 filed 29 Jul 2002, allowed (HHS Reference No. E–122–1997/0–US–04)

Licensing Contact: Marlene Astor; 301/435–4426; *shinnm@mail.nih.gov*

Niemann-Pick disease is a class of inherited lipid storage diseases. Niemann-Pick Type C disease is an autosomal recessive neurovisceral lipid storage disorder which leads to systemic and neurological abnormalities including ataxia, seizures, and loss of speech. Patients with the disease typically die as children. The biochemical hallmark of Niemann-Pick Type C cells is the abnormal accumulation of unesterified cholesterol in lysosomes, which results in the delayed homeostatic regulation of both uptake and esterification of low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol. Niemann-Pick Type C is characterized by phenotypic variability. The disease appears at random in families that have no history of the disorder, making diagnosis problematic. This invention provides the human gene for Niemann-Pick Type C disease and the nucleic acid sequences corresponding to the human gene for Niemann-Pick Type C disease. Also provided is the mouse homolog of the human gene. The invention could lead to improved diagnosis and the design of therapies for the disease and improved means of detection of carriers of the gene. In addition, this invention may contribute to the understanding and development of treatments for atherosclerosis, a more common disorder associated with cholesterol buildup that involves the accumulation of fatty tissue inside arteries that blocks blood flow, leading to heart disease and stroke. The invention may also lead to additional discoveries concerning how cholesterol is processed in the body.

This invention is described, in part, in: S.K. Loftus et al., ''Murine model of Niemann-Pick C disease: Mutation in a cholesterol homeostasis gene,'' Science 277(5323):232–235, 1997; S.K. Loftus et al., ''Rescue of neurodegeneration in Niemann Pick-C mice by a prion-promoter driven Npc1 cDNA transgene,'' Human Molec. Genet. 11(24):3107–14, 2002.

The NHGRI Genetic Disease Research Branch is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate or commercialize Niemann-Pick Type C disease diagnostics and therapies as well as potential applications of the Niemann-Pick Type C gene related to atherosclerosis and cholesterol processing. Please contact Claire T. Driscoll for more information (telephone: 301/594–2235; e-mail: *cdriscol@mail.nih.gov*).

Dated: February 10, 2006.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

[FR Doc. E6–2363 Filed 2–17–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Prospective Grant of Exclusive License: Device for Cell Culturing, Monitoring and Containment

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is 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 (NIH), Department of Health and Human Services, is contemplating the grant of an exclusive worldwide license to practice the invention embodied in: E–171–2002, ''Cell Culturing and Storage Systems, Devices and Methods'' U.S. Patent Application 10/334,565 filed December 30, 2002; European Patent Application 03808601.3; rights are also pending in Canada and Australia; to KW Company, LLC, a New York company having its headquarters in Woodstock, New York. The United States of America is the assignee of the patent rights of the above invention. The contemplated exclusive license may be granted in the field of sales of devices for cell culturing, monitoring and containment.

DATES: Only written comments and/or applications for a license received by the NIH Office of Technology Transfer on or before April 24, 2006 will be considered.

ADDRESSES: Requests for a copy of the patent application, inquiries, comments and other materials relating to the contemplated license should be directed to: Michael A. Shmilovich, Esq., Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, MD 20852–3804; Telephone: (301) 435–5019; Facsimile: (301) 402–0220; E-mail: *shmilovm@mail.nih.gov.* A signed confidentiality nondisclosure agreement will be required to receive copies of the patent applications.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The patent applications intended for licensure disclose and/or cover the following: *E–171–2002/0, ''Cell Culturing and Storage Systems, Devices and Methods;''*

The invention pertains to a closed chamber that provides an environment for long-term culture of cells such as stems cells of central nervous system (CNS) origin, embryonic stem cells, and other cells. The chamber is designed with top and bottom mounted cover slips that permit the observation of cells in culture under an optical microscope. This chamber has the ability to control volume and pressure of liquids and gases by an inlet tube and outlet tubes at two different vertical positions. The chamber also includes a ball joint assembly that allows for the manipulation of a glass microcapillary/microelectrode to come in close contact with the developing cells. This microcapillary/microelectrode assembly can be used to either administer growth factors (e.g., monitoring growth factor levels such as BMP and CNTF) and also for electrical recording from the cells.

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 sixty (60) days from the date of this published notice, NIH receives written evidence and argument that establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Properly filed competing applications for a license filed in response to this notice will be treated as objections to the contemplated license. Comments and objections submitted in response to this notice will not be made available for public inspection, and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be released under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Dated: February 10, 2006.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

[FR Doc. E6–2360 Filed 2–17–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–5037–N–08]

Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB; Universities Rebuilding America Partnerships: Community Design Program

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Information Officer, HUD.