prepared for the Rocky Mountain Laboratories Campus Master Plan, Hamilton, Ravalli County, Montana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Valerie Nottingham, Chief, Environmental Quality Branch, Division of Environmental Protection, Office of Research Facilities, NIH, B13/2W64, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, telephone 301–496–7775; fax 301–480–8056; or e-mail *nihnepa@mail.nih.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Rocky Mountain Laboratories (RML) is located on 33 acres in the City of Hamilton, a small community in southwestern Montana. The laboratory is a component of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which is one of the 27 Institutes or Centers that comprise the NIH, one of the world's largest biomedical research facilities and the Federal government's focal point for medical and behavioral research. RML conducts and supports research of infectious diseases and the human immune system, with an emphasis on vector-borne transmission of infectious diseases and prion diseases. RML's mission also includes biomedical research into diseases caused by the intentional release of biological agents into civilian populations, as well as advancing basic knowledge about biological agents. Total building space on the campus amounts to approximately 207,000 gsf. Approximately 260 people work at the RML site.

A Master Plan is an integrated series of documents that present in graphic, narrative, and tabular form the current composition of NIH campuses and the plan for their orderly and comprehensive development over a 20-year period. The plan provides guidance in coordinating the physical development of NIH campuses, including building locations, utility capacities, road alignments, parking facilities, and the treatment of open spaces. General design guidelines are also used to provide detailed guidance for the placement and design of physical improvements.

The proposed action is to develop a long-range physical master plan for RML. The plan will cover a 20-year planning period and address the future development of the RML site, including placement of future construction; vehicular and pedestrian circulation on- and off-campus; parking within the property boundaries; open space in and around the campus; required setbacks; historic properties; natural and scenic resources; noise; and lighting. The plan will examine potential growth in RML personnel, possible land acquisitions, and consequent construction of space over the planning period. Future construction on the site could include such facilities as new animal holding, research laboratories, and support facilities.

In accordance with 40 CFR parts 1500–1508 and DHHS environmental procedures, NIH will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed master plan. The EIS will evaluate the impacts of the master plan should development occur as proposed. Among the items the EIS will examine are the implications of the master plan on community infrastructure, including, but not limited to, utilities, storm water management, traffic and transportation, and other public services. To ensure that the public is afforded the greatest opportunity to participate in the planning and environmental review process, NIH in inviting oral and written comments on the master plan and related environmental issues.

The NIH will be sponsoring a public Scoping Meeting to provide individuals an opportunity to share their ideas on the master planning effort, including recommended alternatives and environmental issues the EIS should consider. The meeting is planned for 7 p.m. on March 23, 2006 at the Hamilton High School commons in Hamilton, Montana. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. NIH has established a 45-day public comment period for the scoping process. Scoping comments must be postmarked *no later than* April 18, 2006 to ensure they are considered. All comments and questions on the EIS should be directed to Valerie Nottingham at the address listed above, telephone 301–496–7775; fax 301–480–8056; or e-mail *nihnepa@mail.nih.gov.*

Dated: February 24, 2006.

Juanita Holler-Mildenberg,

FAIA, Acting Director, Office of Research Facilities Development and Operations, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 06–2015 Filed 3–2–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

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.

Use of Replicators in Gene Therapy

Mirit Aladjem, Cindy Tseng, Haiqing Fu and Lixin Wang (NCI).

U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/715,113 filed 07 Sep 2005 (HHS Reference No. E–309–2005/0–US–01).

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

There remains a need for a gene therapy vector capable of delivering a stably maintained, appropriately-regulated therapeutic transgene without adverse side effects. Lack of expression of a therapeutic transgene is still a major obstacle for gene therapy and the extent of transcriptional silencing of gene therapy vectors depends on their chromosomal location and on the presence of nearby heterochromatin. Most active genes replicate early during S phase, while transcriptional silencing correlates with late replication. The location of DNA replication initiation events on chromatin is affected by DNA sequences termed replicators, which interact with distal sequences to establish an epigenetic permissive state that directs the replication machinery to the replicator at a specific time during S phase. NIH researchers at the National Cancer Institute have now shown that inclusion of functional replicators in transgenes are able to prevent gene silencing, suggesting that replicator sequences have an important role in stabilizing gene expression patterns. The ideal gene delivery vector system would include functional elements that permit stable maintenance and long-term regulated transgene expression and the inclusion of replicators may be key

in the prevention of gene silencing and replication delay.

Claims are directed to specific constructs and methods of using replicators and transgene constructs to inhibit, delay or prevent gene silencing and are available for licensing. The addition of these sequences to non-replicating or self-replicating gene delivery systems may be key in the development of effective gene delivery vectors.

Related portfolios available for licensing include: (1) the Mammalian Artificial Chromosome Portfolio [HHS Ref. No. E–128–2005/0–US–01, U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/669,589 filed 08 Apr 2005 and HHS Ref. No. E–253–2000/0–US–03, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. U.S. 2004/0245317 filed 08 Apr 2002) and (2) the TAR Cloning Portfolio (HHS Ref. No. E–121–1996/0–US–06 and HHS Ref. No. E–158–2001/0–US–02, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. U.S. 2004/0248289 filed 04 Oct 2002].

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

TNF-alpha Converting Enzyme Inhibitory Agents and Stimulatory Agents

Stewart J. Levine *et al.* (NHLBI).
U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/505,394 filed 24 Sep 2003 (HHS Reference No. E–208–2003/0–US–01); PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/031608 filed 24 Sep 2004, which published as WO 2005/030798 on 07 Apr 2005 (HHS Reference No. E–208–2003/0–PCT–02).
Licensing Contact: Marlene Astor; 301/435–4426; *shinnm@mail.nih.gov.*

The action of Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha (TNF-alpha) has been implicated in such diseases as arthritis, sepsis, ulcerative colitis, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, septic shock, graft rejection, cachexia, insulin resistance, post-ischemic reperfusion injury, tumor metastasis, tissue ulceration, abnormal wound healing, periodontal disease, bone disease, proteinuria, aneurismal aortic disease, degenerative cartilage loss, demyelinating diseases of the nervous system, and HIV infection. TNF-alpha converting enzyme (TACE) or ADAM 17 (A Disintegrin And Metalloprotease) is a member of a family of zinc metalloproteases, and is an important regulator of inflammation, immune regulation, and cellular proliferation as a consequence of its ability to catalyze the activation of TNF-alpha from a membrane bound to a soluble form.

The NIH announces the identification of a protein, corresponding to the amino-terminus of the TACE prodomain, that possesses a TACE inhibitory activity that is independent of a cysteine-switch mechanism. This TACE inhibitory protein could be used as a new therapeutic agent against chronic inflammatory diseases that are mediated by TNF-alpha.

Dated: January 21, 2006.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

[FR Doc. E6–3013 Filed 3–2–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4167–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Center for Research Resources; 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 Center for Research Resources Special Emphasis Panel, SEPA Review.

Date: March 14–15, 2006.

Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Gaithersburg Hilton, 620 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

Contact Person: Bonnie Dunn, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Office of Review, National Center for Research Resources, National Institutes of Health, 6705 Democracy Blvd., Dem. 1, Room 1074, MSC 4874, Bethesda, MD 20892–4874, (301) 435–0824, *dunnbo@mail.nih.gov.*

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. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research; 93.371, Biomedical Technology; 93.389, Research Infrastructure, 93.306, 93.333, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: February 24, 2006.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 06–1971 Filed 3–2–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Center for Research Resources; 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 Center for Research Resources Special Emphasis Panel, Biotechnology SEP.

Date: March 2–3, 2006.

Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Bethesda Marriott Suites, 6711 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817.

Contact Person: Steven Birken, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, National Institutes of Health, National Center for Research Resources, Office of Review, 6701 Democracy Blvd., 1 Democracy Plaza, Room 1078, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435–0815, *birkens@mail.nih.gov*.

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. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research; 93.371, Biomedical Technology; 93.389, Research Infrastructure, 93.306, 93.333, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: February 24, 2006.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 06–1972 Filed 3–2–06; 8:45am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M