of NK cells by self HLA molecules or MHC class I expressing tumors. Claims cover compositions of enriched NK cell populations and method of treating malignancies or prevent recurrence of malignancies and treating any hyperproliferative disorders with these enriched compositions. Claims also cover a method to sensitize malignancies to NK cell TRAIL-mediated killing by pretreatment with bortezomib.

Applications and Modality: New adoptive infusion immunotherapeutic method for treating solid tumors; New cancer treatment method exploiting the function of NK cells; Enriched composition of allogeneic and autologous NK cell population; Enriched NK cell composition has potential to override the natural NK cell inactivation process by HLA or MHC class I expressing tumors; Sensitizing cancers to adoptively infused NK cells by treatment with bortezomib as a method to sensitize to NK cell TRAIL cytotoxicity.

Market: In 2006, 600,000 estimated deaths from cancer related diseases; Immunotherapy market is expected to double in the next 5 years; Adoptive immunotherapy is one of the most promising new cancer therapies.

Development Status: The technology is currently in the pre-clinical stage of development.

Inventors: Richard W. Childs et al. (NHLBI).


Licensing Status: Available for exclusive and non-exclusive licensing.

Licensing Contact: Thomas P. Clouse, J.D.; 301/435–4076; clousetp@mail.nih.gov.

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.

Diagnoses and Therapeutics for Hydrocephalus

Description of Technology: Congenital hydrocephalus is a significant public health problem, affecting approximately one in 500 live births in the United States. Congenital hydrocephalus has an adverse effect on the developing brain and may persist as neurological defects in children and adults. Some of these defects may manifest as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and visual disabilities. Improved diagnostics are needed for assessing the risks of developing this debilitating disease.

The inventors have shown that RFX4_v3, a splice variant of the Regulatory Factor X4 (RFX4) transcription factor, is associated with the development of neurological structures. The reduction or absence of RFX4_v3 promotes the development of congenital hydrocephalus. This invention describes RFX4_v3 polypeptides and nucleic acids, as well as methods for detection of RFX4_v3 polymorphisms associated with congenital hydrocephalus. Also described are treatment methods including the RFX4_v3 polypeptide and RFX4_v3 transgenic animals and antibodies.

Applications: Prenatal diagnostic assay for identifying children at risk for congenital hydrocephalus; Genotyping assay for congenital hydrocephalus.

Market: In the United States, the health care costs for congenital hydrocephalus are estimated at $100 million per year.

Development Status: In vitro data are available.

Inventors: Perry J. Blackshear, Darryl C. Zeldin, Joan P. Graves, and Deborah J. Stumpo (NEHS).

Publications:


Licensing Status: Available for exclusive or nonexclusive licensing.

Licensing Contact: Tara Kirby, Ph.D.; 301/435–4426; tarak@mail.nih.gov.
Epithelial Cell Line Expressing a Cystic Fibrosis Phenotype

Description of Technology: Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a common genetic disease that affects the entire body, producing thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs, pancreas, and other organs. It is the most common fatal genetic disease in the United States, and is caused by a mutation in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR).

Researchers at NIEHS have developed a cell line, CF/T43, which was produced by infection of airway epithelial cells isolated from CF patients with an SV40 T retrovirus. CF/T43 cells maintain the abnormal ion transport characteristics of CF while having proliferation capability beyond that of a primary epithelial cell culture. Key features of the CF/T43 cell line include the formation of functional tight junctions, reduced apical membrane chloride conductance, and activation of apical chloride channels by calcium ionophores but not by cAMP-dependent agonists. This cell line may be used for elucidation of the mechanisms of CF, testing candidate complementary genes for correction of the observed CF abnormalities, and for developing and testing therapeutic CF drugs.

Applications: Research tool for developing new therapies to treat cystic fibrosis; Research tool for studying the mechanisms of cystic fibrosis.

Inventors: Anton M. Jetten (NIEHS).


Licensing Status: Available for exclusive or nonexclusive licensing.

Licensing Contact: Tara Kirby, Ph.D.; 301/435–4426; tarak@mail.nih.gov.


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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; 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/or contact proposals 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 and/or contract proposals, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel, R25 Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: February 6, 2007.
Time: 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Name of Committee: National Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel, R25 Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: February 13, 2007.
Time: 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Name of Committee: National Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel, Small Grants Program for Cancer Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention Research.

Date: March 6–8, 2007.
Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Holiday Inn Georgetown, 2101 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20007.
Contact Person: Irina Gordienko, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Special Review and Logistics Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, National Cancer Institute, NIH, 6116 Executive Blvd., Room 703, MS 2829, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–594–1566, gordienko@mail.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: National Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel, Anti-Cancer Agents.

Date: March 15, 2007.
Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health Events Management, Executive Plaza North Conference Center, 6130 Executive Boulevard, Conference Room D, Rockville, MD 20852, (Telephone Conference Call).
Contact Person: Jeannette E Korchak, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Special Review and Resources Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, National Cancer Institute, NIH, 6116 Executive Blvd., Room 8115, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–496–9767, korchak@mail.nih.gov.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.392, Cancer Construction; 93.393, Cancer Cause and Prevention Research; 93.394, Cancer Detection and Diagnosis Research; 93.395, Cancer Treatment Research; 93.396, Cancer Biology Research; 93.397, Cancer Centers Support; 93.398, Cancer Research Manpower; 93.399, Cancer Control, National Institutes of Health, HHS)