

inhibitors. These NNRTIs are highly specific for HIV-1 RT and do not inhibit normal cellular polymerases, resulting in lower cytotoxicity and fewer side effects than the nucleoside analogues, such as AZT. This novel class of compounds could significantly improve the treatment of HIV by increasing compliance with therapy.

Inventors: Christopher A. Michejda, Marshall Morningstar, Thomas Roth (NCI).

Patent Status: U.S. Patent No. 6,369,235 issued 09 Apr 2002 (HHS Reference No. E-076-1997/1-US-01); U.S. Patent No. 6,894,068 issued 17 May 2005 (HHS Reference No. E-076-1997/1-US-02).

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Dated: November 9, 2007.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

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BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Public Teleconference Regarding Licensing and Collaborative Research Opportunities for: "Brother of the Regulator of Imprinted Sites" (BORIS): A Novel Protein That Can Be Used for Diagnosis and as a Therapeutic Target for the Treatment of Several Cancers; Dr. Victor Lobanenkov et al. (NIAID)

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

ACTION: Notice.

Technology Summary

The technology describes the discovery of a novel gene encoding the DNA-binding factor, "Brother of the Regulator of Imprinted Sites", BORIS, related to the unique, evolutionarily conserved, CTCF factor involved in regulation of genomic imprinting and cancer. Furthermore, it describes several splice variants of BORIS that translate into different proteins and antibodies of BORIS that can be used for diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Technology Description

A very recent finding is that protein CTCF (expressed in all somatic tissues) binds, in a methylation-dependent manner, to the imprinting control regions thus allowing somatic cells to distinguish functionally maternal from paternal alleles. The new factor, BORIS,

shares with CTCF the same spectrum of DNA sequence specificity and it is normally expressed only in germ cells of human gonads (when patterns of gene imprinting are re-established), but not in CTCF-expressing somatic cells.

Additionally, since cell-growth controlling CTCF has properties of a tumor suppressor gene, abnormal activation of BORIS upon cancerous transformation of somatic cells results in competition with the normal function of CTCF, thereby promoting tumor growth. The inventors found that antibodies against BORIS are present and can be detected in human blood serum taken from patients with cancer but not from healthy donors.

Additionally, 14 new alternative splice forms of the BORIS polypeptide have been identified which show specificity to specific cancers, suggesting that circulating antibodies for specific BORIS splice variants in cancer patients can be associated with specific types or stages of malignant tumors.

Therefore, BORIS can be used in both diagnostic and therapeutic arenas: First, mutations in BORIS genomic locus or detection of encoded by the BORIS locus mRNAs or polypeptides expressed in any tissue besides normal gonads may be indicative of a pre-cancerous or cancerous state thus serving a diagnostic and/or prognostic purpose; and, second, targeting of abnormally activated BORIS should serve as a novel therapeutic approach to treat cancer.

BORIS Technology Can Have Three Major Applications

1. BORIS can be used as a therapeutic target for anti-cancer treatments.
2. BORIS expression can serve as a diagnostic marker for specific cancers other than testis.
3. Detection of antibodies against BORIS in blood serum samples can also be used as an indicator of pre-cancerous or cancerous condition existing.

Competitive Advantage of Our Technology

Cancer/testis (CT) genes, predominantly expressed in the testis (germ cells) and generally not in other normal tissues, are aberrantly expressed in human cancers. This highly restricted expression provides a unique opportunity to use these CT genes for diagnostics, immunotherapeutic, or other targeted therapies. BORIS is a newly described CT gene shown to be expressed in several cancers including lung, brain, uterine and endometrial among others and thus can be used as a novel diagnostic and therapeutic target.

Patent Estate

This technology consists of the following patents and patent applications:

1. U.S. Patent Application No. 10/505,377 filed October 20, 2004 and all foreign counterparts [E-227-2001/0-US-03];
2. U.S. Patent Application No. 11/575,732 filed March 21, 2007 and all foreign counterparts [E-241-2004/0-US-04]; and
3. PCT Application No. PCT/US2007/7728 filed August 30, 2007 [E-117-2006/0-PCT-02]

Next Step: Teleconference

There will be a teleconference where the principal investigator will explain this technology. Licensing and collaborative research opportunities will also be discussed. If you are interested in participating in this teleconference please call or e-mail Mojdeh Bahar; (301) 435-2950; baharm@mail.nih.gov. OTT will then e-mail you the date, time and number for the teleconference.

Dated: November 9, 2007.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; 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 Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Special Emphasis Panel, Genetic Environmental Training.

Date: November 27, 2007.

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.