neurogenesis: Evidence from knockout mice and growth factor administration. Dev Biol. 2006 Jan 15;289(2):329–335.

Patent Status: U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/972,780 filed 15 Sep 2007 (HHS Reference No. E–154–2007/0–US–01).

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

Licensing Contact: Jasbir (Jesse) S. Kindra, J.D., M.S.; 301–435–5170; *kindraj@mail.nih.gov*.

Collaborative Research Opportunity: The National Eye Institute, NIH, Office of Scientific Director, Unit of Retinal Vascular Neurobiology, is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, or commercialize VEGF–B as a therapeutic agent in treating various types of degenerative (neural, vascular, muscular, etc.) diseases, and to study the molecular and cellular mechanisms involved. Please contact John D. Hewes, PhD at 301–435–3121 or *hewesj@mail.nih.gov* for more information.

Rapid *Clostridium botulinum* Diagnostic for Food Safety and Biodefense Applications

Description of Technology: The urgent need for a rapid diagnostic test capable of detecting all serotypes of *C. botulinum* is well known. Botulinum neurotoxins (BoNTs) are the most potent biological toxins known and are categorized as category A biodefense agents because of lethality and ease of production. BoNTs are also one of the most deadly agents associated with food poisoning. Current diagnostic methods include clinical observation of symptoms that could be mistaken for other neurological conditions and a mouse protection bioassay that takes as long as four days and has a number of disadvantages. The subject technology utilizes unique PCR primers for the detection of the non-toxin non-hemaglutinin (NTNH) gene of *C. botulinum*; this gene is highly conserved in all *C. botulinum* toxin types and subtypes. Thus, samples that contain botulinum can be determined regardless of serotype involved, providing a universal means of diagnosis. Further, the technology describes different PCR primers and flurogenic probes for a BoNT-specific assay. The type-specific assay can be used independently or in conjunction with the universal assay described above. The universal and type-specific assays were successfully used first to identify positively botulinum DNA samples in a test of botulinum and non-botulinum clostridia species then to determine the toxin type. The diagnostic testing described by the subject technology requires less significantly less time than the current gold standard diagnostic tests.

Applications: Universal diagnostic test for *C. botulinum*; Diagnostic test for *C. botulinum* capable of detecting all seven toxin types; Combination diagnostic; Food safety applications; Biodefense applications.

Development Status: Fully developed.

Inventors: Daniel C. Douek *et al.* (VRC/NIAID).

Patent Status: U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/884,539 filed 11 Jan 2007 (HHS Reference No. E–046–2007/0–US–01); PCT Patent Application No. PCT/US2008/50872 filed 11 Jan 2008 (HHS Reference No. E–046–2007/0–PCT–02).

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

Licensing Contact: Susan Ano, PhD; 301/435–5515; *anos@mail.nih.gov*.

Collaborative Research Opportunity: The NIAID is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, or commercialize ''Rapid *Clostridium botulinum* Diagnostic for Food Safety and Biodefense Applications.'' Please contact either Rosemary Walsh or Barry Buchbinder at 301–496–2644 for more information.

Prolidase Expression Construct Useful as Anti-Angiogenesis Screen

Description of Technology: The technology describes a prolidase expression construct and a method of using the construct to isolate stable transfectants with high prolidase expression. Specifically, a human colorectal cancer cell line (RKO) was transfected with a plasmid (pcDNA3.1) expressing prolidase cDNA. Using this cell line, the inventors found that extracellular matrix degradation is associated with the prolidase-dependent activation of the hypoxia/inflammation pathway. The construct and transfectants can also be used to study other regulatory functions of prolidase.

Applications

Prolidase as a target for anti-angiogenesis drugs: Angiogenesis, a prerequisite for tumor growth, requires proteolysis of the extracellular matrix (ECM). Prolidase participates in the degradation of the ECM by hydrolyzing collagen dipeptides having C-terminal proline or hydroxyproline. Current anti-angiogenic approaches target matrix metalloproteinase activity, but this can cause musculoskeletal complications. By modulating prolidase activity to inhibit the degradation of the ECM, it may be possible to provide an alternative anti-angiogenic approach with fewer side effects. The prolidase construct and transfected cell lines could be used as a screen for prolidase modulators, which could be developed as anti-angiogenesis agents.

Prolidase as a target for anti-inflammatory drugs and wound-healing agents: Inherited prolidase deficiency is also associated with defective wound healing, extensive skin alterations, and immunodeficiency. Products from the prolidase activity screen may also have potential use in patients with prolidase deficiency, chronic inflammation, or problematic wound healing.

Development Status: Pre-clinical stage.

Inventors: Yongmin Liu (NCI), Arkadiusz Surazynski (NCI), James M. Phang (NCI), Sandra K. Cooper (NCI/SAIC), Steven P. Donald (NCI).

Publication: A Surazynski, SP Donald, SK Cooper, MA Whiteside, K Salnikow, Y Liu, JM Phang. Extracellular matrix and HIF–1 signaling: The role of prolidase. Int J Cancer. 2008 Mar 15;122(6):1435–1440.

Patent Status: HHS Reference No. E–235–2006/0—Research Material. Patent protection is not being sought for this technology.

Licensing Status: This invention is available for licensing through a Biological Materials License.

Licensing Contact: David A. Lambertson, PhD; 301/435–4632; *lambertsond@mail.nih.gov*.

Dated: March 17, 2008.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

[FR Doc. E8–5813 Filed 3–21–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; 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 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 Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Special Emphasis Panel; Supplement for Program Project in IBD.

Date: April 9, 2008.

Time: 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Two Democracy Plaza, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Dan E. Matsumoto, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Review Branch, DEA, NIDDK, National Institutes of Health, Room 749, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892–5452, (301) 594–8894, *matsumotodextra.niddk.nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Special Emphasis Panel; Acetaminophen-Induced Acute Liver Failure Ancillary Studies.

Date: April 10, 2008.

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Two Democracy Plaza, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

Contact Person: Dan E. Matsumoto, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Review Branch, DEA, NIDDK, National Institutes of Health, Room 749, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892–5452, (301) 594–8894, *matsumotod@extra.niddknih.gov*.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.847, Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Research; 93.848, Digestive Diseases and Nutrition Research; 93.849, Kidney Diseases, Urology and Hematology Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: March 13, 2008.

Jennifer Spaeth,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. E8–5706 Filed 3–21–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–5194–N–09]

Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request Public Housing Financial Management Template

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* May 23, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name/or OMB Control number and should be sent to: Lillian L. Deitzer, Departmental Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Room 4176, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410–5000; telephone: 202–708–2374 (this is not a toll-free number) or e-mail Ms. Deitzer at *Lillian_L._Deitzer @Hud.gov*. for a copy of the proposed form and other available information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Schulhof, Office of Policy, Programs and Legislative Initiatives, PIH, Room 4116, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410; telephone: 202–708–0713 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Public Housing Financial Management Template.

OMB Control Number: 2535–0107.

Description of the Need for the Information and Proposed Use: To meet the requirements of the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) rule, the Department has developed the financial condition template that public housing agencies (PHAs) use to annually submit electronically specific financial condition information to HUD. HUD uses the financial condition information it collects from each PHA to assist in the evaluation and assessment of the PHAs' overall condition.

To meet the requirements of 24 CFR part 990, Revision to the Public Housing Operating Fund Program; Final Rule, financial condition information is to be submitted by PHAs on the asset management project (AMP) level. The final rule states that, in accordance with the directives received from the U.S. Congress, PHAs and HUD are to convert from an agency-centric model to an asset management model. The asset management model is more consistent with the management norms in the broader multi-family management industry. In order to implement asset management, the final rule stipulates that PHAs must implement project-based management, budgeting and accounting. The final rule provides for operating subsidy to be provided at the project level with financial reporting required at the project level, replacing the current subsidy issuance and financial reporting at the PHA or entity-wide level.

Requiring PHAs to report electronically has enabled HUD to provide a more comprehensive assessment of the PHAs receiving federal funds from HUD.

Agency form number, if applicable: N/A

Members of affected public: Public housing agencies.

Estimation of the Total Number of Hours Needed to Prepare the Information Collection, Including Number of Respondents: The estimated number of respondents is 3,996 PHAs that submit one audited financial condition template annually and one unaudited financial condition template annually. The average number for each PHA response is 10.5 hours, for a total reporting burden of 41,885 hours.

Status of the Proposed Information Collection: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Authority: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.