

false accuracy claims and engage in unfair, discriminatory conduct.⁶

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 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: NIDCR Special Grants Review Committee.

Date: February 18–19, 2021.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Democracy Boulevard, Room 666, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

Contact Person: Latarsha J. Carithers, Scientific Review Officer, Scientific Review Branch, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Democracy Boulevard, Room 666, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-594-4859, latarsha.carithers@nih.gov.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.121, Oral Diseases and Disorders Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 19, 2021.

Melanie J. Pantoja,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Government-Owned Inventions; Availability for Licensing

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The invention listed below is owned by an agency of the U.S. Government and is available for licensing 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carol A. Salata at 240-627-3727; csalata@niaid.nih.gov. Licensing information and copies of the U.S. patent application listed below may be obtained by communicating with the indicated licensing contact at the Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Office, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, 5601 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; tel. 301-496-2644. A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement will be required to receive copies of unpublished patent applications.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Technology description follows:

Prefusion-Stabilized Fusion (F) Glycoprotein Vaccine Immunogens for Human Metapneumovirus

Description of Technology:

Human metapneumovirus (hMPV) infections have been shown as a common cause of upper and lower respiratory diseases such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia in young children, the elderly, and other immunocompromised individuals. Studies show that infections by the non-segmented negative strand RNA virus begin with attachment and entry of viral glycoproteins that mediate fusion with host cellular membranes. Like for the human respiratory syncytial virus (hRSV), a viral entry is initiated by the fusion (F) protein. Given its role in hMPV entry, the F protein has thus been a target for eliciting neutralizing antibodies and development of novel protein-based therapeutic vaccines.

Researchers at the Vaccine Research Center (VRC) of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) developed improved recombinant human metapneumovirus (hMPV) F

proteins stabilized in the prefusion conformation that can elicit potent neutralizing antibodies against infection. Double and triple stabilized candidates were designed with inter- and intraprotomer disulfide mutations that increase protein production and show improved antigenic recognition by prefusion-specific antibodies. These second-generation immunogens constitute an improvement over the first generation constructs and are characterized by additional stabilization that results in optimal neutralization responses.

The second-generation stabilized prefusion hMPV F immunogens may be an ideal vaccine immunogen to elicit broad potent neutralizing antibodies against metapneumovirus infection, particularly in children and immunocompromised adults.

This technology is available for licensing for commercial development in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR part 404.

Potential Commercial Applications:

- A promising vaccine immunogen to elicit broad potent neutralizing antibodies against metapneumovirus infection, particularly in children and immunocompromised adults.

Competitive Advantages:

- There are no approved vaccines or therapeutics against the second leading cause of pediatric viral lower respiratory tract infection in infants and young children.

- Second-generation hMPV F immunogens induce higher titer neutralizing responses than first-generation versions in mice.

Development Stage: Preclinical Research.

Inventors: Peter D. Kwong (NIAID); Guillaume Stewart-Jones (NIAID); John R. Mascola (NIAID); Ursula J. Buchholz (NIAID); Peter L. Collins (NIAID); Jason Gorman (NIAID); Li Ou, (NIAID); Tongqing Zhou (NIAID); Baoshan Zhang (NIAID); Wing-Pui Kong (NIAID); Yaroslav Tsybovsky (NCI).

Publications: Liu, P., et al (2013). A live attenuated human metapneumovirus vaccine strain provides complete protection against homologous viral infection and cross-protection against heterologous viral infection in BALB/c mice. *Clinical and Vaccine Immunology*, 20(8), 1246–1254. Battles, M.B., et al, (2017). Structure and immunogenicity of pre-fusion-stabilized human metapneumovirus F glycoprotein. *Nature communications*, 8(1), 1–11.

Intellectual Property: HHS Reference Number E-131-2019 includes U.S. Provisional Patent Application Number 63/017,581, filed on 04/29/2020.

⁶ Prepared Remarks of Commissioner Rohit Chopra at Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities 54th APPA Forum (Dec. 7, 2020), <https://www.ftc.gov/public-statements/2020/12/prepared-remarks-commissioner-rohit-chopra-asia-pacific-privacy>.