

Licensing Contact: Jonathan Dixon; 301/435-5559; dixonj@od.nih.gov.

Over the past several years, dsFv-immunotoxins have generated significant interest in the research and commercial communities, as they have been shown to be more useful in certain therapeutic applications over intact antibody-immunotoxins and Fv-immunotoxins. dsFv-immunotoxins are created when a single-chain variable domain-toxin conjugate is associated with the complementary single-chain variable domain via one or more disulfide bonds to form a "disulfide-stabilized" Fv (dsFv)-immunotoxin.

Separation of dsFv-immunotoxin from its single-chain variable domain subunits (and any other contaminants) has thus far been achieved through a low yielding and relatively expensive process. The present invention discloses a new method of purifying dsFv-immunotoxins that has shown a three-fold increase in yield while at the same time keeping costs at a commercially reasonable level. As the demand for dsFv-immunotoxins increases, this method will give companies the ability to purify sufficient quantities to support their clinical trials and make their way to the commercial marketplace.

Optimization of Cardiac Contraction by Novel Human Kinase Mediated Differential Phosphorylation of Myosin

Dr. Neal D. Epstein (NHLBI).

DHHS Reference Nos. E-261-00/0 filed 12 Sep 2000 and E-261-00/2 filed 12 Sep 2001.

Licensing Contact: Fatima Sayyid; 301/435-4521; sayyidf@od.nih.gov.

This invention relates to the development of drugs that provide novel therapeutic interventions to increase the efficiency of failing hearts. It describes the cloning of the active cardiac kinase which modified the cardiac stretch-activation response and myofiber tension via phosphorylation of the beta myosin light chain molecules. These molecules are differentially phosphorylated by this kinase as a function of location to produce the spatial variation in myofiber mechanics that optimize cardiac torsion. The data in this invention indicate that targeting this cardiac light chain kinase could yield novel therapeutics to increase the efficiency of hearts failing from a variety of causes. This approach represents an alternative to present day therapeutics such as calcium blocking agents or digoxin, and thus may have the added benefit of providing therapeutics that are synergistic with present treatments.

This invention is described, in part, in Davis et al., Cell 2001 Nov 30; 107(5):631-41.

Methods of Screening for Risk of Cancer Using Human Lactoferrin DNA Probe or Primer

Christina Teng and Timothy Panella (NIEHS).

U.S. Patent 5,948,613 issued 07 Sep 1999.

Licensing Contact: Marlene Shinn-Astor; 301/435-4426; shinnm@od.nih.gov.

While normal breast ductal epithelium and neutrophilic granulocytes contain lactoferrin, their malignant counterparts frequently do not. The NIH announces primers or probes corresponding to the human lactoferrin gene, its promoter region, and its protein product, obtained from human breast tissue. The lactoferrin primer or probes can be used to screen for malignancy arising from tissues that normally secrete lactoferrin, or as a test to check the recovery of a patient from a malignancy.

Dated: March 5, 2003.

Steven M. Ferguson,

Acting 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

Government-Owned Inventions; Availability for Licensing

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The inventions listed below are owned by agencies 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.

Methods for Prophylaxis and Treatment of HER-2/neu Tumors

John C. Morris, Jay A. Berzofsky, Yoshio Sakai, Jong-Myun Park, Masake Terabe (all of NCI).

Serial No. 60/422,395 filed 30 Oct 2002.

Licensing Contact: Susan S. Rucker; 301/435-4478; ruckers@od.nih.gov.

This application relates to methods for cancer prophylaxis and treatment. More particularly, the application relates to methods for the treatment and prophylaxis of cancers caused by the activity of the HER-2/neu/erbB-2 gene employing immunotherapy. Such cancers include breast cancers, cancers of the female genital tract and some cancers of the gastrointestinal tract.

The methods claimed involve the use of a HER-2/neu vaccine employing recombinant non-replicating adenovirus expressing a HER-2/neu/erbB-2 gene. In a preferred embodiment the vaccine comprises a recombinant non-replicating adenoviral vector encoding a HER-2/neu/erbB-2 gene that is expressed as a truncated HER-2/neu/erbB-2 protein. Antigen presenting cells, such as dendritic cells infected with the recombinant adenoviral vector, process and present the truncated HER-2/neu/erbB-2 protein, thereby stimulating an immune response. Preferred HER-2/neu/erbB-2 proteins contain regions of the extracellular domain and the transmembrane domain of the intact HER-2/neu/erbB-2 gene product and do not contain any tyrosine kinase domains.

This work has not yet been published.

gp100 Cancer Antigens

Steven A. Rosenberg et al. (NCI).

U.S. Patent 5,844,075 issued 10 Dec. 1998.

Licensing Contact: Jonathan Dixon; 301/435-5559; dixonj@od.nih.gov.

DHHS announces the availability of select gp100 cancer antigens for licensing. These antigens are composed of a class that fall under the following definition: gp100 P Core Peptide(s), meaning any gp100 peptide of nine (9) to fifteen (15) amino acids in length which is capable of eliciting an HLA-A2.1-restricted cytotoxic T cell response, and which comprises the formula $X_1X_2X_3PGPX_5TX_4$, where X_1 is any naturally occurring amino acid, X_2 is any hydrophobic aliphatic amino acid; X_3 is any naturally occurring amino acid; X_4 is any hydrophobic aliphatic amino acid, and X_5 is the amino acid V, C, I, L, or M.

GP100 is a tumor specific melanoma antigen. GP100 has been shown to be successful in stimulating the immune response to melanoma in humans.