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: 301/402–0220. A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement will be required to receive copies of the patent applications.

Mice Lacking Expression of Chemokine Receptor CCR9 Generated by Gene Targeting (CCR9 KO Mice)

Description of Technology:
Chemokines and their receptors are key regulators of thymocytes migration and maturation in normal and inflammation conditions. The chemokine CCL25 is highly expressed in the thymus and small intestine. CCR9, the receptor for CCL25, is expressed on the majority of thymocytes, indicating that CCR9 and its ligand may play an important role in thymocyte development. To investigate the role of CCR9 during lymphocyte development, CCR9 knockout mice were developed. Knockout mice had increased numbers of peripheral γδ-T cells but reduced numbers of αβ-T cells. In competitive transplantation experiments bone marrow from CCR9 knockout mice was much less efficient at repopulating the thymus than control (wild type) bone marrow. Thus, CCR9 KO mice are a model for studying thymocyte development and trafficking in the body. Additionally, as the ligand for CCR9 is highly expressed in the small intestine, CCR9 potentially plays a role in the specialization of immune responses in the gastrointestinal tract.

Applications: (1) Evaluate drugs aimed at blocking or augmenting lymphocyte trafficking; (2) A model for studying T cell development; (3) A model for studying immunological based gastrointestinal disorders.

Inventors: Paul E. Love (NICHHD), Joshua M. Farber (NIAID), Shoji Uehara (NICHHD).

Publications:


Description of Technology: Human Formyl Peptide-Like Receptor 1 (hFPRL1) has been implicated in host defense for disease processes including Alzheimer’s disease, infection, and other inflammatory diseases. hFPRL1 and its mouse homologue Formyl Peptide Receptor 2 (mFPR2) are G-protein coupled receptors that are expressed at high levels on phagocytic leukocytes, mediating leukocyte chemotaxis and activation in response to a number of pathogen- and host-derived peptides. Activation of hFPRL1/mFPR2 by lipoxin A4 may play a role in preventing and resolving inflammation. Also, hFPRL1/mFPR2 has been shown to mediate the chemotactic activity of amyloid β 1–42, a key pathogenic peptide in Alzheimer’s disease.

Applications: (1) Drug development model for Alzheimer’s disease and other inflammatory diseases; (2) Tool to probe the role of hFPRL1/mFPR2 in host responses in a variety of disease processes, including inflammatory, infectious, immunologic, and neurodegenerative disease.

Inventors: Ji Ming Wang et al. (NCI).

Related Publications:

Vaccine Production Strain for Acellular Pertussis Vaccine

Description of Technology: Available for licensing from the NIH is a vaccine production strain of Bordetella bronchiseptica that produces Bordetella pertussis toxin in high yield. The Bordetella bronchiseptica strain has been modified to eliminate expression of filamentous hemagglutinin, which typically has to be removed in purification of the toxin, thereby
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Toxicology Program (NTP); Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction (CERHR); Availability of the Draft NTP Briefs on Genistein and Soy Formula; Request for Public Comments

AGENCY: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS); National Institutes of Health (NIH).

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: CERHR invites the submission of public comments on the draft NTP Briefs on Genistein and Soy Formula. The draft NTP Briefs are available from the CERHR Web site (http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov see “CERHR Reports & Monographs”) or in hardcopy from CERHR (see ADDRESSES below). Public comments will be considered during peer review and finalization of the NTP Briefs.

DATES: Written comments on the draft NTP Briefs on Genistein and Soy Formula should be received by December 8, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Public comments and any other correspondence should be addressed to Dr. Michael D. Shelby, CERHR Director, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD EC–32, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 (mail), (919) 541–3455 (phone), (919) 316–4511 (fax), or shelby@niehs.nih.gov (e-mail). Written comments are also available on the CERHR Web site (http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov). Persons submitting written comments are asked to include their name and contact information (affiliation, mailing address, telephone and facsimile numbers, e-mail, and sponsoring organization, if any) and submit comments to Dr. Shelby (see ADDRESSES above) for receipt by December 8, 2006.

Background Information on CERHR

The NTP established CERHR in June 1998 [Federal Register, December 14, 1998 (Volume 63, Number 239, page 68782)]. CERHR is a publicly accessible resource for information about adverse reproductive and/or developmental health effects associated with exposure to environmental and/or occupational exposures.

CERHR invites the nomination of agents for review or scientists for its expert registry. Information about CERHR and the nomination process can be obtained from its homepage (http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov) or by contacting Dr. Michael Shelby, CERHR Director (see ADDRESSES).

reproductive and developmental toxicities of genistein and soy formula. The expert panel reports were released for public comment on May 5, 2006 (Federal Register Vol. 71, No. 94, pp. 28368, May 16, 2006). Following this public comment period, CERHR staff prepared draft NTP Briefs on Genistein and Soy Formula that provides in plain language:

• Background information on the substance(s).
• Findings of the expert panel.
• Discussion of any relevant data available after the expert panel meeting.
• NTP’s conclusions on the potential for the substance to cause adverse reproductive and/or developmental effects in exposed humans.

Upon finalization, the NTP Briefs on Genistein and Soy Formula will be included in the CERHR Monographs on Genistein and Soy Formula. The draft NTP Briefs on Genistein and Soy Formula and related background materials, including the genistein expert panel report, soy formula expert panel report, and previously received public comments, are available on the CERHR Web site (http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov see Genistein and Soy Formula under “CERHR Reports & Monographs”).

Request for Comments

The NTP invites written public comments on the draft NTP Briefs on Genistein and Soy Formula. Any comments received will be posted on the CERHR Web site and considered during the peer reviews and finalization of the NTP Brief on Genistein and the NTP Brief on Soy Formula. Persons submitting written comments are asked to include their name and contact information (affiliation, mailing address, telephone and facsimile numbers, e-mail, and sponsoring organization, if any) and submit comments to Dr. Shelby (see ADDRESSES above) for receipt by December 8, 2006.

Background

Genistein (CAS RN: 446–72–0) is a phytoestrogen found in some legumes, especially soybeans. Genistein is found in many food products, especially soy-based foods such as tofu, soy milk, and soy infant formula, and in some over-the-counter dietary supplements. Soy formula is fed to infants as a supplement or replacement for human milk or cow milk. On March 15–17, 2006, CERHR convened an expert panel to conduct evaluations of the potential

reductive and the yield of the active vaccine component. Immediately available for licensing is a strain that encodes a mutated pertussis toxin, which does not have to be chemically detoxified.

Application: Production of Bordatella pertussis toxin for acellular vaccine use.

Inventors: Tod Merkel, Jerry Keith, and Xiaoming Yang (NIDCR).


Licensing Status: Available for non-exclusive licensing.

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

HSV–2 Diagnostic

Description of Technology: The present invention relates to novel diagnostic methods for Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 (HSV–2). HSV–2 infects approximately one fifth of adults in the United States and is the most common cause of genital ulceration. The invention relates to the detection of HSV–2 based on a transforming nucleic acid sequence and its protein product. This DNA sequence harbors the potential to induce the tumorigenic transformation of normal cells in vitro and in vivo assays and thus will be useful as a means of prognostic evaluation in predicting the development of genital or cervical cancer. Current HSV–2 diagnostic tests relying on tedious viral culture and/or immunoassays that do not have the sensitivity and the specificity essential for diagnosis. Using PCR, the current invention will provide a superior method for viral detection and subtyping.

Application: HSV–2 diagnostic.

Inventors: Joseph A. DiPaolo (NCI–) Publication: JA DiPaolo et al.


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

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

Collaborative Research Opportunity:

The NCI Division of Basic Science is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, or commercialize HSV–2 Diagnostic. Please contact Betty Tong, Ph.D. at 301–594–4263 or tongb@mail.nih.gov for more information.

Dated: October 24, 2006.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

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