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. 201-212 to achieve expedient 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.

Assay for Arf GTP-Binding Proteins

Description of Invention: The worldwide laboratory research reagents market is expected to surpass $13 billion in 2010, and the field of biotechnology appears key to maintaining the market’s growth. Antibodies are becoming increasingly significant, especially for targeting the diseased cells and cell compounds. At least one human polyomavirus, the Merkel cell polyomavirus (MCV), plays a causal role in the development of an unusual form of skin cancer called Merkel cell carcinoma. The coat proteins of polyomaviruses can spontaneously assemble into virus-like particles (VLPs) similar to those that have been used in the recent vaccines against human papillomaviruses (HPVs).

Applications:
- Development of clinical diagnostic assays to detect linkages between the new polyomaviruses and human cancers.
- Development of a VLP-based prophylactic vaccine similar to the HPV vaccine.

Advantages: DNA sequences have broad applications in the studies of polyomavirus infection mechanisms and carcinogenesis. Notably, they are:
- Identification and purification of the normal and mutated polyomaviral proteins.
- Studies of antisense oligonucleotides in polyomavirus biology.
- Development of polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies against polyomaviruses.

Dated: September 8, 2010.

Bernadette Dunham,
Director, Center for Veterinary Medicine.

[FR Doc. 2010—22811 Filed 9—13—10; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4160–01–S
administration and the minimal systemic toxicity suggest that fenoterol and its analogs can be used in the adjuvant treatment of patients with β2 AR-positive gliomas, glioblastomas or astrocytomas. Studies with a number of fenoterol analogs and CNS-implanted tumors are in progress.


Applicability: Therapeutic in the front line and adjuvant treatment of glioma, glioblastoma and astrocytoma.

Advantages: Potential first-in-class therapeutic for multiple types of brain tumors.


Market: Approximately 17,000 Americans are diagnosed with gliomas annually (http://www.mayoclinic.org/glioma/).

Inventors: Irving W. Wainer (NIA), et al.

Publication: Submitted.


Licensing Status: Available for licensing.

Licensing Contact: Fatima Sayyid, M.H.P.M.; 301–435–4521; Fatima.Sayyid@nih.hhs.gov.

Collaborative Research Opportunity: The National Institute on Aging, Laboratory of Clinical Investigation, is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, or commercialize the use of fenoterol and fenoterol analogs in the front line and adjuvant treatment of CNS tumors and other β2 AR-expressing tumors. Please contact Nicole Darack, PhD at 301–435–3101 or darackn@mail.nih.gov for more information.

Chemical Attraction: Cell Lines Expressing the CXCR1 or CXCR2 Chemokine Receptors

Description of Invention: Chemokine receptors have been identified as important factors in regulating many innate and adaptive immune responses. Modulation of these receptors has implications for shifting immune responses to create either a dampening effect in fighting inflammatory diseases, such as autoimmune diseases or cardiovascular diseases, or a boosting effect to generate more effective responses to infectious agents, tumors, and promote wound healing. Chemokine receptors are expressed on a variety of tumor cells and play a role in helping cancer cells sense new microenvironments for metastatic growth.

Scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have developed human embryonic kidney (HEK) 293 cells lines that express the CXCR1 chemokine receptor or the CXCR2 chemokine receptor. These two receptors are also known as the IL-8 receptor-alpha and IL-8 receptor-beta, respectively. They both effectively bind IL-8, a potent neutrophil chemoattractant, as well as other chemokines with varying affinities. The collection of cell lines produced by these scientists includes HEK 293 cells that express the wild-type CXCR1, wild-type CXCR2, or mutant variants of each receptor. The cell lines were created by stably transfecting vectors containing the cDNA for each receptor into HEK 293 cells. HEK 293 cells transfected with the wild-type CXCR1 or CXCR2 display strong chemoattractant properties when placed in the presence of their corresponding CXC family chemokines, such as IL-8.

Application:
- Research tools for testing the activity of potential drugs and chemokine analogs in their ability to block cellular responses triggered by CXC chemokines, such as inflammatory responses induced by IL-8
- Cell lines expressing the wild-type CXCR1 or CXCR2 can serve as positive controls in chemokine receptor studies designed to identify novel chemoattractants or agents that inhibit chemokinetic functions.
- Research tool for screening compounds that block these receptors as a possible anti-cancer agent to inhibit angiogenesis and metastasis

Advantages:
- Both wild-type and mutant cell lines available: Wild-type CXCR1/ CXCR2 receptors or mutant receptors with point and deletion mutations have been cloned into HEK 293 cells. These cell lines will have varying degrees of potency for their chemoattractant responses to provide a range of functional comparisons in chemokine studies.
- Experimental verification of response to CXC family chemokines: The scientists have compiled years of data over various publications indicating that these receptors respond appropriately to a profile of chemokines.

Inventors: Joost Oppenheim, Adit Ben-Baruch, Ji Ming Wang, David Kelvin (all NCI).

Publications:


Licensing Status: Available for licensing under a Biological Materials License Agreement.

Licensing Contact: Samuel E. Bish, Ph.D.; 301–435–5282; bishse@mail.nih.gov.

DLC–1 Gene Deleted in Cancers

Description of Invention: Chromosomal regions that are frequently deleted in cancer cells are thought to be the loci of tumor suppressor genes, which restrict cell proliferation. Recurrent deletions on the short arm of human chromosome 8 in liver, breast, lung and prostate cancers have raised the possibility of the presence of tumor suppressor genes in this location.

The inventors have discovered the deletion of human DLC–1 gene in hepatocellular cancer (HCC) cells. They have performed in vitro experiments demonstrating the deletion in over 40% of human primary HCC and in 90% of HCC cell lines. The DLC–1 gene is located on human chromosome 8p21.3–22, a region frequently deleted in many types of human cancer. DLC–1 mRNA is

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expressed in all normal tissues tested, but it has either no or low expression in a high percentage of several types of human cancer, such as liver, breast, lung, and prostate cancers. Through in vitro and in vivo tumor suppression experiments, the inventors further demonstrated that DLC–1 acts as a new tumor suppressor gene for different types of human cancer.

Applications:
- Method to diagnose HCC
- Method to treat HCC patients with DLC–1 compositions
- Transgenic model to study HCC and other types of human cancer.
- DLC–1 compositions.

Market:
- Primary liver cancer accounts for about 2% of cancers in the U.S., but up to half of all cancers in some undeveloped countries.
- 251,000 new cases are reported annually.
- Post-operative five year survival rate of HCC patients is 30–40%.

Development Status: The technology is currently in the pre-clinical stage of development.

Inventors: Bao-Zhu Yuan, Snorri S. Thorgeirsson, Nicholas Popescu (NCI).

Publications:

Patent Status:

Licensing Status: Available for licensing.

Licensing Contact: Jennifer Wong; 301–435–4633; wongje@mail.nih.gov.

Collaborative Research Opportunity: The National Cancer Institute, Laboratory of Experimental Carcinogenesis, is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, or commercialize diagnostics based on tumor suppressor genes. Please contact John D. Hewes, PhD, at 301–435–3121 or hewesj@mail.nih.gov for more information.

Richard U. Rodriguez,
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

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–1336–CN]
RIN 0938–AP87

Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities for FY 2011; Correction

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Correction notice.

SUMMARY: This document corrects technical errors that appeared in the notice with comment period published in the Federal Register on July 22, 2010 entitled, “Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities for FY 2011.”

DATES: Effective Date: This correction is effective October 1, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Ullman, (410) 766–5667.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

In FR Doc. 2010–17628 (75 FR 42886), there were several technical errors that are identified and corrected in the “Correction of Errors” section below. The corrections described below are effective as if they had been included in the document published on July 22, 2010. Accordingly, the corrections are effective October 1, 2010.

II. Summary of Errors

We are correcting the titles and wage index columns (along with the resulting values) of Tables 8A and 8B, which appeared on page 42911 of the July 22, 2010 notice with comment period. These two tables illustrate the skilled nursing facility (SNF) prospective payment system (PPS) payment rate computations for a hypothetical “XYZ” SNF located in Cedar Rapids, IA (Urban CBSA 16300) under the RUG–IV and Hybrid RUG–III (HR–III) systems, respectively. In the title of the tables as well as in the third column (“Wage Index”), the wage index value for Cedar Rapids, IA is incorrectly displayed as 0.8858. Accordingly, in section III of this document (“Correction of Errors”), we are revising the entries in Tables 8A and 8B to reflect the correct wage index value of 0.8844. We are similarly revising the immediately preceding portion of the preamble text, which references the total PPS payment amounts displayed in these two tables. However, we note that the corresponding entry for CBSA 16300, as it appears in an addendum to the July 22, 2010 notice with comment period (Table A, “FY 2011 Wage Index for Urban Areas Based on CBSA Labor Market Areas”), already reflects the correct wage index value of 0.8844 (75 FR 42923). We are also revising the footnote that appears in Tables 8A and 8B to clarify that in these examples, all 10 of the Medicare days listed under the “CC2” RUG group would involve a resident with AIDS and, thus, would qualify for the special 128 percent adjustment under section 511 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) (Pub. L. 108–173, enacted on December 8, 2003).

III. Correction of Errors

In FR Doc. 2010–17628 (75 FR 42886), make the following corrections:

1. On page 42910, third column, in line five from the bottom of the page, the phrase “$41,979 for RUG–IV and $36,517 for HR–III, respectively” is revised to read “$41,935 for RUG–IV and $36,479 for HR–III, respectively.”

2. On page 42911, Tables 8A and 8B are revisited to read as follows:

3. On page 42911, underneath Table 8A and Table 8B, we removed the asterisk statement “*Reflects a 128 percent adjustment from section 511 of the MMA and replaced it with “**Reflects a 128 percent adjustment from section 511 of the MMA. All CC2 days should be considered to be for a resident with AIDS.”