The human transmembrane glycoprotein NMB (GPNMB) and a splice variant form are highly expressed in the cells of several forms of brain cancer when compared to normal brain cells. This invention combines Pseudomonas exotoxin (PE) attached to an Fv antibody fragment that targets cells expressing GPNMB but not GPNMB-negative or normal cells. Results show that this antibody-immunotoxin conjugate inhibits the growth of cells expressing human glycoprotein GPNMB, including glioblastoma multiform cells, anaplastic astrocytoma cells, anaplastic oligodendroglioma cells and melanoma cells.

Method of Screening for Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Xin Wei Wang (NCI) et al.
U.S. Provisional Application filed (HHS Reference No. E–333–2005/0–US–01).
Licensing Contact: David A. Lambertson; 301–435–4632; *lambertsond@mail.nih.gov.*

Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) is a common and aggressive cancer with a high mortality rate. The high mortality rate stems from an inability to diagnose the cancer in patients, due to the lack of available biomarkers for HCC. Currently, HCC is diagnosed by measuring the levels of serum alpha-fetoprotein (AFP); however, AFP is not always present in HCC tumors, especially small tumors. As a result, there is a need for improved diagnostic tests for diagnosing HCC in subjects.

The instant technology relates to efficient methods of detecting HCC by using new biomarkers for HCC. The overexpression of Gpc3, Mdk, SerpinI1, PEG–10 and QP–C correlates with the presence of HCC, even in small tumors, and regardless of serum levels of AFP. By comparing the expression levels of at least three of these markers in subject samples with their expression levels in control samples, the presence of HCC can be diagnosed. The method can also be used to monitor the progression or regression of HCC in a subject after the initial diagnosis, or to identify compounds having anti-HCC activity by measuring the expression levels of Gpc3, Mdk, SerpinI1, PEG–10 and QP–C following the treatment of a sample with test compounds. Current claims are directed to methods for screening for HCC in a sample, methods for monitoring the progression or regression of HCC in a subject, methods for screening compounds as having anti-HCC activity, and arrays/kits comprising polynucleotide probes for detecting the level of Gpc3, Mdk, SerpinI1, PEG–10 and QP–C mRNA expression.

In addition to licensing, the technology (in conjunction with serum ELISA technologies) is available for further development through collaborative research opportunities with the inventors.

Mouse Polyclonal Antibodies to KAI1

Mary Custer et al. (NCI).
HHS Reference No. E–264–2005/0—Research Tool.
Licensing Contact: John Stansberry; 301/435–5236, *stansbej@mail.nih.gov.*

The invention relates to polyclonal antibodies to the mouse metastasis suppressor gene KAI1. KAI1 is down regulated in advanced stages of various human epithelial malignancies. For example, expression levels of KAI1 are inversely correlated with the metastasis potential of human prostate cancer. This antibody would be useful in the characterization of the normal function of the KAI1 protein and it would be useful in efforts to investigate KAI1 role in metastasis suppression in experimental animal models.

Dated: December 8, 2005.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

[FR Doc. E5–7411 Filed 12–15–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; Notice of Closed Meeting

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 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: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Special Emphasis Panel, Hyperaccelerated Award/Mechanisms in Immunomodulation Trials (January 2006).

Date: January 3, 2006.

Time: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Mercy R. PrabhuDas, PhD., Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Program, Division of Extramural Activities, NIAID/NIH/DHHS, 6700B Rockledge Drive, MSC 7616, Bethesda, MD 20892–7616, 301–451–2615, *mp457n@nih.gov.*

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.855, Allergy, Immunology, and Transplantation Research; 93.856, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: December 9, 2005.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 05–24120 Filed 12–15–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders; 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 552(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 on Deafness and Other Communications Disorders Special Emphasis Panel, NIDCD P30 Research Core Center.

Date: January 11, 2006.

Time: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Hyatt Regency Bethesda, One Bethesda Metro Center, 7400 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Contact Person: Shiguang Yang, PhD, DVM, Scientific Review Administrator, Division of Extramural Activities, NIDCD, NIH, 6120 Executive Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–496–8683.

Name of Committee: National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications