CANCER IMMUNOLOGY & HEMATOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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CIHB HAPPENINGS

R. Allan Mufson appointed Branch Chief

Dr. R. Allan Mufson was appointed Branch Chief in mid October. He will direct the daily scientific programmatic activities provided by the CIHB staff. In addition to his Branch Chief duties, Dr. Mufson will continue to serve as Program Director for the Hematology/Leukemogenesis/Lymphoma grant portfolio Dr. Mufson has been with the Division of Cancer Biology since 1998. Prior to DCB he was a Senior Scientist/Section Head of the Immunology Department of the American Red Cross Holland Laboratory for Biomedical Research in Rockville, Maryland and had an active research program in cytokine receptors and signal transduction. He received four NIH research grants and has served as Editor/ Reviewer for the Journal of Immunology, Blood and Cancer Research.

Dr. Mufson has taken an active role in conducting and organizing several workshops supported by the Division of Cancer Biology from 1998 to 2000. He attends national Scientific meetings and selected academic retreats to meet investigators, and discusses current trends and future Immunologic research focused on cancer. Most of the CIHB staff have been working with Dr. Mufson for at least 6 months. We look forward to a continued great working relationship with our Branch Chief and we hope you will too.

Grantsmanship tips

Applications to Promote Research Collaborations

To support and encourage scientific collaborations among National Cancer Institute (NCI) grantees as well as with other members of the scientific community, the Division of Cancer Biology (DCB) of the NCI announces the availability of two administrative mechanisms for current DCB grantees to facilitate such interactions under a program called Activities to Promote Research Collaborations (APRC). A full description of this program can be accessed at the following website:

http://www.nci.nih.gov/dcb/colabbrf.htm

It details the opportunities available to DCB grantees for collaborative activities through administrative supplements to their active grants and the mechanism for requesting such supplements. This announcement was published in the NIH Guide on October 30th, 2000. The url is http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html

Requests are accepted twice each year, December 15th reviewed for March funding and April 15th reviewed for July funding.

Raising Your Literature Consciousness

By John Finerty

Immunization with tumor antigens induces faster tumor growth! This is the bane of all immunologists whose goal is the immune induction of tumor regression as well as those whose goal is to prevent tumor growth via an immunization protocol. These were the surprising findings in an article by Christopher Siegel and Hans Schreiber (J Exp. Med. 191:1945, 2000). The premise of these studies was to prevent cancer in high risk individuals utilizing a mouse model. The F1 mice used carried a germline mutant ras oncogene at positions Arg 12 and Leu 59. Upon wounding or chemical exposure, these mice develop papillomas that progress to cancer. The mice were immunized with the Arg 12 mutant peptide. The mice subsequently developed T cells that were specific for the peptide within 10 days post immunization and by day 14 demonstrated delayed-type hypersensitivity (DTH) to the peptide. However, in vitro T Cell assays utilizing intact Arg 12 protein failed to elicit any proliferative T cell responses. Yet, mice

immunized with Arg 12 peptide did produce antibodies specific for both the Arg 12 peptide and intact ARG 12 ras protein. Immunized mice were then painted on the back with phorbol 12 -myristate acetate (PMA) 3 weeks post immunization. The surprising result was that mice immunized with the Arg 12 peptide showed enhanced growth of tumors and developed a larger tumor burden than non immunized mice or mice immunized with a non-related ras peptide! The puzzling aspect of these studies is that all of the immune parameters measured in vitro, utilizing the Arg 12 peptide, showed positive responses indicative of cellular and humoral immune reponses. As the authors point out the concept of immune stimulation of tumors is not new. The cause of the more rapid growth and larger tumor burden in immunized mice remains a mystery.

New Molecular Targets for Cancer Therapy meeting report

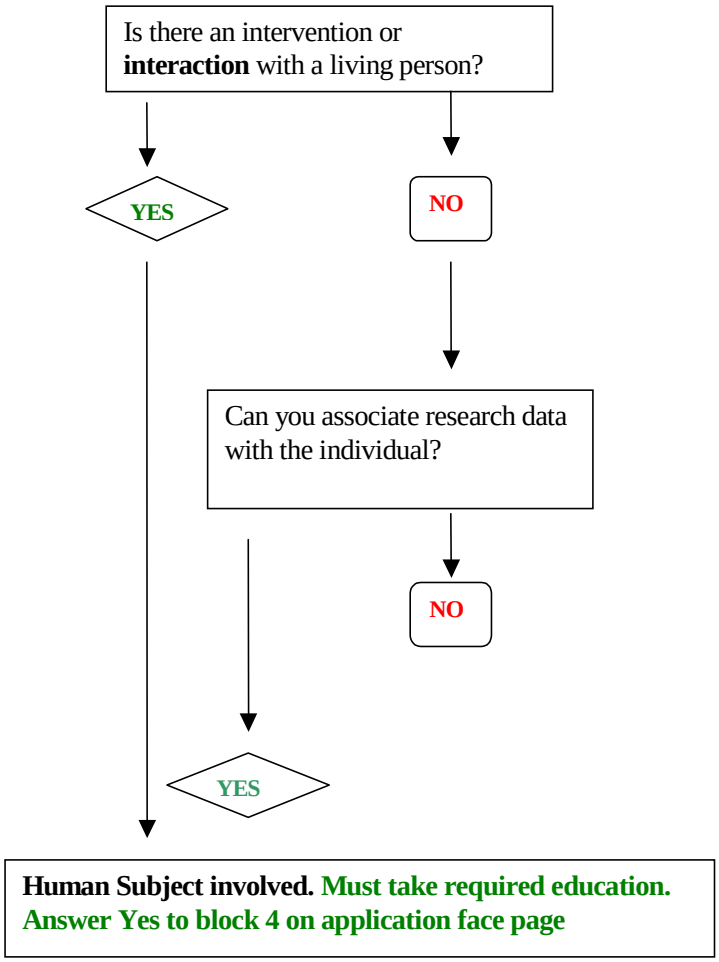
This meeting, held October 14-17 2000, was jointly sponsored by the University of South Florida College of Medicine, and the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. CIHB members John Finerty and Susan McCarthy attended the meeting. Susan McCarthy has provided a brief summary of a central scientific theme of the meeting. To view the summary click on the link.

http://www.nci.nih.gov/dcb/cibctm.pdf

What you need to know

By Yvonne Duglas-Tabor

As of October 1st, 2000 the NIH will require education on the protection of human research participants for all investigators submitting applications for grants or proposals for contracts or receiving awards for all competing and non-competing applications for research involving human subjects. For some of you who are unsure about whether you, your collaborators, or staff are working with human subjects and are required to take this training, here's how you find out.Use the definition of Human Subjects Chart 1.



If you answer NO then you are not working with Human subjects. However if you answer **YES** and want to determine if your human subject research qualifies for an exemption please review the exemption Chart 2 at http://ohrp.osophs.dhhs.gov/polasur.htm
Chart 3 waiver of informed consent is at the same site.

Animal Assurance Update

A **current** IACUC approval date is now required for your application to be reviewed. Therefore, if you submit your application with a "pending" in block 5a of the face page, **you must** provide the IACUC approval date to the Scientific Review Administrator (SRA) of the Study Section to which your application was assigned **before the study section meeting date**; failure to do so will mean that your grant application **will not be reviewed**!

Reminder

Check the status of your IACUC and IRB approval dates. Having updated assurances decreases delays in funding.

"In Case You Haven't Heard...."

The NIH supports **The Tetramer Resource Facility** to provide MHC tetramers to qualified and approved researchers. PIs who wish to obtain MHC tetramers from the facility must submit an application, which is evaluated for scientific merit. In most cases, the PI must provide the peptide to be assembled into the MHC groove, although some complete {MHC + peptide} complexes are available. The **Tetramer Resource Facility** is currently supervised by two NIAID extramural program directors - Charles Hackett and Opendra Sharma. However, all members of the research community are welcome to request tetramers. In the last twelve months 31% of the facility's users have had an NCI association. Dr. Susan McCarthy will be serving as an informal NCI liason to Drs. Hackett and Sharma but PIs interested in obtaining tetramers should apply directly to the facility, via its webpage: http://www.niaid.nih.gov/reposit/tetramer/index.html

HOT LINKS

The Division of Cancer Biology Home Page
http://www.nci.nih.gov/dcb/dcbhom.htm
has a table of contents with useful links to DCB funding opportunities:
http://www.nci.nih.gov/dcb/DCBRFAS.HTM

If you want to contact us:

Tel: 301/496-7815
FAX: 301/480-2844

email:

Dr. McCarthy -mccarths@mail.nih.gov
Dr. Finerty - fin@nih.gov
Dr. Mufson -mufsona@mail.nih.gov
Yvonne Duglas-Tabor- duglasy@mail.nih.gov
Norwood Uzzell- uzzelln@mail.nih.gov

Regular mail:

National Cancer Institute
Division Of Cancer Biology
Cancer Immunology & Hematology
Executive Plaza North
6130 Executive Blvd.
Suite 5000
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7388

FedEx or UPS:

National Cancer Institute
Division of Cancer Biology
Cancer Immunology & Hematology
Executive Plaza North
Suite 5000
Rockville, Maryland 20852