MRP9 is a member of the ATP binding cassette (ABC) transporter super family. This gene has at least two splice variants, one of which is membrane-associated and expressed in normal breast, breast cancer and testis, and the other of which is expressed in several other tissues. Anti-peptide antibodies designed to react with the amino terminus of the protein detect only the variant found in breast and testis. This protein should be a useful target for immunotherapy in breast cancer.

The patent application has claims directed towards use of MRP9 in detecting various cancers, including breast, testicular and pancreatic cancers. The application also contains claims directed toward immunotherapeutic agents, which could be useful to treat said cancers.

Use of a Histone Deacetylase Inhibitor To Increase the Entry of an Adenoviral Agent into a Cell

Tito A. Fojo *et al.* (NCI), DHHS Reference No. E–198–01/0 filed 24 Aug 2001, Licensing Contact: Matthew Kiser; 301/435–5236; *kiserm@od.nih.gov*.

This technology is directed to the use of any histone deacetylase inhibitor, including but not limited to FR901228 (depsipeptide, FK228), to increase the expression of Coxsackie-Adenovirus Receptor (CAR) and/or ''-'' integrins on the surface of a cell, such as a normal or cancerous cell, so as to increase the entry into the cell of a subsequently administered adenovirus-based therapeutic agent.

This disclosed method comprises exposing a cell to a histone deacetylase inhibitor in an amount sufficient to increase the expression of CAR and/or ''-'' integrin on the surface of the cell and, simultaneously with or subsequently to, exposing the cell to an adenoviral agent, whereupon the uptake of the adenoviral agent by the cell is increased relative to an otherwise identical cell that has not been exposed to a histone deacetylase inhibitor.

PEGylation of Linkers Improves Antitumor Activity and Reduces Toxicity of Immunoconjugates

I. Pastan, Y. Tsutsumi, M. Onda, S. Nagata and B. Lee (NCI), DHHS Reference No. E–216–00/2 filed 08 Jun 2001 (PCT Application PCT/US01/18503), Licensing Contact: Jonathan Dixon; 301/435–5559; *dixonj@od.nih.gov*.

The present invention relates to site-directed PEGylation of immunoconjugates. In particular, it provides a new approach for modifying with polyethylene glycol (PEG) a connector molecule that attaches the toxin moiety to the targeting moiety of an immunotoxin. The PEGylated immunotoxin has comparable *in vitro* specific toxicity against tumor cells, but other properties including stability, plasma half-life, antitumor activity, immunogenicity and non-specific toxicity are greatly improved.

The application contains composition of matter claims towards PEGylated connector molecules and method claims for using said PEGylated connector molecules.

Inhibitor of DNA Methylation

Victor E. Marquez (NCI), Erik Selker, Cindy Matson, Sheldon Greer, Peter Jones, PCT filing claiming priority to 60/309,242 filed on July 31, 2001, Licensing Contact: Brenda Hefti; 301/435–4632; *heftib@od.nih.gov*.

DNA methyltransferases (also referred to as DNA methylases) transfer methyl groups from the universal methyl donor S-adenosyl methionine to specific sites on a DNA molecule. When gene sequences contain many methylated cytosines, they are less likely to be expressed. Several such 'silenced' genes are now known to be an important contributing factor in many cancers where expression of tumor suppressor genes has been suppressed. Preventing DNA methyltransferase production, or inhibiting the enzyme, may allow tumor suppressor genes that have been silenced by hypermethylation to be re-activated. Re-activation of tumor suppressor genes is intended to stop or slow tumor growth by restoring growth control mechanisms. Thus, there exists a need for an effective, stable, and low-toxicity inhibitor of DNA methylation.

The inventors have discovered a potent inhibitor of DNA methylation that can specifically reactivate silenced tumor suppressor genes. This agent can be used to inhibit methylation and thereby combat certain cancers that have been linked to hypermethylation. This agent has also been shown in initial animal testing to be active orally and is more stable than some other agents in this same area of therapy and is a suitable candidate for further pre-clinical and clinical development as an anti-cancer agent to be used as monotherapy and/or as an adjunct to existing anti-cancer therapeutics.

Dated: October 24, 2002.

Jack Spiegel,

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

[FR Doc. 02–27901 Filed 11–1–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Public Health Service and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; Notice of a Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods

December 5, 2002.

Pursuant to section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. appendix 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods (SACATM) beginning at 9 AM on December 5, 2002, in Salon C at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia.

Background

The SACATM was chartered January 9, 2002, to fulfill section 3(d) of Public Law 106–545, the ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 [42 U.S.C. 285*l*–3(d)] and is composed of scientists from the public and private sectors (**Federal Register:** March 13, 2002: Vol. 67, No. 49, page 11358). The SACATM provides advice to the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (ICCVAM), and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM) regarding statutorily mandated duties of the ICCVAM and activities of the NICEATM. The committee's charter is posted on the Web at *http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov* and is available in hard copy upon request from the NTP Executive Secretary (NTP Liaison and Scientific Review Office, NIEHS, PO Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; telephone: 919–541–0530; facsimile: 919–541–0295 or *wolfe@niehs.nih.gov*).

Agenda

The meeting is being held on December 5, 2002, from 9 AM until adjournment and is open to the public with attendance limited only by the space available. Although not required, pre-registration is preferred to assist in planning for adequate space. To pre-register for this meeting, please contact the NTP Executive Secretary (contact information above). Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable

accommodations, are asked to notify the executive secretary.

A preliminary agenda is provided below. Relevant documents and publications about the test methods and the validation and acceptance criteria being discussed are available on the NICEATM/ICCVAM Web site at: *http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov* (select Documents and Publications).

Preliminary Agenda

Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods

December 5, 2002.

Salon C, Crystal Gateway Marriott (703–920–3230), 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, Crystal City Metro Stop.

9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions
Informational Overviews of NIEHS, NTP, NICEATM, and ICCVAM
ICCVAM Validation and Acceptance Criteria
Current Scientific Directions of the European Centre for Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM)
Linkage of Scientific Directions between ECVAM and ICCVAM
- Public comment

12:15 p.m.

Lunch break

1:15 p.m.

Test Method Submissions and Proposed Nomination and Prioritization Process
- Public comment

In-Vitro Acute Toxicity Testing Methods
- Public comment

In-Vitro Estrogen/Androgen Receptor Binding and Transcriptional Activation
Assays
- Public comment

Other Business

5:00 p.m.

Adjourn

A copy of the agenda, committee roster, and any additional information, when available, will be posted on the NTP Web site (*http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov*) or available upon request to the NTP Executive Secretary (contact information provided above). Following the meeting, summary minutes will be prepared and available through the NICEATM/ICCVAM Web site (*http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov*) and upon request to the NTP Liaison and Scientific Review Office (contact information above).

Public Comment Welcome

Public input at this meeting is invited and time is set aside for the presentation of public comments on any agenda topic. Each organization is allowed one time slot per agenda topic. At least 7 minutes will be allotted to each speaker, and if time permits, may be extended to 10 minutes. In order to facilitate planning for this meeting, persons wishing to make an oral presentation are asked to notify the NTP Executive Secretary (contact information above) by November 28, 2002, and to provide their name, affiliation, mailing address, phone, fax, e-mail, and sponsoring organization (if any). Registration for oral comments will also be available on-site, although time allowed for presentation by on-site registrants may be less then that for pre-registered speakers and will be determined by the number of persons who register at the meeting.

Persons registering to make oral comments are asked, if possible, to provide a copy of their statement to the NTP Executive Secretary (contact information above) by November 28, to enable review by the SACATM and NIEHS/NTP staff prior to the meeting. Written statements can supplement and may expand the oral presentation. If registering on-site and reading from written text, please bring 50 copies of the statement for distribution to the SACATM and NIEHS/NTP staff and to supplement the record.

Persons may also submit written comments in lieu of making oral comments. Written comments should be sent to the NTP Executive Secretary and should be received by November 28 to enable review by the SACATM and NIEHS/NIH prior to the meeting. Persons submitting written comments should include their name, affiliation, mailing address, phone, fax, e-mail, and sponsoring organization (if any) with the document.

Dated: October 24, 2002.

Samuel Wilson,

Deputy Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

[FR Doc. 02–27902 Filed 11–1–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; 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 Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel, Small Grants Program for Cancer Epidemiology (PAR–01–021) and Cancer Prevention Research (PAR–00–025).

Date: December 3–4, 2002.

Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Holiday Inn Select, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Contact Person: C. Michael Kerwin, Ph.D., MpH, Scientific Review Administrator, Special Review & Logistics Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6116 Executive Boulevard, Room 8057, MSC 8329, Bethesda, MD 20892–8329. (301) 496–7421. *kerwinm@mail.nih.gov*.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.392, Cancer Construction; 93.393, Cancer Cause and Prevention Research; 93.394, Cancer Detection and Diagnosis Research; 93.395, Cancer Treatment Research; 93.396, Cancer Biology Research; 93.397, Cancer Centers Support; 93.398, Cancer Research Manpower; 93.399, Cancer Control, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: October 28, 2002.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 02–27895 Filed 11–01–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; 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 a meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, NHLBI.

The meeting will be closed to the public as indicated below in accordance with the provisions set forth in section 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended for the review, discussion, and evaluation of individual intramural