Dated: July 1, 2003.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 03–17402 Filed 7–9–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Prospective Grant of Exclusive License: Vaccine For Protection Against Shigella sonnei Disease

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is notice, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209(c)(1) and 37 CFR 404.7(a)(1)(i), that the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health and Human Services, is contemplating the grant of an exclusive license to practice the invention embodied in: United States Patent Application 10/346,706 entitled ''Vaccine For Protection Against Shigella Sonnei Disease'' filed on January 15, 2003, to Aridis, Inc., having a place of business in Portola Valley, California. The patent rights in this invention have been assigned to the United States of America.

DATES: Only written comments and/or application for a license which are received by the NIH Office of Technology Transfer on or before September 8, 2003 will be considered.

ADDRESSES: Requests for a copy of the patent application, inquiries, comments and other materials relating to the contemplated license should be directed to: Peter Soukas, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, MD 20852–3804; Email: *ps193c@nih.gov;* Telephone: (301) 435–4646; Facsimile: (301) 402–0220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Shigellosis is a global human health problem. Transmission usually occurs by contaminated food and water or through person-to-person contact. The bacterium is highly infectious by the oral route, and ingestion of as few as 10 organisms can cause an infection in volunteers. An estimated 200 million people worldwide suffer from shigellosis, with more than 650,000 associated deaths annually. A recent CDC estimate indicates the occurrence of over 440,000 annual shigellosis cases in the United States alone, approximately eighty percent (80%) of which are caused by *Shigella sonnei.*

Shigella sonnei is more active in developing countries. *Shigella* infections are typically treated with a course of antibiotics. However, due to the emergence of multidrug resistant *Shigella* strains, a safe and effective vaccine is highly desirable. No vaccines against *Shigella* infection currently exist. Immunity to Shigellae is mediated largely by immune responses directed against the serotype specific O-polysaccharide. Claimed in the invention are compositions and methods for inducing an immunoprotective response against *S. sonnei.* Specifically claimed is an attenuated bacteria capable of expressing a *S. sonnei* antigen comprised of the *S. sonnei* form I O-polysaccharide expressed from the *S. sonnei* rfb/rfc gene cluster. The inventors have shown that the claimed vaccine compositions exhibited one hundred percent (100%) protection against parenteral challenge with virulent *S. sonnei* in mice.

The prospective exclusive license will be royalty bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within 60 days from the date of this published Notice, NIH receives written evidence and argument that establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

The field of use may be limited to vaccines against *S. sonnei.*

Properly filed competing applications for a license filed in response to this notice will be treated as objections to the contemplated license. Comments and objections submitted in response to this notice will not be made available for public inspection, and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be released under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Dated: July 2, 2003.

Steven M. Ferguson,

Acting Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer.

[FR Doc. 03–17406 Filed 7–9–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Prospective Grant of Exclusive License: Vaccine Products for Prevention and Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C Infections (HCV)

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is notice, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209(c)(1) and 37 CFR 404.7(a)(1)(i), that the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health and Human Services, is contemplating the grant of an exclusive license to practice the invention embodied in:

(1) U.S. Patent No. 6,387,662, issued May 14, 2002, entitled ''Synthesis and Purification of Hepatitis C Virus-Like particles'' (E–009–1997/0) (Inventors: T. Jake Liang and Thomas F. Baumert (NIDDK)). This application is a continuation of and claims the benefit of priority of International Application No. PCT/US97/05096 filed on March 25, 1997, which claims priority to U.S. patent application No. 60/030,238, filed November 8, 1996.

(2) PCT/US97/05096 filed March 25, 1997, entitled ''Synthesis and Purification of Hepatitis C Virus-Like particles in vitro'' (related to E–009–1997/0) (Inventors: T. Jake Liang and Thomas F. Baumert (NIDDK)), National Stage filed in Australia (Patent No. 738585, issued January 03, 2002), the European Union (European Patent Office Patent Application Number 9791652.6), Canada (Patent Application Number 2269097), and in Japan (Patent Application Number 10–522521).

to Virionics Corporation, having a place of business in Odenton, Maryland. The patent rights in this invention have been assigned to the United States of America.

DATES: Only written comments and/or application for a license which are received by the NIH Office of Technology Transfer on or before September 8, 2003 will be considered.

ADDRESSES: Requests for a copy of the patent application, inquiries, comments and other materials relating to the contemplated license should be directed to: Peter Soukas, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, MD 20852–3804; E-mail: *ps193c@nih.gov;* Telephone: (301) 435–4646; Facsimile: (301) 402–0220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The technology relates to production of

enveloped RNA virus-like particles in vitro in insect cells using a recombinant baculovirus vector containing a cDNA coding for viral structural proteins. In vitro production and purification of hepatitis C virus (HCV)-like particles containing HCV core protein, E1 protein and E2 protein is described. Sucrose gradient purified HCV-like particles exhibited similar biophysical properties as putative HCV virions. Mice injected with HCV-like particles developed HCV-specific antibodies indicating that the particles are immunogenic. HCV-like particles, purified in large quantities, may be useful in HCV vaccine development or in diagnostic kits.

The prospective exclusive license will be royalty bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within 60 days from the date of this published Notice, NIH receives written evidence and argument that establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

The field of use may be limited to vaccine products for prevention and treatment of chronic hepatitis C (HCV) infections.

Properly filed competing applications for a license filed in response to this notice will be treated as objections to the contemplated license. Comments and objections submitted in response to this notice will not be made available for public inspection, and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be released under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Dated: July 2, 2003.

Steven M. Ferguson,

Acting Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer.

[FR Doc. 03–17405 Filed 7–9–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Applications for Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

SUMMARY: The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species and/or marine mammals.

DATES: Written data, comments or requests must be received by August 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358–2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358–2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Endangered Species

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of these complete applications should be submitted to the Director (address above).

PRT–073579

Applicant: Ron D. Stoller, Raymond, WA

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT–073581

Applicant: Darrel D. Stoller, Raymond, WA

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT–073774

Applicant: Gerald A. Beathard, Jr., Austin, TX

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT–069323

Applicant: Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, CA

The applicant requests a permit to export and re-export live captive-bred/captive hatched specimens of California condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) to La Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Rescoursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), San Angel, Mexico, for re-introduction into the wild to enhance the survival of the species through the completion of identified tasks and objectives mandated under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service California Condor Recovery Plan. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

PRT–057398

Applicant: Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, CA

This is a correction to the notice published March 31, 2003, (68 FR 15478), for the import of live wild specimens and biological samples of California condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) from Mexico. The applicant is requesting an amendment and renewal of their permit to allow for the re-import of captive-bred/captive hatched live specimens, as well as biological samples and salvaged materials from specimens exported/re-exported to Mexico from the U.S. under PRT–069323, to enhance the survival of the species through completion of identified tasks and objectives mandated under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service California Condor Recovery Plan. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals

The public is invited to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered marine mammals and/or marine mammals. The applications were submitted to satisfy requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*) and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing endangered species (50 CFR part 17) and/or marine mammals (50 CFR part 18). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of the complete applications or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be submitted to the Director (address above). Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a