

significantly decreased compared to controls. If aberrant ErbB function during development is a cause of schizophrenia, and that aberrant ErbB function is expressed in peripheral blood cells throughout life, the assay should predict susceptibility to schizophrenia even before clinical symptoms are apparent.

The NIMH Clinical Brain Disorders Branch is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, or commercialize the above technology. Please contact Suzanne L. Winfield at [winfieldS@mail.nih.gov](mailto:winfieldS@mail.nih.gov) for more information.

#### **Treatment of Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) Using Nitrite Therapy**

M. Gladwin (CC), R. Cannon (NHLBI), A. Schechter (NIDDK), C. Hunter (CC), R. Pluta (NINDS), E. Oldfield (NINDS) *et al.*

PCT Applications filed 09 Jul 2004 (priority date 9 July 2003): PCT/US04/21985, International Publication No. WO 2005/007173, Publication Date 27 January 2005 [HHS Reference No. E-254-2003/2-PCT-01] and PCT/US04/22232, International Publication No. WO 2005/004884, Publication Date 20 January 2005 [HHS E-254-2003/3-PCT-01]

*Licensing Contact:* Susan Carson, D.Phil.; 301/435-5020; [carsonsu@mail.nih.gov](mailto:carsonsu@mail.nih.gov).

Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) occurs as a primary or idiopathic disease as well as secondary to a number of pulmonary and systemic diseases, such as neonatal PH and sickle cell disease. There is no cure for pulmonary hypertension, a nitric-oxide deficient state characterized by pulmonary vasoconstriction and systemic hypoxemia and therapies vary in efficacy and cost. Recent studies by NIH researchers and their collaborators provided evidence that the blood anion nitrite contributes to hypoxic vasodilation through a heme-based, nitric oxide (NO)-generating reaction with deoxyhemoglobin and potentially other heme proteins [Nature Medicine 2003 9:1498-1505]. These initial results indicate that sodium nitrite can be used as a potential cost-effective platform therapy for a wide variety of disease indications characterized broadly by constricted blood flow or hypoxia.

These results have been further corroborated by more recent work in the neonatal lamb model for PH. Inhaled sodium nitrite delivered by aerosol to newborn lambs with hypoxic pulmonary hypertension elicited a rapid and sustained reduction (65%) in

hypoxia-induced pulmonary hypertension. Pulmonary vasodilation elicited by aerosolized nitrite was deoxyhemoglobin- and pH-dependent and was associated with increased blood levels of iron-nitrosyl-hemoglobin. Notably, short term delivery of nitrite dissolved in saline through nebulization produced selective, sustained pulmonary vasodilation with no clinically significant increase in blood methemoglobin levels. [Nature Medicine 2004 10:1122-1127]. This new, simple and cost-effective potential therapy for neonatal PH is available for licensing.

Also available for licensing are claims directed to nitrite salt formulations associated with elevated blood pressure, decreased blood flow or hemolytic disease (HHS Ref. No. E-254-2003/2) as well as for the treatment of specific conditions including hepatic, cardiac or brain ischemia-reperfusion injury and other cardiovascular conditions [J. Clin. Invest. (2005) 115:1232-1240; JAMA (2005) 293:1477-1484] (HHS Ref. No. E-254-2003/3).

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Vascular Medicine Branch, is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, or commercialize a treatment of pulmonary hypertension (PH) using nitrite therapy. Please contact Dr. Mark Gladwin by phone at 301-435-2310 or by e-mail at [mgladwin@nih.gov](mailto:mgladwin@nih.gov) for more information.

#### **Modified Growth Hormone**

YP Loh, NX Cawley (both of NICHD), BJ Baum (NIDCR), and CR Snell U.S. Patent Application No. 10/477,651 filed 14 Nov 2003 (HHS Reference No. E-184-2001/1-US-02) which is a 371 application of PCT/US02/15172 filed 14 May 2002 and which claims priority to 60/290,836 filed 14 May 2001

*Licensing Contact:* Susan S. Rucker; 301/435-4478; [ruckersu@mail.nih.gov](mailto:ruckersu@mail.nih.gov).

This invention described and claimed in this patent application provides for an improved method for producing human growth hormone (hGH) *in vitro* or *in vivo*. In particular, the patent application describes compositions and methods which are based on a modified form of human growth hormone where the regulated secretory pathway (RSP) sorting signal has been modified to provide for the constitutive secretion of human growth hormone via the nonregulated secretory pathway (NRSP) in a mammalian cell. One particular

modified hGH composition, has been demonstrated to be biologically active and able to be secreted into the bloodstream in an animal model providing proof-of-concept. This invention can be applied to a non-invasive method of gene therapy to achieve sustained delivery of this therapeutic protein.

The application has been published as WO 02/092619 (11/21/2002) and as 2004/0158046 A1 (08/12/2004). The work has also been published at Wang J, et al. Human Gene Therapy 16(5):571-83 (May 2005). Only U.S. Patent protection has been sought for this technology. There are no foreign counterpart patent applications.

The NICHD Office of the Scientific Director is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, or commercialize the non-invasive method of production and systemic delivery of growth hormone or other proteins for therapeutic purposes. Please contact Dr. Y. Peng Loh at 301/496-3239 or [lohpy@mail.nih.gov](mailto:lohpy@mail.nih.gov) for more information.

Dated: March 21, 2006.

#### **Steven M. Ferguson,**

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

[FR Doc. E6-4611 Filed 3-29-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **National Institutes of Health**

#### **Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health, Notice of Meeting**

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 Director's Council of Public Representatives.

The meeting will be open to the public, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

*Name of Committee:* Director's Council of Public Representatives.

*Date:* April 21, 2006.

*Time:* 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Agenda:* Among the topics proposed for discussion are: (1) NIH Director's Update; (2) the NIH Peer Review Process and Opportunities for Public Participation; (3) NIH Clinical Research Education and

Awareness Efforts; (4) Update on the Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives and the NIH Roadmap; and (5) discussion and public comment.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, Building 31, C Wing, Conference Room 6, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Contact Person:* Jennifer E. Gorman, NIH Public Liaison/COPR Coordinator, Office of Communications and Public Liaison, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 31, Room 5B64, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-4448, [gormanj@od.nih.gov](mailto:gormanj@od.nih.gov).

Any interested person may file written comments with the committee by forwarding the statement to the Contact Person listed on this notice. The statement should include the name, address, telephone number and when applicable, the business or professional affiliation of the interested person.

In the interest of security, NIH has instituted stringent procedures for entrance onto the NIH campus. All visitor vehicles, including taxicabs, hotel, and airport shuttles will be inspected before being allowed on campus. Visitors will be asked to show one form of identification (for example, a government-issued photo ID, driver's license, or passport) and to state the purpose of their visit.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's home page: <http://www.copr.nih.gov>, where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.14, Intramural Research Training Award; 93.22, Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds; 93.232, Loan Repayment Program for Research Generally; 93.39, Academic Research Enhancement Award; 93.936, NIH Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome Research Loan Repayment Program; 93.187, Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds, National Institutes of Health, HHS.)

Dated: March 24, 2006.

**Anna Snouffer,**

*Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 06-3094 Filed 3-29-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; Amended Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Special Emphasis Panel, March 28, 2006, 10 a.m. to March 28, 2006, 6 p.m., National Institutes of Health, Rockledge 6700, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817 which was published in the

**Federal Register** on March 17, 2006, 71 FRN 13858.

The ZAI1-KLW-I (M1) Special Emphasis Panel closed telephone conference meeting will be held in Conference Room 3200, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892. The meeting date has changed from March 28, 2006 to April 10, 2006 at 1 p.m. The meeting is closed to the public.

Dated: March 24, 2006.

**Anna Snouffer,**

*Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 06-3092 Filed 3-29-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; 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 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 Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel, Neurovirology Studies.

*Date:* March 27, 2006.

*Time:* 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* InterContinental Mark Hopkins Hotel, Number One Nob Hill, 999 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94108.

*Contact Person:* Andrea Sawczuk, DDS, PhD., Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch, Division of Extramural Research, NINDS/NIH/DHHS, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Room #3208, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-496-0660, [sawczuka@ninds.nih.gov](mailto:sawczuka@ninds.nih.gov).

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel Cognition and Imaging Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date:* March 30, 2006.

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

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Hamilton Crowne Plaza Hotel, 14th & K Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20005.

*Contact Person:* Richard D. Crosland, PhD., Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch, Division of Extramural Research, NINDS/NIH/DHHS/Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Blvd., Suite 3208, MSC 9529, Bethesda, MD 20892-9529, 301-594-0635, [rc218u@ninds.nih.gov](mailto:rc218u@ninds.nih.gov).

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel Fellowship Review.

*Date:* April 6, 2006.

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

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Beacon Hotel and Corporate Quarters, 1615 Rhode Island Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

*Contact Person:* Joann McConnell, PhD., Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch, NIH/NINDS/Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Blvd., Suite 3208, Msc 9529, Bethesda, MD 20892-9529, 301-496-5324, [mcconnej@ninds.nih.gov](mailto:mcconnej@ninds.nih.gov).

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel Glioma Gene Therapy SEP.

*Date:* April 17, 2006.

*Time:* 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852, (Telephone Conference Call).

*Contact Person:* Shantadurga Rajaram, PhD., Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch, NIH/NINDS/Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Blvd., Suite 3208, Msc 9529, Bethesda, MD 20852, 301-435-6033, [rajarams@mail.nih.gov](mailto:rajarams@mail.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel Emergency Network.

*Date:* April 26-28, 2006.

*Time:* 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Doubletree Hotel Bethesda, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

*Contact Person:* Katherine Woodbury, PhD., Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch, NINDS/NIH/DHHS, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Suite 3208, Msc 9529, Bethesda, MD 20892-9529, 301-496-5980, [kw47o@nih.gov](mailto:kw47o@nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel Loan Repayment Program.

*Date:* April 30, 2006.

*Time:* 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.