

SUMMARY: The inventions listed below are owned by an agency of the U.S. Government and are available for licensing in the U.S. in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally-funded research and development. Foreign patent applications are filed on selected inventions to extend market coverage for companies and may also be available for licensing.

ADDRESSES: Licensing information and copies of the U.S. patent applications listed below may be obtained by writing to the indicated licensing contact at the Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852-3804; telephone: 301/496-7057; fax: 301/402-0220. A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement will be required to receive copies of the patent applications.

Diagnosing and Treating Cancer Using Beta-Catenin Splice Variants

Description of Technology: This application discloses and claims inventions which may be used alone or together. One group of inventions relates to early detection diagnostic, prognostic and patient monitoring methods ("Diagnostic Methods"). The other group of inventions relates to methods of treatment. Both groups of inventions have particular application with respect to esophageal squamous cell cancers (ESCC) or other types of adenocarcinomas and squamous cell carcinomas.

The Diagnostic Methods are useful in evaluating the status of preneoplastic lesions as well as tumor tissue. Because of this, the methods can be used to track the progression or regression of disease in many types of cell samples from normal to dysplasia to cancer.

The Diagnostic Methods involve measuring the level of one or more pairs of transcripts or the protein products of these pairs of transcripts or the cellular localization of the transcripts or proteins. The primary transcripts or protein products useful in this method are those of the beta-Catenin gene (CTNNB1). In particular, the levels of the 16A and 16B CTNNB1 transcripts or protein products are of importance in carrying out the methods of this patent application. Other gene transcripts or protein products that may be used in conjunction with CTNNB1 16A and 16B to provide additional information are WAF1 (p21) and cMYC.

The treatment methods include employing small interfering RNA molecules (siRNAs) as a means to alter the expression of one or more of these

particular CTNNB1 transcripts. More specifically, preferred siRNA molecules can be used to alter the expression of the CTNNB1 transcripts 16A and/or 16B. These siRNA molecules may be single-stranded (ss) or double-stranded (ds) and may be delivered using a construct capable of producing the siRNA molecule upon delivery to the target cell.

Applications: Diagnostic or prognostic methods for squamous cell cancers and adenocarcinomas; Monitoring therapeutic response during and after patient treatment; Development of cancer treatments; Basic research to further elucidate the role of beta catenin in signal transduction pathways and carcinogenesis.

Development Stage: The use of beta catenin transcripts to provide prognostic or diagnostic information remains the subject of research but early patient data is found in the article in Genes Chromosomes & Cancer listed below. Work related to the use of siRNA as a treatment strategy remains in its early stages of research and has not yet progressed to clinical trials.

Inventors: Mark J. Roth and Konrad Huppi (NCI).

Publications:

1. The patent application has been published as WO 2006/086772 A2 on 17 August 2006.

2. MJ Roth *et al.* beta-Catenin splice variants and downstream targets as markers for neoplastic progression of esophageal cancer. Genes Chromosomes Cancer. 2005 Dec;44(4):423-428.

3. SE Martin *et al.* Multiplexing siRNAs to compress RNAi-based screen size in human cells. Nucleic Acids Res. 2007 Mar 28; E published ahead of print, doi:10.1093/nar/gkm141.

4. A Thiele *et al.* AU-rich elements and alternative splicing in the beta-Catenin 3' UTR can influence the human beta-Catenin mRNA stability. Exp Cell Res. 2006 Jul;312:2367-2378.

Patent Status:

PCT/US2006/05032 filed 10 Feb 2006 and published as WO 2006/086772 on 17 Aug 2006, currently pending, entitled "Method of Diagnosing and Treating Cancer Using Beta Catenin Splice Variants" (HHS Reference No. E-018-2005/2-PCT-01);

U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/667,084 filed 30 Mar 2005, now abandoned (HHS Reference No. E-018-2005/1-US-01);

U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/652,154 filed 10 Feb 2005, now abandoned (HHS Reference No. E-018-2005/0-US-01).

Biological Materials Availability: Biological materials related to this technology are available and include

those referred to in the following publications as well as a series of recently established aptamers capable of specific binding to the CTNNB1 protein.

1. MJ Roth *et al.* Cytologic detection of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma and precursor lesions using balloon and sponge samplers in asymptomatic adults in Linxian, China. Cancer. 1997 Dec 1;80(11):2047-2059.

2. Q-J Pan *et al.* Cytologic detection of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma and its precursor lesions using balloon samplers and liquid-based cytology in asymptomatic adults in Linxian, China. ACTA Cytologica (In Press).

3. MJ Roth *et al.* A study of beta-catenin splice variants and associated downstream targets as markers for neoplastic progression of squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus. Genes Chromosomes Cancer. 2005 Dec;44(4):423-428.

4. PJ Limburg *et al.* Randomized, placebo-controlled esophageal squamous cell cancer chemoprevention trial of selenomethionine and celecoxib. Gastroenterology. 2005 Sept;129(3):863-873.

Licensing Availability: This application is available for license on a non-exclusive or exclusive basis.

Licensing Contact: Susan S. Rucker, Esq.; 301/435-4478; ruckersu@mail.nih.gov

Collaborative Research Opportunity: The National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, or commercialize a method of diagnosing and treating cancer using beta-Catenin splice variants. Please contact John D. Hewes, PhD at 301-435-3121 or hewesj@mail.nih.gov for more information. 8356

Dated: April 25, 2007.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

[FR Doc. E7-8356 Filed 5-1-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Fogarty International Center; Notice of 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

Fogarty International Center Advisory Board.

The meeting will be open to the public as indicated below, 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.

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/or contract proposals 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 and/or contract proposals, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Fogarty International Center Advisory Board.

Date: May 21–22, 2007.

Closed: May 21, 2007, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications and/or proposals.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Lawton Chiles International House, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Open: May 22, 2007, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Agenda: Fogarty International Center will present an early draft of the Strategic Plan.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Lawton Chiles International House, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Contact Person: Jean L. Flagg-Newton, Ph.D., Special Assistant to the Director, FIC, Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 31, Room B2C29, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496–2968, flaggnej@mail.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.nih.gov/fic/about/advisory.html>, where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available. (Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.106, Minority International

Research Training Grant in the Biomedical and Behavioral Sciences; 93.154, Special International Postdoctoral Research Program in Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome; 93.168, International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups Program; 93.934, Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award; 93.989, Senior International Fellowship Awards Program, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 24, 2007.

Jennifer Spaeth,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 07–2144 Filed 5–1–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; Notice of 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 National Cancer Advisory Board.

The meeting will be open to the public as indicated below, 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.

A portion of 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 Advisory Board.

Date: June 14, 2007, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Agenda: Program reports and presentations; Business of the Board.

Place: National Cancer Institute, 9000 Rockville Pike, building 31, C Wing, 6th Floor, Conference Room 10, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Contact Person: Dr. Paulette, S. Gray, Executive Secretary, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6116 Executive Boulevard, 8th Floor, Room 8001, Bethesda, MD 20892–8327, (301) 496–5147.

Name of Committee: National Cancer Advisory Board.

Date: June 14, 2007, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Agenda: Review of grant applications.

Contact Person: Dr. Paulette, S. Gray, Executive Secretary, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6116 Executive Boulevard, 8th Floor, Room 8001, Bethesda, MD 20892–8327, (301) 496–5147.

Name of Committee: National Cancer Advisory Board.

Date: June 15, 2007, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Agenda: Program reports and presentations; Business of the Board.

Place: National Cancer Institute, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 31, C Wing, 6th Floor, Conference Room 10, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Contact Person: Dr. Paulette S. Gray, Executive Secretary, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6116 Executive Boulevard, 8th Floor, Room 8001, Bethesda, MD 20892–8327, (301) 496–5147.

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 state the purpose of their visit.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's home page: deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/ncab.htm, where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available.

(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: April 25, 2007.

Jennifer Spaeth,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 07–2146 Filed 5–1–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Center for Research Resources; 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.