

The invention also relates to PA variants, and/or compositions thereof, which are useful for eliciting an immunogenic response in mammals, particularly humans, including responses that provide protection against, or reduce the severity of, infections caused by *B. anthracis*. The vaccines claimed in this application are intended for active immunization for prevention of *B. anthracis* infection, and for preparation of immune antibodies.

Application: Improved *B. anthracis* vaccines.

Developmental Status: Phase I clinical studies are being performed.

Inventors: Joseph Shiloach (NIDDK), Stephen Leppla (NIDCR), Delia Ramirez (NIDDK), Rachel Schneerson (NICHD), John Robbins (NICHD).

Publication: DM Ramirez, *et al.* Production, recovery and immunogenicity of the protective antigen from a recombinant strain of *Bacillus anthracis*. *J Ind Microbiol Biotechnol.* 2002 Apr;28(4):232-238.

Patent Status: U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/344,505 filed 09 Nov 2001 (HHS Reference No. E-023-2002/0-US-01); U.S. Patent Application No. 10/290,712 filed 08 Nov 2002 (HHS Reference No. E-023-2002/0-US-02).

Licensing Status: Available for exclusive or nonexclusive licensing.

Licensing Contact: Peter A. Soukas, J.D.; 301/435-4646; soukasp@mail.nih.gov.

Collaborative Research Opportunity: The National Institutes of Health is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, or commercialize methods of preparing *Bacillus anthracis* protective antigen (PA) from a cell or organism, particularly a recombinant cell or microorganism, for use in vaccines. Please contact Rochelle S. Blaustein, J.D., at 301/451-3636 or Rochelle.Blaustein@nih.gov for additional information.

Chimeric Gag Pseudovirions

Description of Technology: The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the causative agent of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The HIV virion basically consists of a viral core and envelope. The core consists predominantly of gag- and pol-encoded proteins and the viral RNA. Expression of recombinant Gag precursor proteins can lead to assembly and budding of virus-like particles (pseudovirions). The production of Gag-based pseudovirions in mammalian and insect cell systems using recombinant virus vectors provides a novel technology for engineering recombinant

protein-based particulate vaccines for HIV and other viruses. The incorporation of additional viral or cellular, peptides and polypeptides may be advantageous in vaccine preparations, since they may contain antigenic epitopes that may play a role in inducing protection from infection or disease.

The subject invention provides chimeric nucleic acids comprising a retroviral gag sequence, a target nucleic acid sequence derived from a nucleic acid encoding a fusion partner, and a frame shift site. Expression of the chimeric gene cassette results in packaging the fusion partner into the Gag pseudovirion. Suitable fusion partners can be derived from any protein of interest which has a biological activity or which elicits a cellular or humoral immune response.

Applications: HIV vaccines and/or therapeutics.

Development Status: Early stage.

Inventors: Gregory J. Tobin (NCI/SAIC), *et al.*

Patent Status: U.S. Patent No. 6,099,847 issued 08 Aug 2000 (HHS Reference No. E-105-1996/1-US-01).

Licensing Status: Available for non-exclusive or exclusive licensing.

Licensing Contact: Susan Ano, PhD; 301/435-5515; anos@mail.nih.gov.

Dated: January 14, 2008.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

[FR Doc. E8-1259 Filed 1-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; 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 meetings.

The meetings 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: Oncological Sciences Integrated Review Group; Basic Mechanisms of Cancer Therapeutics Study Section.

Date: January 28-29, 2008.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Embassy Suites at the Chevy Chase Pavilion, 4300 Military Road, NW., Washington, DC 20015.

Contact Person: Lambratu Rahman, PhD, Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review; National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 6214, MSC 7804, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-451-3493, rahmanl@csr.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.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, (HHS)

Dated: January 16, 2008.

Jennifer Spaeth,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 08-275 Filed 1-24-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; 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.

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Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Nutrition.

Date: January 31, 2008.

Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Abubakar A. Shaikh, PhD, DVM, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National