Dated: June 15, 2000.

Jack Spiegel,

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

[FR Doc. 00–16326 Filed 6–27–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Government-Owned Inventions; Availability for Licensing: Novel Multiple Peptide Conjugate System

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The inventions listed below are owned by agencies 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.

This novel multiple peptide conjugate system is described in DHHS Reference Nos. E–208–99/0, E–280–99/0, and E–114–00/0—all now incorporated under a PCT application, DHHS Reference No. E–208–99/1.

ADDRESSES: Licensing information and copies of the U.S. patent applications listed below may be obtained by Carol Salata, Ph.D., at the Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852–3804; telephone: 301/496–7735 ext. 232; fax: 301/402–0220; e-mail: SalataC@od.nih.gov. A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement will be required to receive copies of the patent applications.

Novel Multiple Peptide Conjugate System

I. Pathogenic TAT Peptides

Subhash Dhawan, Robert A. Boykins, Kenneth M. Yamada (FDA)

Infection with HIV, the causative agent of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), is responsible for a large number of deaths annually and represents a significant threat to human health. Accordingly, an extensive effort has been mounted to characterize the HIV virus and to identify potential targets for therapeutics. The present invention relates to the identification of functional domains within the HIV Tat protein which are capable of mediating many of the effects of the full length Tat protein. In particular, this invention describes the use of peptides comprising functional domains to induce an immune response against the HIV Tat protein and the identification of dominant-negative mutants and chimeras of these functional domains which may be used as therapeutics. Another aspect of the present invention relates to the use of these functional domains as reagents for elucidating the biochemical mechanisms of HIV gene expression. This invention is described further in Boykins *et al.* July 1999, J. Immunol. 163:15–20.

II. Multiple Peptide Conjugates

Robert A. Boykins, Manju B. Joshi, Chiang Syin, Subhash Dhawan, Hira Nakhasi (FDA)

This invention describes the design and synthesis of a multi-peptide conjugate (MPC) system containing antigens from the human malaria parasite (Plasmodium falciparium) and the Tat protein of HIV type-1 (HIV–1–Tat) for use as a subunit vaccine. Prior multiple antigen peptides (MAPs) prepared by the classical solid phase synthesis led to heterogeneity, due in part to the aggregation and steric hindrance of the growing peptide chains during synthesis. Aggregation of the peptide chain may be a factor in the formation of intra-chain hydrogen bonding by the peptide backbone, causing the formation of beta sheets or other secondary structures. The current multiple peptide conjugates (MPCs) have distinct advantages over prior MAPs because only two adjacent peptide branches are elongated on the solid phase at either the alpha or epsilon amino groups thereby allowing maximum spacing between the resin bound peptide chains. Cysteine is inserted at the respective position in the sequence thus permitting the thiol groups to be used in the formation of stable thioether bonds with haloacetyl peptides coupled through solution chemistry. A modification to the coupling solvent and key amino acid derivatives are used in the sequence to minimize peptide chain aggregation. Furthermore, the elongation of only two peptide chains at the alpha or epilson groups of opposite lysine residues yields a dimeric or base peptide. These modifications of the solid phase methodology for the traditional MAP plus a coupling solvent modification, and the addition of key amino acid derivatives for amide bond protection allow the synthesis of base peptides on the solid phase greater than 7500kDa. These peptides are then reacted with high performance liquid chromatography purified haloacetyl peptides to generate multiple peptide conjugates with molecular masses of 10 to 13 kDa. This invention is described further in Boykins *et al.,* Peptides Jan 2000;21(1):9–17.

III. HIV–1–Tat-Multiple Peptide Conjugate: A Potential Synthetic AIDS Vaccine Candidate

Subhash Dhawan and Robert A. Boykins (FDA)

The present invention is directed to a novel highly immunogenic synthetic multiple peptide conjugate constituting three Tat functional domains. Vaccination of mice with this HIV–1–Tat multiple peptide conjugate induces an effective immune response to three Tat functional domains. Anti-HIV–1–Tat multiple peptide conjugate antibodies efficiently inhibit Tat-induced viral activation in monocytes infected with HIVBa–L as well as with various clinical HIV–1 isolates, and reduce Tat-mediated cytopathicity in infected cells by greater than 75%. The results indicate that anti-HIV–1–Tat multiple peptide conjugate antibodies inhibit viral pathogenesis, possibly by blocking functional determinants of Tat and disrupting autocrine and paracrine actions of secreted Tat protein. This epitope-specific synthetic Tat construct provides a subunit AIDS vaccine for inducing and effective immunoprophylaxis response to reduce progression of HIV infection.

Dated: June 15, 2000.

Jack Spiegel,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Notice of Meetings

Pursuant to Public Law 92–463, notice is hereby given of the following meetings of SAMHSA Special Emphasis Panels I in July, August and September 2000.

A summary of the meetings and a roster of the members may be obtained from: Ms. Coral Sweeney, Review Specialist, SAMHSA, Office of Policy and Program Coordination, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy, and

Review, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 17–89, Rockville, Maryland 20857. Telephone: 301–443–2998.

Substantive program information may be obtained from the individual named as Contact for the meeting listed below.

The meetings will include the review, discussion and evaluation of individual grant applications. These discussions could reveal personal information concerning individuals associated with the applications. Accordingly, these meetings are concerned with matters exempt from mandatory disclosure in Title 5 U.S.C. 552b©(6) and 5 U.S.C. App. 2, § 10(d).

Committee Name: SAMHSA Special Emphasis Panel I (SEP I).

Meeting Date: July 10, 2000.

Place: Bethesda Marriott 5151 Pooks Hill Road Bethesda, MD 20814.

Closed: July 10, 2000.

Panel: Youth Violence Prevention, SM 00–005; Co-Occurring Disorders, TI 00–002; Criminal Justice Diversion Supplement, SM 00–006; Women/Co-Occurring Violence, Phase II, TI 00–003; Children's Sub-Set Study & Coordinating Center, TI 00–006.

Contact: Diane McMenamin, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1789, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Committee Name: SAMHSA Special Emphasis Panel I (SEP I).

Meeting Dates: July 24, 2000.

Place: Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Closed: July 24, 2000.

Panel: Targeted Capacity Expansion, PA 00–001; Practice Research Collaboration, TI 00–004.

Contact: Diane McMenamin, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 17–89, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Committee Name: SAMHSA Special Emphasis Panel I (SEP I).

Meeting Dates: July 31, 2000.

Place: Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Closed: July 31, 2000.

Panel: Family Strengthening, SP 00–002.

Contact: Diane McMenamin, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 17–89, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Committee Name: SAMHSA, Special Emphasis Panel I (SEP I).

Meeting Dates: August 7, 2000.

Place: Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Closed: August 7, 2000.

Panel: Family Strengthening, SP 00–002; Targeted Capacity Expansion/HIV, TI 00–005.

Contact: Diane McMenamin, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 17–89, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Committee Name: SAMHSA Special Emphasis Panel I (SEP I).

Meeting Dates: August 14, 2000.

Place: Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Closed: August 14, 2000.

Panel: Coalitions for Prevention, SM 00–004.

Contact: Diane McMenamin, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 17–89, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Committee Name: SAMHSA Special Emphasis Panel I (SEP I).

Meeting Dates: August 28, 2000.

Place: Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Closed: August 28, 2000.

Panel: HIV Integration Planning, TI 00–008.

Contact: Diane McMenamin, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 17–89, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Committee Name: SAMHSA Special Emphasis Panel I (SEP I).

Meeting Dates: September 18, 2000.

Place: Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Closed: September 18, 2000.

Panel: Conference Grants, PA 98–090.

Contact: Diane McMenamin, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 17–89, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Committee Name: SAMHSA Special Emphasis Panel I (SEP I).

Meeting Dates: July or August, 2000.

Place: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, Room 17–89, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Closed: Entire Meeting.

Panel: Supplement to Aging, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Primary Care Coordinating Center, SM 00–009; Coal Miners, SM 00–008; Minority Fellowships, SM 00–003.

Contact: Diane McMenamin, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 17–89, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Committee Name: SAMHSA Special Emphasis Panel I (SEP I).

Meeting Dates: July or August, 2000.

Place: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, Room 17–89, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Closed: Entire Meeting.

Panel: Chicago Homeless Services Integration, SM 00–010; Florida Children Services, SM 00–007.

Contact: Diane McMenamin, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 17–89, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Committee Name: SAMHSA Special Emphasis Panel I (SEP I)

Meeting Dates: July or August, 2000.

Place: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, Room 17–89, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Closed: Entire Meeting.

Panel: Connecticut Urban Health Initiative, SM 00–012, Violence Prevention Coordinating Center, SM 00–007.

Contact: Diane McMenamin, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 17–89, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Committee Name: SAMHSA Special Emphasis Panel I (SEP I);

Meeting Dates: July or August, 2000.

Place: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, Room 17–89, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Closed: Entire Meeting.

Panel: Four State Consortium Prevention Studies of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, SP 00–003; Co-Occurring and Justice Center, TI 00–007.

Contact: Diane McMenamin, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, Policy and Review, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 17–89, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Dated: June 21, 2000.

Coral Sweeney,

Review Specialist, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

[FR Doc. 00–16256 Filed 6–27–00; 8:45 am]

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