Comments Due Date

Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received on or before June 4, 2001.

Dated: March 19, 2001.

Carol Tippery,

Acting Director, OPERA, NIH.

[FR Doc. 01–8354 Filed 4–4–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Government-Owned Inventions; Availability for Licensing

AGENCY: National Institutes of Heath, 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.

ADDRESSES: Licensing information and copies of the U.S. patent applications listed below may be obtained by contacting Sally Hu, Ph.D., Technology Licensing Specialist, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852–3804; telephone: 301/496–7056 ext. 265; fax: 301/402–0220; e-mail: hus@od.nih.gov. A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement will be required to receive copies of the patent applications.

A Method of Inhibiting Viral Replication Targeting the Nucleocapsid Protein

Robert H. Shoemaker, Robert J. Fisher, and Judy A. Mikovits (NCI) DHHS Reference No. E–276–00/0 filed 05 Feb 2001

This invention concerns novel compounds that inhibit replication of retroviruses, such as HIV. These compounds act in a mechanistically distinct way from any other anti-HIV compound and appear to be relatively non-toxic. The compounds exert anti-HIV activity through inhibition of a key step in the viral replication cycle, specifically, the interaction of the nucleocapsid with nucleic acid. Clinical experience in chemotherapy of patients with AIDS has clearly shown that use of combinations of drugs acting through different mechanisms is essential for control of virus replication. Consequently, these compounds are believed to have the potential to substantially enhance anti-HIV therapy by introduction of agents acting by this novel mechanism.

Method of Preparing a Production Intermediate for HIV Protease Inhibitors

Guangyang Wang, Michael A. Eissenstat, and Tatiana Guerassina (NCI) DHHS Reference No. E–188–00/0 filed 24 Jan 2000

The invention describes a novel process amenable for the large-scale practical synthesis of cis-tetrahydro-furo[2,3-b]furan-3-one. This compound is useful as a key intermediate for the synthesis of highly potent and resistance-repellent HIV protease inhibitors that share a common component called bis-tetrahydrofuran (bis-THF). Specifically, the invention provides a method of preparing these precursors by modification of reaction temperatures, conditions and reagents leading to increased yields and purity of the desired intermediates. Such modifications would be useful in the large-scale preparation of highly potent and resistance-repellent HIV protease inhibitors currently under development as antiviral agents useful in treating AIDS.

Dated: March 29, 2001.

Jack Spiegel,

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

[FR Doc. 01–8374 Filed 4–4–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

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Enhanced Homologous Recombination Mediated by Lambda Recombination Proteins

Drs. E. Lee, N. Copeland, N. Jenkins, and D. Court (NCI)

DHHS Reference No. E–077–01/0 filed 26 Feb 2001

The present invention concerns methods to enhance homologous recombination in bacterial and eukaryotic cells using recombination proteins derived from bacteriophage lambda. It also concerns methods for promoting homologous recombination using other recombination proteins. Concerted use of restriction endonucleases and DNA ligases allows in vitro recombination of DNA sequences. The recombinant DNA generated by restriction and ligation may be amplified in an appropriate microorganism such as *E. coli*, and used for diverse purposes including gene therapy. However, practical limitations imposed by this system generally results in DNA fragments with an upper limit of approximately 20 kilobases. The present invention utilizes homologous recombination instead of restriction enzymes to build DNA constructs. These DNA constructs may be several hundreds of kilobases in size. Using this invention, small linear fragments of DNA (such as a gene of interest) may be inserted efficiently and precisely into very large cloned fragments of DNA. These DNA constructs may be used for a variety of purposes, including generation of transgenic animals in which appropriate tissue specific regulation of gene expression is maintained.

Biologically Active FLAG–Epitope-Tagged Transforming Growth Factor Beta (TGF-beta) Protein

Lawrence A. Wolfraim, John J. Letterio, Kathleen Flanders, Lalage Wakefield, Anita B. Roberts (NCI)