mycobacteria in patient samples in a single day.

Method of Diagnosing Multidrug Resistant Tuberculosis

Clifton E. Barry, III, Andrea E. DeBarber, Khisimuzi Mdluli and Linda-Gail Bekker (NIAID)

DHHS Reference No. E–093–00/0 filed 26 Jun 2000

The invention relates to the discovery that a putative gene of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*MTb*) with no previously identified function is responsible for the ability of the bacteria to activate a class of second line thioamide drugs used for *MTb* infections. The gene, termed ''*etaA*'', codes for the synthesis of a monooxigenase, the enzyme responsible for the oxidative activation of the drugs. Mutation in the *etaA* gene leads to the expression of mutated, inactivated enzyme, thus resulting in thioamide drug-resistant bacteria. The significance of this discovery is that now, resistance to the class of thioamide drugs in clinical isolates can be identified in a relatively short time, eliminating the need to perform lengthy culturing procedures. The invention claims test methods for determining resistance to thioamide drugs by detecting gene mutation. These include (a) amplifying the *etaA* gene or a portion of it containing the mutation, with a set of primers which provide amplified product, and sequencing the amplified product to compare the sequence with a known sequence of the wild-type *etaA*. A difference in sequence patterns indicate mutation, (b) subjecting the amplified gene product to digestion by restriction enzymes and comparing the cleaved DNA gel pattern to the one obtained from digestion of the wild type *etaA* gene. A difference indicates mutation in *etaA*, and (c) detecting the mutations by probe hybridization techniques, where the amplified product hybridizes to a nucleic acid of known sequence under stringent conditions, and the hybridized product is detected. In addition to the above, the invention proposes other detection methods such as commonly used for SNPs. Other methods claimed in the invention are immunoassay (*i.e.* ELISA) for the *etaA* gene product or mutated versions of it, or immunoassay and chemical analysis of the drug metabolites, whereby the absence of the metabolites indicates gene mutation and impaired activating ability.

Dated: August 29, 2000.

Jack Spiegel,

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

[FR Doc. 00–22883 Filed 9–6–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes Health

National Center for Research Resources; 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 the following meeting.

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 552(c)94) 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 Center for Research Resources Initial Review Group, General Clinical Research Centers Review Committee.

Date: October 11–12, 2000.

Open: October 11, 2000, 8 AM to 9:30 AM.

Agenda: To discuss program planning and program accomplishments.

Place: Holiday Inn Bethesda, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Close: October 11, 2000,, 9:30 AM to Adjournment.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Holiday Inn Bethesda, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Contact Person: John L. Meyer, PhD, Deputy Director, Office of Review, National Center for research Resources, National Institutes of Health, One Rockledge Centre, Suite 6018, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Msc 7965, Bethesda, MD 20892–7965, 301–435–0806.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine, 93.306, Clinical Research, 93.333; 93.371, Biomedical Technology; 93.389, Research Infrastructure, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: August 30, 2000.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 00–22872 Filed 9–6–00; 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 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 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 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 Center for Research Resources Special Emphasis Panel Biomedical Research Technology.

Date: October 26, 2000.

Time: 8:00 AM to Adjournment.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Bethesda Holiday Inn, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Contact Person: Rebecca A. Fuldner, PHD, Scientific Review Administrator, Office of Review, National Center for Research Resources, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7965, Room 6018, Bethesda, MD 20892–7965, (301) 435–0809.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine, 93.306; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.333; 93.371, Biomedical Technology; 93.389, Research Infrastructure, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: August 30, 2000.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 00–22873 Filed 9–6–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M