

The present invention provides methods useful for altering cell proliferation by modifying SPATIAL, a gene expressed predominantly in thymus and lymph node, activity in cells. In some methods the thymocyte numbers in subjects with disease-associated immunodeficiencies are increased by administering an agent that inhibits SPATIAL activity. Other methods include but are not limited to increasing thymocyte number in a subject by administering an agent that interferes with an interaction between SPATIAL and Uba3.

Methods for the Treatment of Parkinson's Disease and Other alpha-synucleinopathies

M. Maral Mouradian and Eunsung Junn (NINDS)

U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/444,563 filed 02 Feb 2003 (DHHS Reference No. E-091-2003/0-US-01)

Licensing Contact: Norbert Pontzer; (301) 435-5502,

pontzern@mail.nih.gov

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a neurodegenerative disorder characterized by the loss of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra pars compacta. During the course of the disease, proteinaceous cytoplasmic inclusions known as Lewy bodies appear in the dopaminergic neurons. Several lines of evidence point to a key role for alpha-synuclein, a major constituent of Lewy bodies, in the pathogenesis of these disorders. In particular, the aggregation of this protein is believed to be deleterious to neurons. These inventors have now discovered that transglutaminase 2, also referred to as tissue transglutaminase, catalyzes alpha-synuclein cross-linking in vitro and in cultured cells. Evidence for the activity of this enzyme is also provided within the Lewy bodies in Parkinson's patients. The present invention provides novel methods for the treatment of Parkinson's disease and other alpha-synucleinopathies with inhibitors of transglutaminase, which can inhibit aggregation of alpha-synuclein. Also provided are screening assays for novel inhibitors of transglutaminase that may be used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease and other alpha-synucleinopathies. Further information may be found in Junn *et al.*, PNAS 2003 100(4): 2047-2052.

Dated: February 10, 2004.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

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, Clinical Research.

Date: March 4, 2004.

Time: 8 a.m. to Adjournment.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Double Tree Rockville, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.

Contact Person: Eva Petrakova, PhD, MPH, Scientific Review Administrator, Office of Review, National Center for Research Resources, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Democracy Boulevard, Room 1066, Bethesda, MD 20817-4874, (301) 435-0965, petrakoe@mail.nih.gov.

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

Dated: February 10, 2004.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 04-3520 Filed 2-18-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; 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.

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: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Special Emphasis Panel; Role of Icosanoids in Renal Function.

Date: March 9, 2004.

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Two Democracy Plaza, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Maxine A. Lesniak, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Review Branch, DEA, NIDDK, National Institutes of Health, Room 756, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892-5452, (301) 594-7792, lesniakm@extra.niddk.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Special Emphasis Panel; Mitochondrial Dysfunction: Role in Metabolic Syndrome.

Date: March 22, 2004.

Time: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Two Democracy Plaza, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Paul A. Rushing, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Review Branch, DEA, NIDDK, National Institutes of Health, Room 747, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892-5452, (301) 594-8895, rushingp@extra.niddk.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Special Emphasis Panel; Obesity/Energy Balance.

Date: April 15, 2004.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Bethesda Marriott Suites, 6711 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817.

Contact Person: Paul A. Rushing, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Review Branch, DEA, NIDDK, National Institutes of Health, Room 747, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892-5452, (301) 594-8895, rushingp@extra.niddk.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Special Emphasis Panel; Training Applications.

Date: April 19, 2004.

Time: 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Two Democracy Plaza, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).