

are invited on one or more of the following points: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, contact: Charles MacKay, Chief, Project Clearance Branch, Office of Extramural Research (OER), Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration (OPERA), 6705 Rockledge Drive, Room 1198, Bethesda, MD 20892-7974 or call non-toll-free number (301) 435-0978 or E-mail your request including your address to: MACKAYC@od.nih.gov.

COMMENTS DUE DATE: Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received on or before December 10, 2001.

Dated: September 26, 2001.

Carol Tippery,

Acting Director, OPERA, NIH.

[FR Doc. 01-25169 Filed 10-5-01; 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 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.

ADDRESSES: Licensing information and copies of the U.S. patent applications listed below may be obtained by writing to the indicated licensing contact at the Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852-3804; telephone: 301/496-7057; fax: 301/402-0220. A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement will be required to receive copies of the patent applications.

NEIBANK: Microarray for Human Eye Research

Dr. Graeme J. Wistow (NEI)
DHHS Reference No. E-107-01/0
Licensing Contact: Pradeep Ghosh; 301-496-7736 ext. 211; e-mail: ghoshp@od.nih.gov

Microarrays have wide applications in basic research and are used for the discovery of candidate genes as markers for disease and for therapeutic intervention. "NEIBANK", a new microarray research tool has been developed that allows researchers to compare expression levels of thousands of genes expressed in the eye. The technology comprises of a set of sequenced unamplified and normalized libraries derived from normal human eye tissues using a custom software, GRIST (Grouping and Identification of Sequence Tags). Using this technique, a non-redundant set of over 10,000 cDNA clones, potentially representing unique genes expressed in the human eye has been derived. This integrated technique of sequencing with bioinformatics led to the discovery of new genes and the novel splice forms of known genes. Thus, this technology can be used to examine processes of diseases, aging, normal and abnormal development in post-mortem or surgical eye samples and in cultured cell systems. Areas of particular interest for this array in eye research include, but are not limited to, retinal degeneration, age-related macular degeneration and cataract.

Intercellular Delivery of a Herpes Simplex Virus VP22 Fusion Protein From Cells Infected With Lentiviral Vectors

Dr. Zhennan Lai et al. (NINDS)
DHHS Reference No. E-295-00/0 filed 02 August 2001
Licensing Contact: Marlene Shinn; 301/496-7056 ext. 285; e-mail: shinnm@od.nih.gov

One of the current limitations to the use of gene therapy is the delivery of genes or proteins to a sufficient number of target cells in order to create a

therapeutic response. It has recently been discovered that a series of virus-encoded and other regulatory proteins are able to cross biological membranes, leading to the discovery that the herpes simplex virus 1 tegument protein, VP22, could be used to direct the global delivery of therapeutic proteins intercellularly.

The NIH announces a new lentivirus double gene vector expressing recombinant VP22-fusion protein. The vector contains two separate transgenes driven by two independent promoters. A reporter gene replaced the *nef* region of the HIV-1 genome, and another selectable marker gene was inserted into the *nef* coding region. Both transgenes are simultaneously expressed in non-dividing cells such as neurons. When the gene for VP22-fusion protein is incorporated into the vector, the fusion gene product is delivered to the cytoplasm and nuclei of non-dividing mammalian cells in vitro and in vivo, and from transduced cells to neighboring (non-infected) cells.

Dated: September 28, 2001.

Jack Spiegel,

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

[FR Doc. 01-25170 Filed 10-5-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Human Genome Research Institute; 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 Human Genome Research Institute Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: November 1, 2001.

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.