

multiple clades. Thus, this technology offers promise in developing a globally effective HIV/AIDS vaccine, which must induce both cellular and humoral immunity to multiple strains from the various clades.

This work is described, in part, in Z. Yang *et al.*, *J. Virol.* (April 2004) 78(8): 4029–4036.

Methods for Inhibiting Proinflammatory Cytokine Expression Using Ghrelin

Drs. Vishwa D. Dixit, Dennis D. Taub, Eric Schaffer and Dzung Nguyen (NIA)

U.S. Provisional Patent Application filed 11 May 2004 (DHHS Reference No. E-016-2004/0-US-01)

Licensing Contact: Sally Hu; 301/435-5606; hus@mail.nih.gov.

Ghrelin, a recently described endogenous ligand for growth hormone secretagogue receptors (GHS-R), is produced from stomach serving as a potent circulating orexigen controlling energy expenditure, adiposity and GH secretion. We have discovered that ghrelin exerts anti-inflammatory effects by inhibiting the secretion of both acute and chronic cytokines including IL-1, IL-6, TNF- α , IFN- γ , IL-12 p40, , chemokines, and CSFs *in vitro* in human cells as well as *in vivo* in mouse model of sepsis and inflammation. We also found that ghrelin directly controls human growth hormone and insulin growth factor expression by human immune cells. This invention is useful for treatment of various inflammatory disorders including inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, atherosclerosis, endotoxemia and graft-versus-host disease.

Stem Cell Factor (SCF) Stimulates Neural Stem Cell Migration to Sites of Brain and Spinal Cord Injury

Howard A. Fine *et al.* (NCI)

U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/525,760 filed 26 Nov 2003 (DHHS Reference No. E-035-2004/0-US-01) and U.S. Provisional Application filed 19 Apr 2004 (DHHS Reference No. E-035-2004/1-US-01)

Licensing Contact: Fatima Sayyid; 301/435-4521; ayyidf@mail.nih.gov.

Endogenous neural stem/progenitor cells (NSPCs) have recently been recognized to hold the promise for therapeutics to combat neurodegenerative diseases, such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. Endogenous NSPCs have been shown to generate new functional neurons to replace the nerve cells that have been injured, lost, or destroyed in the

diseases and recover brain functions. Such therapy, however, is limited due to lack of methods to mobilize endogenous NSPCs to the site of injury.

The present invention relates to methods for recruiting large numbers of NSPC to the specific site of neurological injury through local injection of recombinant or genetic vector-derived Stem Cell Factor (SCF). The inventors have identified that SCF secreted by nerve cells in the site of injury leads to migration of endogenous NSPCs to the site of injury and their proliferation to form neurons. The inventors have shown that local injection of recombinant SCF at the site of brain or spinal cord injury induces increased migration of NSPCs to the site of injury. Therefore, this invention could have significant commercial application in the development of therapeutic interventions including cell-based therapies for neurodegenerative diseases.

Dated: June 4, 2004.

Steven M. Ferguson,

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

[FR Doc. 04-13100 Filed 6-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer 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 a meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Cancer Institute. The meeting will be closed to the public as indicated below in accordance with the provisions set forth in section 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended for the review, discussion, and evaluation of individual intramural programs and projects conducted by the National Cancer Institute, including consideration of personal qualifications and performance, and the competence of individual investigators, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Cancer Institute; Subcommittee 2—Basic Sciences.

Date: July 12, 2004.

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate personal qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.

Place: National Institutes of Health; National Cancer Institute; Building 31, Conference Room 6, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate personal qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.

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

Contact Person: Florence E. Farber, PhD, Health Scientific Administrator, Office of the Director, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6116 Executive Boulevard, Room 2115, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-496-7628, ff6p@nih.gov.

Any interested person may file written comments with the committee by forwarding the statement to the Contact Person listed on this notice. The statement should include the name, address, telephone number and when applicable, the business or professional affiliation of the interested person.

In the interest of security, NIH has instituted stringent procedures for entrance into the building by nongovernment employees. Persons without a government I.D. will need to show a photo I.D. and sign-in at the security desk upon entering the building.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.392, Cancer Construction; 93.393, Cancer Cause and Prevention Research; 93.394, Cancer Detection and Diagnosis Research; 93.395, Cancer Treatment Research; 93.396, Cancer Biology Research; 93.397, Cancer Centers Support; 93.398, Cancer Research Manpower; 93.399, Cancer Control, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: June 4, 2004.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 04-13157 Filed 6-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; 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 a meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Cancer Institute.

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