

Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property News

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Recently Issued Patents

University of Kansas Medical Center

New method of producing a bone-inducing agent

Inventor: H.C. Anderson, M.D.

There has been extensive research to find an agent that promotes both bone healing and regeneration. In recent years a number of purified bone-inducing proteins have been isolated using animal tissue culture cells. Dr. Anderson's invention provides a novel method of producing a bone-inducing agent. The technology isolates and purifies essential components required for bone healing using human cells. The invention also provides a method of augmenting bone growth locally, by implanting the bone-inducing agent in the affected area.

This technology should be beneficial to patients healing from bone defects created by surgery or from broken bones with irregular fractures, as well as other areas being studied.

University of Kansas at Lawrence

PC-based system to analyze video signal

Inventor: John Gauch

John Gauch, Associate Professor of electrical engineering and computer science at The University of Kansas, has developed and recently patented a video-watchdog technology called VidWatch. This technology is a PC-based system to analyze video signal to ensure that video signal is free of abnormal distortions and unauthorized insertions. This technology provides around-the-clock, web-based monitoring of broadcast video around the world, and is designed to be used by local television stations that receive video from distributors.

VidWatch has been deployed and successfully field-tested for two years in cooperation with a major, international television network.

University of Kansas Highlighted Start-Up Company

ProQuest Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Formed by a group of pharmaceutical scientists at the University of Kansas, ProQuest is a privately-held, biopharmaceutical company that develops prodrug-based drug-delivery platforms. The Company is a leader in the field of new prodrug chemistries and applications.

The company's lead compound, a novel intravenous anesthetic compound (AQUAVAN™), was licensed in March 2000 to Guilford Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and is currently undergoing Phase I clinical testing. ProQuest conducts prodrug research and preclinical development through contracts with the Center for Drug Delivery Research, the University of Kansas and various independent contract research organizations and research institutes. Founded: 1997. Location: Lawrence, Kansas (KULC)

ProQuest Pharmaceuticals has recently been awarded a Phase I Small Business Innovation Research grant by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health. The grant, entitled "Oral Bioavailability of Cyclic Prodrug RGD Peptides", will support the research of the relative bioavailability and bioconversion of four cyclic prodrugs of RDG-peptidomimetics. The success of this research would enable the development of a new class of orally active antithrombic agents for cardiovascular disease management.

Executive Director's Corner

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation recently formed a partnership with the President's Council, State Universities of Michigan, called the partnership for Economic Progress. The focus of the Partnership is to promote initiatives that boost entrepreneurial activity and technology transfer. In reviewing the best-in-class university activities they identified four areas that could promote economic growth in Michigan. The four areas were: 1). Superior students/faculty, 2). Commercialization activity, 3). Entrepreneurial support, and 4). Entrepreneurial infrastructure. In addition, the Governor's Innovation Forum, a year-long initiative in 1999, examined the relationship between Michigan's universities and industries with the goal of fostering collaboration to the development, attraction, and expansion of new business in the state and the creation of new jobs for Michigan's citizens. Over the last two years, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation has aggressively focused on implementing various recommendations and other initiatives to promote economic growth through strong university business partnerships.

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