

Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property News

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Recently Issued Patents

University of Kansas Medical Center

Method for Inhibiting Angiogenesis and Tumors with the Isolated NC1 α 1 Chain Monomer of Type IV Collagen.

Billy G. Hudson, Ph.D., Michael P. Sarras, Jr., Ph.D.

This invention provides methods and kits in inhibiting angiogenesis, tumor growth and metastasis, and endothelial cell interactions with the extracellular matrix, involving contacting the tumor or animal tissue with at least one isolated type IV collagen NC1 α chain monomer. In a specific embodiment of the invention, the isolated domain of type IV collagen comprises the NC1 (α 1), (α 2), (α 3), or (α 6) chain monomer, or protein constructs having substantially the same structure as the NC1 (α 1), (α 2), (α 3), or (α 6) chain monomer.

University of Kansas Lawrence Campus

Metal complexes immobilized in porous organic hosts

Andrew Borovik, Ph.D., Anjal Sharma, John Krebs

Polymer-metal ion composites and methods are provided for reversibly binding target compounds using such composites. Broadly, the composites comprise an amorphous polymer matrix having a plurality of channels with metal ion-ligand complexes immobilized therein. The composites are formed by polymerizing a polymeric moiety with a metal complex template in the presence of a solvent. The template is formed of a metal ion having a ligand bonded thereto as well as to polymer matrix. The metal ion and ligand are selected to yield a composite having a particular chemical and/or physical environment around the metal sites, depending upon the desired end use. Preferred metal ions include ions of the transition metals. The composites can be contacted with target compounds for reversibly binding the compounds. Exemplary compounds include those selected from the group consisting of oxygen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, compounds having an atom of P, S, or N, and mixtures thereof. The compound can be released from the composites at the desired time and location by heating the compound-containing composite.

New Licenses/Options

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A License was recently negotiated with a local healthcare software company for an invention that relates to an Internet-based timekeeping method. The system more effectively and accurately tracks and records the actual dates and hours worked by graduate medical personnel in hospitals and other organizations associated with medical residency training programs.

Highlighted Start-up Company

University of Kansas Medical Center

BioStratum, Inc., a world leader in drug development based on research of the basal lamina, has closed a \$20 million round of private financing. The private placement includes investors from both the

U.S. and Europe. Institutional investors include: HealthCap (Stockholm, Sweden), MP Bio (Reykjavik, Iceland), Equity Resources Group, Inc., (Cambridge MA), and BankInvest (Copenhagen, Denmark). "The closing of this significant financing is testament to the tremendous progress that BioStratum has made during the course of the last year with its lead drug candidates, Pyridorin™ and Angiocol™, said Dr. Claus Kuhl, President and CEO of BioStratum. "Its strength reflects our inventors' confidence in BioStratum's lead programs and our scientific platform."

BioStratum also announced that it has acquired BioCrine, a biotechnology startup company affiliated with the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, that is focused on the discovery and development of treatments for diabetes.

In addition to acquiring BioCrine, BioStratum plans to use the fund raised in the private financing to "continue to advance Pyridorin™ through clinical trials in patients with diabetic kidney disease; obtain further preclinical evidence of Pyridorin™ efficacy in other complications of diabetes; initiate Phase I trials for Angiocol™ in patients with cancer; fund additional R & D efforts focused on the basal lamina's role in diabetes and cancer, and in other diseases; and conduct preclinical studies of drug candidates identified by BioCrine.

Executive Director's Corner

Xenotech, LLC will soon be moving to their new building, which will make space available in the facility at 3800 Cambridge for other Life Science start-up companies. The Research Institute plans to have the space available for new tenants in late July. Professional business services, which are necessary for growing entrepreneurial companies, will be made available on a fee basis by Kessinger Consulting Associates. These services will include, business plan development, marketing assistance, accounting, strategic planning, capital acquisition, etc.

Business incubation ranks as one of the most important ways to make technology commercialization through new companies work. A Southern Technology Council study noted that nearly half the universities it examined, have a working relationship with an incubator program. Tenants in incubators receive flexible lease space, access to copier and fax machines, conference rooms, telecommunication services, building maintenance, and security and other business support services. More information will be coming soon, for those interested in leasing space in the 3800 Cambridge facility for their Life Science start-up company.

James G. Baxendale, MS, MBA
Executive Director
jbaxenda@kumc.edu

KU Medical Center Campus
Tele: (913) 588-1495
Fax: (913) 588-8214

KU Lawrence Campus
Tele: (785) 864-7783
Fax: (785) 864-5738