Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property News

From the University of Kansas
Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property.

November/December 2002
Vol. 2, Issue 3

New Invention Disclosures

University of Kansas Medical Center

"Therapeutic Reagent and Mechanism for Treating Prostate Cancer "

Benyi Li, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, and Xinbo Liao, MD., Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Urology.

A KUMC Department of Urology faculty has developed two novel technologies targeting prostate cancer. In one invention, the research investigators outline a new mechanism targeting a specific protein kinase for androgen receptor transactivation in prostate cancer cells. The realization of this specific mechanism may lead to a novel therapeutic approach for androgen-independent prostate cancer. Currently, there is no effective treatment for the disease once it progresses to this stage.

With a second separate invention, the researchers detail a new use of an ancient compound for treating prostate cancer. In vitro cell-based assays demonstrate that at moderate doses the compound, an inorganic salt, has shown significant anti-cancer activities in several aspects including cell proliferation, cell cycle arrest, and cell mobility. At higher doses, cell apoptosis occurs. The compound apparently synergizes a well-known apoptotic inducer in prostate cancer cells.

University of Kansas Lawrence Campus

"Synthetic Soft Tissues to make Human Mechanical Analogue Components"

Elizabeth Friis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering and C. Douglas Pence, MD., Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita.

These inventors have developed general concepts for and specific methods of preparing synthetic soft tissues that have quasistatic load-deformation characteristics similar to those of human biological soft tissues. Examples of soft tissues include a synthetic intervertebral disc, a synthetic intervertebral disc with pressure measuring capability, and ligaments and joint capsules. The first application of this technology has been the development of a mechanical analogue of the human lumbar spine segment.

At this time the synthetic soft tissues are not to be used as an implant in the human body. Their purpose is to be the key structures in production of synthetic mechanical analogues of specific joints and body structures. These devices can be used in mechanical testing of the effect of devices on the human body, to aid in implant design, and to test the efficacy of implants in a more realistic model than currently available.

"Financial Reporting and Auditing Agent with Net Knowledge for XBRL (FRAANK-XBRL)"

Rajendra P. Srivastava, Ph.D., Ernst & Young Professor, Miklos Vasarhelyi, Ph.D., KPMG Professor, Rutgers and Alex Kogan, Professor, Ph.D., Rutgers University.

FRAANK-XBRL is intelligent agent software for the accounting and auditing domain. It reads financial reports (e.g., 10K and 10Q) filed with the SEC. This agent can be used to search through the Internet for financial and non-financial information for business decisions, developing risk profiles, and credit worthiness. In general the agent can search for any financial and non-financial information in 10K and 10Q reports of public companies through the Internet.

Information and Telecommunication Technology Center

At the University of Kansas Lawrence campus

The start-up company Veatros, founded in 2002, specializes in software systems that monitor the broadcasts of television commercials. Prof. John Gauch developed the patented digital video processing technology at the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center (ITTC). The company's primary product, VidWatch, enables international broadcasters to detect local commercial insertions by cable operators and gather valuable marketing information.

VidWatch was first licensed to Turner Broadcasting System in 1998, allowing Turner to monitor its broadcasts in Latin America. VidWatch's initial success led to more offers. While it has had success in Latin America, Veatros is expanding to pursue opportunities in Asia. The company has submitted a proposal to a Singapore organization to collect and collate advertising information. It also is developing new products for the U.S. that will provide more extensive marketing information.

Drs. John and Susan Gauch, both associate professors in the electrical engineering and computer science department at the University of Kansas, formed Veatros to market VidWatch and develop related products. Since the product employs advanced technology, the continued involvement of John Gauch, the inventor, is crucial in the early stages of developing the new products.

A special thank you to Michelle Ward, Tim Johnson, and Keith Braman of ITTC, and Jennifer Hsieh and Cynthia Beall for their contribution to this Newsletter.

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