

Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property News

From the University of Kansas
Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property

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Recently Issued Patents

University of Kansas Lawrence Campus

D-Form Polypeptide Which Induces Immune Tolerance, and Methods For Use

Inventors: Iwazo Nozawa, Stephen Benedict, Marcia Chan, Teruna Siahaan, and Scott Tibbetts.

Patent: Notice of Allowance Received

Date: March 27, 2003

The invention relates to polypeptides having D-amino acids which inhibit the binding of leukocyte function associated antigen (LFA-1) and intracellular adhesion molecule (ICAM-1). Many autoimmune diseases occur when T-cells of an organism recognize and react to "self" proteins. This recognition occurs when specific proteins on the surface of the T-cells bind to the corresponding self-proteins. This type of reaction results in such autoimmune disease as rheumatoid arthritis, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, multiple sclerosis, and allograft rejection. The invention is licensed to a Lawrence campus start-up company.

University of Kansas Medical Center

Methods for the Treatment and Prevention of Urinary Stone Disease

Inventors: Paul Voziyan, Billy Hudson, Jon Scheimman

Patent No.: 6,521,645 B2

Date of Patent: February 18, 2003

The invention provides methods and pharmaceutical compositions for treating or inhibiting urinary stone disease. It involves administering to an individual with urinary stone disease or at risk of developing urinary stone disease, an effective amount of pyridoxamine to reduce urinary oxalate concentrations. The invention is under an Option Agreement to an existing KUMC start-up company.

ProQuest Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

A Start-Up Company from the Lawrence Campus

The company has entered into a collaborative research and development agreement with Ricerca Biosciences, LLC to create new drug products by combining ProQuest's proprietary prodrug technologies with the broad-based drug development skills of Ricerca. The collaboration is based on sharing of resources, know-how and intellectual property and initially will focus on developing new prodrug-based anti-infective products.

Frequently Asked Questions

Beginning with the next issue of this newsletter, there will be a recurring section to address questions such as,

How is my technology commercialized?

How do publications affect patentability?

How are inventions rewarded? If you have specific questions for us, we would be happy to address them in the Newsletter.

Executive Director's Corner

On March 10-11, 2003 the Ohio Valley Affiliates for Life Sciences (OVALS) formed by the University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville and Wright State University held a conference entitled, "Life Sciences Without Boundaries, Bridges to Collaboration" in Cincinnati, Ohio. Charles Decedue, Executive Director of the Higuchi Biosciences Center and James Baxendale, Executive Director for the University of Kansas Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property, attended the conference.

The program examined current national trends in the commercialization of university technologies, and how they can be leveraged to stimulate the development of a nationally recognized regional "Knowledge Economy." There were presentations by national speakers on pre-commercialization and networking partnership strategies. Dr. Walter Plosila, of the Battelle Institute, made a presentation entitled "Breaking Down Barriers: Linkages Outside the Academy." Dr. Plosila said there is a need for strategic partnerships, due to the following trends. Technology is becoming more complex, breakthrough knowledge requires research organizational support, younger investigators seek and desire partners outside academe, product lives are becoming shorter and shorter, collaborations are necessary to overcome product obsolescence, and skills of researchers need to be linked to designers and developers.

Some of the characteristics of strong partnerships of Academe and Private/Public partners are: that the relationship is a win/win for all partners; there are mechanisms in place to facilitate relationships across sectors and cultures; and there exists multiple, deep, and reinforcing relationships. The basis of the partnership is not just research--it can be problem solving, knowledge know-how, education and training, and may not necessarily require funding. Four points were proposed as Ohio's Economic Development Strategies:

- Build world-class R&D stature in areas of core competency that are relevant to the existing competitive advantage of Ohio's industry and in which the state's higher education and private research organizations can excel jointly.
- Create an entrepreneurial economy permeating the state's public and private organizations.
- Promote a proactive business climate with incentives conducive to development and applications in advanced manufacturing and technology industries.
- Develop, retain and expand the state's workforce to ensure a sufficient intellectual, entrepreneurial and technical talent base.

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