DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Government-Owned Inventions; Availability for Licensing

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The invention listed below is owned by an agency of the U.S. Government and is available for licensing to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally-funded research and development. Foreign patent applications are filed on selected inventions to extend market coverage for companies and may also be available for licensing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions, or require additional background information about this action, please contact the NIH by email at SciencePolicy@od.nih.gov, or by telephone at 301–496–9838 and reference this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This final action does not allow an investigator at the University of Chicago to transfer chloramphenicol resistance to three different Rickettsia species: Rickettsia typhi, rickettsii, and felis. The investigator also proposed to transfer chloramphenicol resistance to a fourth Rickettsia species, R. conorii. Transfer of chloramphenicol resistance to R. conorii was previously approved by the NIH Director as a Major Action (see 73 FR 32719) and therefore did not need to be reviewed and approved under Section III–A–1–a of the NIH Guidelines. Thus, the University of Chicago investigator was allowed to proceed with the transfer of chloramphenicol resistance to R. conorii under Section III–B–2 of the NIH Guidelines.

The proposal to transfer chloramphenicol resistance to R. typhi, rickettsii, and felis was discussed with a working group of the RAC via a teleconference call on October 22, 2015. The recommendations of this group were presented to and discussed with the RAC at its December 4, 2015, meeting. At the March 8, 2016, meeting, the RAC continued the discussion which included consideration of the one comment received to the December 29, 2015, notice and unanimously recommended (by a vote of 11 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions) that the transfer of chloramphenicol resistance to R. typhi, rickettsii, and felis should not be allowed to proceed. On August 23, 2016, the NIH Director disapproved the proposal to transfer chloramphenicol resistance to R. typhi, rickettsii, and felis.

Dated: January 6, 2017.

Francis S. Collins,
Director, National Institutes of Health.

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Norovirus technology description follows.

Monoclonal Antibodies That Neutralize Norovirus

Description of Technology: Vaccines and therapeutics to prevent and treat Norovirus infections do not exist, despite the worldwide prevalence of Norovirus infections. Outbreaks of human gastroenteritis attributable to Norovirus commonly occur in group setting, such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, dormitories, cruise ships and military barracks. This technology relates to chimpanzee-human chimeric monoclonal antibodies, which specifically bind to Norovirus and have therapeutic potential. The antibodies that were tested in a primate model of infection have shown protection against Norovirus. These Norovirus antibodies may have application as immunoprophylaxis to protect individuals from infections or as a possible treatment for infected individuals, or can be used to develop a diagnostic for detection of norovirus infections.

This technology is available for licensing for commercial development in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR part 404, as well as for further development and evaluation under a research collaboration.

Potential Commercial Applications:

• Therapeutics
• Diagnostics

Competitive Advantages:

• There are currently no vaccines or therapeutics available against Norovirus.

Development Stage:

• In vivo data available (animal)

Inventors: Zhaochun Chen, Robert H. Purcell, Lisbeth Kim Green, Stanislav Solovtsev, Karin Bok (all from NIAID).


Licensing Contact: Dr. Jenish Patel, 240–669–2894; Jenish.Patel@nih.gov.

Collaborative Research Opportunity: The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate or commercialize for development of a therapeutic or a diagnostic for Norovirus infections. For collaboration opportunities, please contact Dr. Jenish Patel, 240–669–2894; Jenish.Patel@nih.gov.

Dated: January 9, 2017.

Suzanne Frisbie,
Deputy Director, Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Office, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

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