developed an overlapping 15-mer peptide library spanning the modified ERVMER34–1 protein sequence. These peptides elicited strong, polyfunctional T cell responses in vitro—including both $CD4^+$ and HLA–A2-restricted $CD8^+$ T cell activation, enabling precise epitope mapping and facilitating future peptide vaccine design and adoptive T cell receptor (TCR)-based therapies.

NIH Reference Number: E–159–2019–0.

Therapeutic Area(s): Oncology/Immunology.

Related Invention: E–056–2023–0.

Potential Commercial Applications:

- Peptide-based therapeutic cancer vaccines.
- Adenoviral vector-based therapeutic cancer vaccines.
- Liposome- or nanoparticle-formulated therapeutic cancer vaccines.
- Artificial Antigen-Presenting Cell platforms expressing ERVMER34–1 with HLA–A2 and CD80 to expand antigen-specific T cells for adoptive cell therapies.
- Adoptive T cell therapies using ERVMER34–1-specific TCRs isolated from PBMCs or engineered T cells redirected against shared HERV antigens.
- Combination immunotherapies pairing the ERVMER34–1 vaccine with checkpoint inhibitors and/or epigenetic modifiers to boost response breadth and tumor infiltration.
- Cytokine or immuno-cytokine-enhanced combination regimens incorporating immune-oncology agents to amplify tumor-specific T cell activation.
- Companion diagnostic tools to identify ERVMER34–1-expressing tumors for patient selection and treatment stratification.

Competitive Advantages:

- Broad tumor coverage across ~62% of carcinomas.
- Minimal expression in normal tissues reduces toxicity risk and expands market potential.
- Engineered antigen design in vaccine eliminates immunosuppressive and off-target domains, improving safety and therapeutic precision.
- Elicits potent, multifunctional T cell responses with cytokine production and broad epitope recognition, enhancing anti-tumor efficacy.
- Selectively clears tumor cells based on ERVMER34–1 expression, enabling precise targeting across variable antigen levels.
- Demonstrates remarkable synergistic efficacy with immune checkpoint inhibitors, achieving ~89% tumor clearance in established large tumors in mouse models.
- Exhibits synergistic interaction with cytokine agonists such as N–803 (Anktiva), significantly enhancing neoepitope-reactive T cell responses and improving tumor control in combination therapies.
- Potential for use in combination with epigenetic modulators to enhance expression of targeted antigen in human carcinomas.

Patent Applications:

- Australia National Stage 2021210915; filed on 2022–08–18; Status: Pending.
- Canada National Stage 3165251; filed on 2022–07–19; Status: Pending.
- European Patent National Stage 21705769.4; filed on 2022–08–18; Status: Pending.
- US National Stage 17/793,753; filed on 2022–07–19; Status: Pending.
- Hong Kong: European patent (EP) 62023070659.5; filed on 2023–03–27; Status: Pending.

Development Stage: Pre-clinical (*in vivo*).

Collaboration Opportunity: Researchers at the NCI seek licensing and/or co-development research collaborations for the clinical translation of novel peptide-based therapeutic cancer vaccines derived from ERVMER34–1, a human endogenous retrovirus (HERV) antigen, offering a unique opportunity to address a significant unmet need in the treatment of various carcinomas.

Publications:

- Maldonado MDM, et al. Combination of a therapeutic cancer vaccine targeting the endogenous retroviral envelope protein ERVMER34–1 with immune-oncology agents facilitates expansion of neoepitope-specific T cells and promotes tumor control (PMID: 40360436).
- Gracia-Hernandez M, et al. Combination Therapy Approaches to Enhance the Efficacy of ERV-Targeting Vaccines in Cancer (PMID: 40387511).

Dated: February 17, 2026.

Richard U. Rodriguez,

Associate Director, Technology Transfer Center, National Cancer Institute.

[FR Doc. 2026–03338 Filed 2–19–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Prospective Grant of an Exclusive Patent License: In Vivo Manufactured Anti-CD19 Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) Products for the Treatment or Prevention of B Cell Mediated Autoimmune Diseases

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, HHS.

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health published a Notice in the **Federal Register** on August 5, 2025. That notice requires a correction in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

DATES: Only written comments and/or applications for a license which are received by the National Cancer Institute's Technology Transfer Center on or before March 9, 2026 will be considered.

ADDRESSES: Inquiries and comments relating to the contemplated Exclusive Patent License should be directed to: Andrew Burke, Ph.D., Senior Technology Transfer Manager, NCI Technology Transfer Center, Telephone: (240)–276–5484; Email: *andy.burke@nih.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Correction

In the **Federal Register** of February 13, 2026, in FR Doc. 2026–02907, on page 6864, as found within the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section. Currently reads:

''The development, production, and commercialization of an anti-CD19 targeting chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-based immunotherapy using a:

1. non-viral synthetic nanoparticle-based system, or
2. viral system (excluding lentiviral)

that encapsulates mRNA or DNA encoding a CAR having the complementary determining region (CDR) sequences of the anti-CD19 scFv known as Hu19, for the treatment or prevention of autoimmune diseases.

And is corrected to read:

''The development, production, and commercialization of an anti-CD19 targeting chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-based immunotherapy using a:

3. non-viral synthetic nanoparticle-based system, or
4. viral system

that encapsulates mRNA or DNA encoding a CAR having the complementary determining region

(CDR) sequences of the anti-CD19 scFv known as Hu19, for the treatment or prevention of autoimmune diseases.

Alycia Booth,

NIH Federal Register Certifying Official, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 2026–03337 Filed 2–19–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center For Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Cancer Therapeutics and Drug Development.

Date: March 23–24, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Lilia Topol, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 6192, MSC 7804, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–451–0131, *ltopol@mail.nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Oncology 2—Translational Clinical Integrated Review Group; Cellular Immunotherapy of Cancer Study Section.

Date: March 24, 2026.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Shahana Majid, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 867–5309, *shahana.majid@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Bioengineering Sciences & Technologies Integrated Review Group; Biomaterials and Biointerfaces Study Section.

Date: March 24, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Jennifer Fiori O'Connell, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (410) 454–8478, *jennifer.oconnell@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Neuroscience Integrated Review Group; Molecular and Cellular Neuropharmacology Study Section.

Date: March 24–25, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Beata Buzas, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 443–0800, *bbuzas@mail.nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Fellowships: Infectious Diseases and Immunology C.

Date: March 24–25, 2026.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Melinda H. Krick, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Dr., Room 808G, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435–1199, *krickmh@csr.nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; RFA–AI–25–018: Mucosal Immunology Studies Team (MIST) (U01).

Date: March 24, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Marilyn Moore-Hoon, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Dr., Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594–9295, *mooremar@mail.nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Fellowships: Sensory and Motor Neurosciences, Cognition and Perception.

Date: March 24–25, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Melanie Marie Pina, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, The Center for Scientific Review, The National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594–0718, *melanie.pina@nih.gov*.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393–93.396, 93.837–93.844, 93.846–93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: February 17, 2026.

Sterlyn H. Gibson,

Program Specialist, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026–03336 Filed 2–19–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS–R4–ES–2025–1596; FXES11140400000–267–FF04AL4000]

General Conservation Plan for the Alabama Beach Mouse; Categorical Exclusion; Baldwin County, AL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comment.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Lisa Eldredge, two from Sean and Dawn Carmichael, and one from Joseph and Sherrie Thompson (applicant/applicants) for four separate incidental take permits (ITP) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the National Environmental Policy Act under the Service's approved General Conservation Plan (GCP) and final environmental impact statement for the Alabama beach mouse. A GCP is a conservation plan under the ESA that enables the programmatic permitting and conservation process to address a defined suite of proposed activities over a defined planning area. Each applicant requests an ITP to take the federally listed Alabama beach mouse incidental to the construction of a single-family home or to the addition of a deck or pool to a single-family home in Baldwin County, Alabama. We request public comment on these applications, which include each applicant's proposed habitat conservation plan, as well as on the Service's preliminary determination that the proposed permitting actions