

consensus as to the minimum number of cells required to have an estrogen and/or progesterone receptor for determination of hormone-dependent cancer, and required biopsy. The present invention seeks to overcome such disadvantages by providing a more accurate assay for the hormone dependency or independency of breast cancer which does not require biopsy.

The determination of whether a breast cancer is hormone-dependent or hormone-independent has meaningful implications for the selection of treatment strategy and the prognosis of the disease. For example, if the breast cancer is hormone-dependent, the treatment may include hormone therapy involving administration of anti-estrogen drugs, the destruction of ovary function, or the removal of the ovaries. In the case of hormone-independence the absence of estrogen receptors in the primary tumor indicates a higher rate of recurrence and a shorter survival rate. In this instance the treatment will likely include the administration of chemotherapeutic drugs.

#### Technology

This invention provides a method of diagnosing cancer in a patient. The method involves assaying a sample of serum or other body fluids from the patient for the presence of ECPKA. An elevated level of ECPKA in the sample compared to the level in a control sample is indicative of cancer in the patient. The invention also includes a method of assaying a sample of serum or other body fluids from the patient for the presence of ECPKA in which (i) A reduction in the level of ECPKA in the sample as compared to the level in an earlier sample from the patient indicates an improvement in the patient's prognosis, (ii) no change in the level of ECPKA in the sample as compared to the level of ECPKA in an earlier sample from the patient, indicates no change in the patient's condition, or (iii) an increase in the level of ECPKA in the sample as compared to the level in an earlier sample from the patient, indicating a worsening of the patient's condition. As alluded to above, the invention also involves a method of determining whether a diagnosed breast cancer is hormone-dependent or hormone-independent. This method involves assaying a serum or other body fluid sample from the patient for the presence of ECPKA versus a control sample. An elevated level of ECPKA indicates that the breast cancer is hormone-dependent. Finally, the invention provides a method for the

treatment of cancer. This method involves reducing the level of ECPKA by delivering the RII $\beta$  subunit of PKA-II to target cancer cells to down-regulate the expression of ECPKA and inhibit cancer cell growth.

The above mentioned Invention is available, including any available foreign intellectual property rights, for licensing.

Dated: November 15, 1999.

**Jack Spiegel,**

*Director, Division of Technology Development & Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Notice of Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Director, NIH

Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of the meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Director, NIH, December 2, 1999, Conference Room 10, Building 31, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.

The entire meeting will be open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to adjournment. The topics proposed for discussion include but are not limited to (1) a Report on the Burden of Illness Workshop; (2) a Preliminary Report of the Government Performance and Results Act Review Group; (3) an Update on Stem Cell Research; and (4) a Report from the Panel on Scientific Boundaries for Review. Attendance by the public will be limited to space available.

Ms. Janice Ramsden, Special Assistant to the Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health, 1 Center Drive MSC 0159, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-0159, telephone (301) 496-0959, fax (301) 496-7451, will furnish the meeting agenda, roster of committee members, and available substantive program information upon request. Any individual who requires special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Ms. Ramsden no later than November 29, 1999.

Dated: November 12, 1999.

**Anna Snouffer,**

*Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy, NIH.*

[FR Doc. 99-30337 Filed 11-19-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Cancer Institute; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

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 the 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:* National Cancer Institute Initial Review Group, Subcommittee A—Cancer Centers.

*Date:* December 2-3, 1999.

*Time:* 7 pm to 4 pm.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Chevy Chase Holiday Inn, 5520 Wisconsin Ave, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

*Contact Person:* David E. Maslow, Scientific Review Administrator, Grants Review Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6130 Executive Boulevard—EPA 643A, Bethesda, MD 20892-7405, 301/496-2330.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.392, Cancer Construction; 93.393, Cancer Cause and Prevention Research; 93.394, Cancer Detection and Diagnosis Research; 93.395, Cancer Treatment Research; 93.396, Cancer Biology Research; 93.397, Cancer Centers Support; 93.398, Cancer Research Manpower; 93.399, Cancer Control, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: November 12, 1999.

**Anna Snouffer,**

*Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

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