

Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852-3804; telephone: 301/496-7057; fax: 301/402-0220. A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement will be required to receive copies of the patent applications.

Knockout of Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor (AhR) and Its Binding Partner Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Nuclear Translocator (Arnt) Each in Separate Mouse Models

Description of Technology: The technology relates to two separate knockout mouse models of related transcription factors that bind each other. The aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR) and the aryl hydrocarbon receptor nuclear translocator (Arnt) protein are transcription factors that play an important role in mediating the effects of man-made environmental toxins. They also play a role in mammalian development and physiological homeostasis. Members of the PAS domain/bHLH family of transcription factors, they are obligate dimerization partners with each other and other members of this family, such as hypoxia-inducible factor 1alpha (HIF1alpha). These transcription factors have been shown to be important in a number of specific tissues including ovary, vascular endothelium, keratinocytes, T-cells, and liver.

Available for licensing is a knockout mouse line in which the AhR receptor has been knocked-out, and a mouse line containing a floxed allele of the Arnt gene. The Arnt mouse line can be used to disrupt the Arnt gene in different tissues by breeding the Arnt-floxed mice with transgenic mice in which the Cre recombinase is under the control of tissue-specific promoters. These mice may be used as a research tool for drug development where PAS/bHLH transcription factors are targeted.

Applications:

- Tool for drug studies targeting PAS/bHLH transcription factors.
- Tool to probe the role of the Arnt protein in a tissue-specific manner.

Inventors: Frank J. Gonzalez and Pedro M. Fernandez-Salguero (NCI).

Related Publications:

1. S Tomita, CJ Sinal, SH Yim, and FJ Gonzalez. Conditional disruption of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor nuclear translocator (Arnt) gene leads to loss of target gene induction by the aryl hydrocarbon receptor and hypoxia-inducible factor 1alpha. *Mol Endocrinol.* 2000 Oct;14(10):1674-1681.
2. SH Yim, Y Shah, S Tomita, HD Morris, O Gavrilova, G Lambert, JM Ward, and FJ Gonzalez. Disruption of

the Arnt gene in endothelial cells causes hepatic vascular defects and partial embryonic lethality in mice. *Hepatology.* 2006 Sep;44(3):550-560.

3. P Fernandez-Salguero *et al.*

Immune system impairment and hepatic fibrosis in mice lacking the dioxin-binding Ah receptor. *Science* 1995 May 5;268(5211):722-726.

Patent Status: HHS Reference Nos. E-046-2009/0 and E-047-2007/0—Research Tools. Patent protection is not being pursued for these technologies.

Licensing Status: This technology is available as a research tool under a Biological Materials License.

Licensing Contact: Steve Standley, Ph.D.; 301-435-4074; ssstand@mail.nih.gov.

Collaborative Research Opportunity: The National Cancer Institute, Laboratory of Metabolism, Center for Cancer Research, is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, or commercialize this technology. Please contact John D. Hewes, Ph.D. at 301-435-3121 or hewesj@mail.nih.gov for more information.

Recombineering Vector

Description of Technology: Transgenic mouse models have become a common experimental tool for unraveling gene function. Bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) mediated transgenesis has proven to be a highly reliable way to obtain accurate transgene expression for *in vivo* studies of gene expression and function. A rate-limiting step in characterizing large numbers of genes by this approach has been the speed and ease by which BACs can be modified. NIH investigators have developed a highly efficient recombineering vector that can be used for modifying BACs in bacteria. This new vector contains tetracycline and chloramphenicol resistance as well as the *ccdB* gene that encodes a protein that interferes with *E. coli* DNA gyrase. This vector can be propagated in *ccdB* resistant *E. coli* strains but not in other strains (DH5a, Top10, DH10B, etc.) unless the *ccdB* is replaced by DNA inserts flanked by attB1 and attB2 sites. This vector was generated to modify BAC plasmids by RecA-mediated recombination.

The vector disclosed here bypasses the rate-limiting step in recombineering protocols; the efficient cloning of a modifying vector. It is well suited for efficient production of engineered BACs for use in a variety of *in vivo* studies.

Applications:

- The fusion of fluorescent protein or cre recombinase genes to a gene of interest.

- Generation of dominant negative mutations.

- Introduction of gene mutations that would mimic disease conditions.

- Insertion of lox sites for conditional deletion of transgenes.

- Generation of knock-out or knock-in constructs.

Inventors: Rafael C. Casellas and Susan E. Lim (NIAMS).

Patent Status: HHS Reference No. E-026-2009/0—Research Material. Patent protection is not being pursued for this technology.

Licensing Status: Available for Biological Material Licensing.

Licensing Contact: Suryanarayana (Sury) Vepa, Ph.D., J.D.; 301-435-5020; vepas@mail.nih.gov.

Collaborative Research Opportunity: The NIAMS/NIH Genomics and Immunity group is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, or commercialize the engineering of mouse transgenic constructs using the new vector and BAC recombineering. Please contact Rafael Casellas, Ph.D. at 301-402-7858 or e-mail to casellar@mail.nih.gov for more information.

Dated: December 22, 2008.

Richard U. Rodriguez,

Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. E8-31239 Filed 12-31-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID FEMA-2008-0017]

Voluntary Private Sector Accreditation and Certification Preparedness Program

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Public meeting notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the date, time, location, and discussion topics for a stakeholder meeting open to the public to engage in dialogue with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) leadership and program managers regarding the Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation and Certification Program (PS-Prep).

DATES: Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW., Washington, DC 20062.

Instructions: Any stakeholder or member of the public who wishes to attend the public meeting or make a presentation is requested to provide his or her name and contact details, to include e-mail address and telephone number, no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Friday, January 9, 2009 via e-mail to the PS-Prep Program at privatesectorpreparedness@hsi.dhs.gov, or via telephone at (703) 416-8407. Everyone who plans to attend the meeting is respectfully requested to be present and seated by 8:45 a.m. Persons with disabilities who require special assistance should indicate this in their admittance request and are encouraged to identify anticipated special needs as early as possible. Although every effort will be made to accommodate all members of the public, seating is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Donald Grant, Incident Management Systems Integration Division, National Preparedness Directorate, National Integration Center, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472. Phone: 202-646-3850 or e-mail: FEMA-NIMS@dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 24, 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), published a notice "Voluntary Private Sector Accreditation and Certification Preparedness Program," announcing PS-PREP, a DHS

program established under the authority of Title IX of the 9/11 Recommendations Act, Public Law 110-53, 121 Stat. 266, 338 (Aug. 3, 2007) (9/11 Recommendations Act). See 73 FR 79140; also available at <http://www.regulations.gov/search/index.jsp>. As discussed in the notice, DHS is developing PS-PREP to raise the level of private sector preparedness through a number of means, including: (i) Establishing a system for DHS to adopt private sector preparedness standards; (ii) encouraging creation of those standards; (iii) developing a method for a private sector entity to obtain a certification of conformity with a particular DHS-adopted private sector standard, and encouraging such certification; and (iv) making preparedness standards adopted by DHS more widely available.

The December 24 notice seeks recommendations from private sector stakeholders and the public at large regarding the private sector standards that DHS should adopt, both initially and over time. 73 FR at 79142. The December 24 notice also states that DHS intends to hold two public meetings in Washington, DC to provide a forum for public comment. 73 FR at 79145.

This notice announces the first of those meetings. FEMA is hosting a public meeting to discuss issues of interest pertaining to the PS-Prep Program. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an open forum for additional comment and dialogue with DHS on the PS-Prep Program. Individuals desiring to participate will have the opportunity to make a brief, formal or informal, presentation of not more than 10 minutes and then, if desired, engage in a questions and answers session with

DHS staff responsible for implementing the PS-Prep Program. The specific issues to be discussed at this meeting will follow the information requested in the December 24 notice: Adoption of private sector preparedness standards; comments regarding a maturity model process improvement approach; small business participation and concerns; comments regarding the business case; and comments regarding the accreditation process and certification process.

Public attendance is encouraged. This will assist with the preparation of meeting materials and seating arrangements.

Dennis R. Schrader,

Deputy Administrator, National Preparedness Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

[FR Doc. E8-31155 Filed 12-31-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Notice of Revocation of Customs Broker License

AGENCY: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 641 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, (19 U.S.C. 1641) and the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 111.51), the following Customs broker license is canceled with prejudice.

| Name | License No. | Issuing port |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Miguel A. Delgado | 11634 | Miami. |

Dated: December 22, 2008.

Daniel Baldwin,

Assistant Commissioner, Office of International Trade.

[FR Doc. E8-31230 Filed 12-31-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111-14-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-040-07-5101-ER-F164; N-82076; 8-08807; TAS: 14X5017]

Notice of Availability of the Ely Energy Center Draft Environmental Impact Statement, White Pine County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, the

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for rights-of-way applications for the Ely Energy Center (EEC), a coal-fired electricity generating power plant and associated facilities north of Ely, Nevada, in White Pine County.

DATES: Written comments on the EEC Draft EIS must be received by the BLM within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Public meetings will be held in Las Vegas, Ely, Elko and Reno, Nevada. The date, time, and