GENOTOXICITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MUTAGEN SOCIETY



EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2000

SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL Research Triangle Park, NC

2000 Board of Directors

President

Tom Hughes US EPA MD 68 RTP, NC 27711 Tel: S41-7644 hughes.thomas@epa.gov

Secretary

Lance Brooks US EPA MD 68 RTP, NC 27711 Tel: 541-1365 brooks.lance@epa.gov

President-Elect

Michael Cunningham NIEHS PO Box 12233 RTP, NC 27709 Tel: 541-3799 cunning1@niehs.nih.gov

Treasurer

Stephen Little US EPA MD 68 RTP, NC 27711 Tel: 541-0963 *little.stephen@epa.gov*

1997-2000

Heinrich Malling NIEHS PO Box 12233 RTP, NC 27709 Tel: 541-3378 malling@niehs.nih.gov

Julian Preston US EPA MD 68 RTP, NC 27711 Tel: 541-0276 preston.julian@epa.gov

Lori Phillips Becton Dickinson & Co Research Center 21 Davis Drive. PO Box 12016 RTP, NC 27709-2106 Tel: 313-6368 Lori phillipsl@BD.com

Jeff Ross US EPA MD 68 RTP, NC 27711 Tel: 541-2974 ross.jeffrey@epa.gov

1998-2001 Jim Fuscoe US EPA

US EPA MD 68 RTP, NC 27711 Tel: 541-3918 fuscoe.jim@epa.gov

Leon King US EPA MD 68 RTP NC 27711 Tel: 541-0720 king.leon@epa.gov

Kristine Witt ILS, Inc. PO Box 13501 RTP, NC 27709 Tel: 541-2761 witt@niehs.nih.gov 1999-2002 Carl Blackman US EPA MD 68 RTP, NC 27711 Tel: 541-2543 blackman.carl@epa.gov

Mark Miller WFU School of Medicine Dept. Of Cancer Biology Winston-Salem, NC 27158 Tel: (336) 716-0795 msmille@bgsm.edu

Karen Yeowell-O'Connell UNC-CH Dept. of Envir. Sci. & Eng.. CB7400 Chapel Hill, NC 27599 Tel: 966-7319 kyo@unc.edu

GEMS FALL MEETING

Genetically Modified Food: Benefits & Risks to Human & Environmental Health

8:00-8:45	Registration & Breakfast
8:45-9:00	Welcome, Mr. Thomas Hughes, GEMS President Introduction, Dr. Michael Cunningham, GEMS President-Elect
9:00-9:45	Dr. Fred Gould, NCSU Safety of Conventional and Genetically Engineered Crops
9:45-10:30	Dr. Scott Uknes, Paradigm Genetics Past, Present, and Future of Genetically Enhanced Products
10:30-12:00	Exhibits, Posters, Coffee
12:00-1:00	Served Luncheon
1:00-1:30	Annual Business Meeting
1:30-2:15	Dr. Matthew Lorence, Applied Biosystems Detection and Quantitation Methods for GMO Regulatory Sequences in Processed Foods
2:15-3:00	Studenttalks
3:00-3:15	Break
3:15-4:15	Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Awards to Dr. Errol Zeiger & Dr. Michael Waters
4:15-4 :30	Awards for Best Talk and Posters
4 :30-5:30	Reception

Genotoxicity and Environmental Mutagen Society

PO. Box 13475, Researr:h Triangle Park, North Carolina 17709

October 25, 2000

Dear GEMS Members,

Thank you for electing me as your President-Elect and President two years ago. It has been very exciting and interesting to be an officer for the Society, and I have greatly enjoyed my tenure. I also forget how much work it was to be on Board of Directors (BOD)! The GEMS has always been blessed with smart, hard-working scientists who are also great fun to be around. The last two years have been no exception. I encourage you to tell the next President-Elect, Amal Abu-Shakra, that you arc interested in being nominated for the next election in the summer of 2001. GEMS will elect thre new Councilors, a Treasurer, Secretary and President-Elect at that time.

I am rotating off as President at this meeting on October 25, 2000. Three Councilors will also be leaving: Heinrich Malling, Julian Preston and Jeff Ross. I am very grateful for their service to the Society. The three new Councilors, who will be installed today arc: Lois Barnett, Marie Vasquez and Keith Martin. Thank you to all those that ran and did not win. I was blessed with a great BOD this past year. Lance Brooks and Stephen Little both did excellent jobs as Sccretary and Treasurer, in addition to sending out the Newsletter every quarter. Mike Cunningham, as President-Elect, organized two exceptional meetings. The 2000 Spring Meeting on gene expression at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill had a record attendance of 200 scientists. I am sure the Fall Meeting today on genetically modified foods will also be highly successful. I thank Jim Fuscoc and Lance Brooks for their assistance with the nominations and ballot counting. Leon King continues to do a great job as Newsletter Editor. Jeff Ross is a wizard as Membership Coordinator. Tasha Smith, a GEMS best talk winner last year and a graduate student at Wake Forest University, was very helpful as a student advisor to the BOD this year. Her professor, Mark Miller, should be very proud of her.

I especially thank Kristine Witt for her help with the awards and taking minutes at the BOD meetings in the absence of Lance Brooks. Beth George organized and published the abstract book. and Lori Phillips single-handedly functioned as Corporate Coordination. Lori and Beth are not even on the BOD, yet they volunteered their time for these very important jobs. Frank Stack, another former BOD member, keeps our web site up-to date with the latest meeting information (<u>http://www.ncncighbors.com/312</u>). Frank also sends this information to EMS, for which I am eternally grateful. Kristine Witt, Carl Blackman and Karen Yeowell-O'Connell were instrumental in several intense discussions that the BOD had this year. These are the people that arc running your society. They have worked very hard for no pay. When you sec them, thank them. They have all done excellent jobs!

The Society is presently investigating new directions for future meetings. These directions will include broad scientific fields and research areas such as oxidative damage, endrocrinc disruptors and DNA repair. Please voice your ideas to any Board Member. The Board sees these new directions as one of the best ways to inform our membership of new and exciting research areas and a great way to attract new members. Please invite a friend to the next GEMS Spring Meeting in 2001.

In closing ,congratulations are in order to Dr. Michael Waters and Dr. Errol Zeiger; both will receive GEMS' Lifetime Scientific Achievement Awards at today's meeting. I enjoyed organizing last year's Spring Meeting on regulatory toxicology, and last year's Fall meeting on new trends in genetic toxicology. Last September, I left the laboratory after thirty years to work as a QA Manager at the U.S. EPA, so this was my last hurrah in genetic toxicology! Thank you again for allowing me to serve the GEMS. Please enjoy this great Fall Meeting organized by Mike Cunningham on genetically modified foods.

Sincerely,

tlrrn...

Thomas J. Hughes GEMS President

2000 Corporate Sponsors

ATLANTIC TECHNOLOGY GROUP, 1906 North Hamilton Street, Suite G, Richmond, VA 23230. Representatives: Dave Jenkins (804-340-0223) and Bill Ginsler (1-800-359-5153 ext.4,ginsleratg@aol.com). Laboratory equipment including filtration products, C02 incubators, centrifuges, peristaltic pumps, homogenizers, refrigerators, -20C to -85C freezers, Ultrapure water systems, ovens, glassware washers, cage washers, sterilizers, and lab planning.

BARNSTEAD THERMOLYNE, 2555 Kerper Blvd, Dubuque, IA 52004. Representative: Eric Chapman (1-800-446-6060 ext. 231). Laboratory equipment such as water systems, sterilizers, shakers, and autoclaves (a branch of Sybron International).

BECTON DICKINSON, 1604 Claiborne Court, Raleigh, NC 27606. Representative: Todd Lewis (919-851-2125). Supplying a wide array of medical device products and laboratory systems in the worldwide health care and diagnostic fields, which include disposable syringes and accessory materials for diabetic health care, hospital and home health care products, research and clinical laboratory media and labware, and equipment and reagents for both rapid assay and clinical laboratory assessments (flow cytometry).

BIO-RAD LABORATORIES, 129 Felspar Way, Raleigh,NC 27606. Representative: Rick Estes (1-800-876-3425 ext. 1580, 919-387-8911, richard_estes@bio-rad.com). Life science research products including electrophoresis apparatus, imaging instruments, chromatography instruments and columns.

CLONTECH LABORATORIES, INC., 1020 Eat Meadow Circle, Palto Alto, CA 94303-4230. Representative : Jason Offenbaker (1-800-662-2566 ext. 7795, 919-490-8912, joffenbaker@clontech .com). Green fluorescent protein reporter; Atlas gene expression arrays; Matchmaker 1, 2, and 3 protein hybrid interaction system; DNA libraries; cDNA cloning and analysis; Advantage PCR systems.

BIO-RAD LABORATORIES, 129 Felspar Way, Raleigh, NC 27606. Representatives: Rick Estes (1-800-876-3425 ext. 1580, 919-387-8911) and Tom Sanchez. richard_estes@bio-rad.com. Life science research products including electrophoresis apparatus, imaging instruments, chromatography instruments and columns.

BULBTRONICS, INC., 45 Banfi Plaza, Farmingdale, NY 11735. Representatives: Barbara Kaplan (1-800-654-8542 ext. 483, bk@bulbtronics.com) and Clarice Florence (ext. 422). Easy and hard to find replacement lamps, original or equivalent, for all scientific instrumentation and equipment, including microscope, visible, PIO, deuterium, hollow cathode, projection, short arc mercury, short arc zenon, UV/IR, and NIR lamps.

CORNING SCIENCE PRODUCTS, 2100 Cannonford Court, Apex, NC 27502. Representatives : Jonni Pinney (919-363-6478) and Jay Campbell. Manufactures Corning and Costar brands of disposable research glass and plasticware. CONTINENTAL LAB PRODUCTS, 1223 Oakcrest Green Court, Morrisville, NC 27560. Representative: Fran Miller (1-888-456-7741 ext. 185, fran.miller@mindspring.com). Manufacturer of many product lines as well as the exclusive U.S. Hybaid dealer. Our new Hybaid product line includes thermal cyclers, hybridization ovens, electroporation units, a full line of accessories for all equipment, enzymes, and RT-PCR kits. Other lab products include tips, tubes, gloves, pipettors, agarose, buffers, electrophores is units, and bench top equipment.

COVANCE LABORATORIES, INC., 9200 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22182. Representatives : Brian Myhr (703-893-5400 ext. 5329, brian.myhr@covance.com) and Steve Haworth. Services in genetic and animal toxicology testing and research under GLP guidelines.

GLAXO WELLCOME, INC., P. 0. Box 13398, 5 Moore Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. Representative: Neal Cariello (919-483-6782) and Jim Campbell. Pharmaceutical research and development.

GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC SOURCE, 8460 K Tyco Road, Vienna, VA 22182. Representative: Kelly Freeman (1-800-248-8030). Supplier to government agencies.

GREINER AMERICA, NC., P.O. Box 953279, Lake Mary, FL 32795-3279. Representatives : Ed Kreh! (919-462-6668). High purity laboratory plastics and labware for cell culture, diagnostics, and research.

INTEGRATED LABORATORY SYSTEMS, INC., P.O. Box 13501, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. Representatives: Raymond Tice (919-544-4589 ext. 223, rtice@ilsinc.com) and Marie Vasquez. Provides high quality toxicology and environmental research and testing services to the public and private sector.

LABREPCO, 2814 Kentshire Place, Apex, NC 27502. Representative: Carrie Kanaby (1-800-521-0754 ext. 72) and Chris Kanaby (ext. 68); cskanaby@aol.com. Full spectrum of research equipment and instrumentation, including CO₂ incubators, refrigerators, freezers, cryogenic systems, centrifuges, and thermal cyclers.

MOLECULAR TOXICOLOGY, INC., 157 Industrial Park, Boone, NC 28607. Representatives : Ray Cameron (1-800-536-7232, rcameron@moltox.com) and John Rundell. Manufacturer of quality products for genetic toxicology, including minimalglucose agars, specialty custom media, S-9, and allied materials.

PGC SCIENTIFIC CORPORATION, 7311 Governors Way, Fredericks, MD 21704. Representa tiv e : Eric Goldman (1- 800- 692 - 5566 ex t. 3211 , Eric.Goldman@pgcscientifics.com)and Colleen Collins. Full line distributor for Gene Choice Molecular products, laboratory equipment, and plastics.

R.J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO., 95 West 32nct Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27105. Representatives : David J. Doolittle (336-741-5762, doolitd@rjrt.com) and Betsy Reed Bombick.

SARSTEDT, P.O. Box 468, Newton, NC 28658-0468. Representative: David Colvin (1-800-257-5101). Product line includes tissue culture products, microtubes and racks, centrifuge tubes, storage boxes, pipettes, cuvettes, and a wide variety of clinical disposables and instruments.

SYNTOX, 97H Monocacy Boulevard, Frederick, MD 21701. Representatives: Gina McJonathan and Hara Charlier (301-662-6835, info@microbiology-intl.com). Automation for molecular and microbiology laboratories including colony counters, UDS slide reading systems, GeneGenius gel documentation system, and media sterilization and plate pouring instruments (a division of K & R Technologies).

TREVIGEN, 8405 Helgerman Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Representative: Mike Elliott (1-800-873-8443). Focused in the areas of DNA damage and repair andprogrammed cell death. Develops, manufactures and markets research products ona worldwide basis. Current product offerings include DNA repair enzymes and substrates, antibodies to DNA damage, Comet assay kits and reagents, and acomplete product line for the detection of apoptosis. Please see our web site at www.trevigen.com.

USA/SCIENTIFIC PLASTICS, INC., P.O. Box 3565, Ocala, FL 34478. Representatives: Brian Churchwell (1-800-872-3847 ext. 522), Howie Epstein, and Tara Stimaker. Precision disposable plastics, USA pipettors, Aeroseal Advantage filter pipe! tips, microcentrifuges, thin walled micro reaction tubes, radiation safety products, products for electrophoresis, storage and inventory systems.

TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

GEMS and the Board of Directors gratefully acknowledge and appreciate your continued support! You, the corporate members, are the backbone of our Society not only with necessary financial support but with vital technical information and equipment. We, the members, reiterate our thanks to the corporate sponsors for your substantial support of the Society.

Thank you!

*T1 AMINO ACID SUBSTITUTION VARIANTS OF DNA REPAIR GENES AND PROSTATE CANCER SUSCEPTIBILITY. K. Lockett¹, M. C. Hall¹, F. M. Torti¹, D. L. McCullpugh1, S. D. Cramer1, H. W. Mohrenweiser2, J. Anderson¹₂ T. R. Smith1, K. and J. J. Hu · WFUSOM, Winston-Salem, NC 27157 and LLNL, Livermore, CA 94550.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men. While human cancer genetics are advancing at a rapid pace, the etiology of prostate cancer is not fully understood. It is well established that mammalian cells are constantly exposed to a wide variety of genotoxic agents from both endogenous and exogenous sources; effective and accurate DNA repair mechanisms are necessary to maintain human genome integrity. Furthermore, the data on mutations of androgen receptor gene and p53 gene and the high frequency of chromosomal aberrations in human prostate tumor tissue suggest that DNA damage/repair plays a critical role in human prostate carcinogenesis. We conducted a molecular epidemiology study (190 prostate cancer cases, 253 high-risk controls, and 80 disease-free controls) to evaluate the association between prostate cancer risk and five amino acid substitution variants of DNA repair genes: XPD (Lyn751Gin) for nucleotide excision repair, XRCC3 (Thr241Met) for double-strand break repair and recombination repair, and XRCC1 (Arg194Trp and Arg399Gln) and APE (Asp148Glu) for base excision repair. Our data suggest that the variant allele of XRCC3 (241Met) and XRCC1 (399GIn) may be associated with prostate cancer risk. Subjects with XRCC3 241Met/Met or XRCC1 399 Gin/Gin genotype have elevated risk for prostate cancer with odds ratio (0R)=1.63 (95% confidence interval [CI]=0.62-4.36) and OR=1.88 (95%Cl=0.54-7.15), respectively. Inaddition, the variant allele of APE (148Glu) may have a protective effect (OR=0.60, 95%CI=0.25-1.41). Similar association was also observed in high-risk controls. This is the first study to demonstrate potential associations between amino acid substitution variants of DNA repair genes and prostate cancer susceptibility. A larger study is warranted to validate our data and to further evaluate the functional significance of DNA repair genetic polymorphism and human cancer risk.

An asterisk by the abstract title indicates that a presenter is in competition for the Best Talk or Poster Award. The Best Talk recipient will receive up to \$1500 to be used to defray costs associated with attendance at a national professional meeting of his or her choice, pending the Board's approval. There are two poster awards. The first place poster winner will be awarded \$100 and the second place poster recipient will receive \$50.

*T2 HIGH AFFINITY INTERLEUKIN-3 RECEPTOR EXPRESSION ON BLASTS FROM PATIENTS WITH ACUTE MYELOGENOUS LEUKEMIA CORRELATES WITH CYTOTOXICITY OF A DIPHTHERIA TOXIN/IL-3 FUSION PROTEIN. <u>R.L. Alexander</u>', G.L. Kucera², and A.E. Frankel². Departments of 'Physiology and Pharmacology, ²Cancer Biology,Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Medical Center Boulevard, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27157

Leukemic blasts from patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) frequently show resistance to multiple chemotherapeutic drugs. Novel agents which can overcome multi-drug resistance phenotypes are needed. We prepared a diphtheria fusion protein (DT₃₈₈1L3) composed of human interleukin-3 (IL3) fused to the catalytic and translocation domain of diphtheria toxin (DT_{388}). Previously, we have demonstrated that $DT_{388}IL3$ was toxic to a fraction of myeloid leukemia cell lines. Our goal was to assess the activity of this novel agent on patient AML blasts. To this end, we measured IL3 receptor density by using a radiolabeled, high affinity IL3 receptor agonist (SC-65461) and tested the sensitivity of AML-colony forming cells (CFC) to DT₃₈₈1L3. Ninety-two of the patients' blasts had both high affinity and low affinity IL3 receptors. The blasts had high affinity (Kd = 16 \pm 3 pM n = 25, mean \pm SEM) IL3 receptor densities that ranged from 0 to 1220 receptors per cell and low affinity (= $7060 \pm 1388 \text{ pM}$ n = 25, mean \pm SEM) receptor densities that ranged from 263 to 18250 receptors per cell. We then tested the sensitivity of patient leukemic blasts to DT₃₈₈IL3 on the 25 patients' blasts. DT₃₈₈IL3 was cytotoxic (greater than 1 log cell kill) in 9 of 25 (36%) AML patients' blasts. There was a statistically significant correlation between DT₃₈₈1L3 log cell kill and blast high affinity IL3 receptor density (p = 0.0044) and no correlation between low affinity IL3 receptor density and log cell kill. These results show that specific high affinity IL3 binding is one factor important in the sensitivity of patients' leukemic blasts to OT_{388} 1L3 and lend further support for the continued preclinical development of DT₃₈₈IL3 in AML. During clinical testing, selection of patients for treatment with DT₃₈₈1L3 should include assessment of the density of high affinity IL3 receptors.

GEMS would like to thank Corning Science Products for their contribution to the Best Talk Travel Award. We appreciate your support.

POSTERS

P1 SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED CROP PLANTS. L.Privalle, L.Artim-Moore and J.Stein, Novartis Seeds, 3054 Cornwallis Dr,RTP, NC 27709

Prior to commercialization, crop plants ---€nhanced through biotechnology undergo extensive safety assessments conducted by government regulatory agencies in countries where these products will be grown or consumed. In the United States, three federal agencies, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), work together in a coordinated fashion to assess the environmental impact and food and feed safety of these products. This safety assessment includes an extensive molecular characterization of the transgene(s) introduced into the crop plant, as well as a rigorous biochemical examination of the novel protein(s) that are expressed. Issues such as gene source, protein function, specificity, and mode of action are considered. Plant growth developmental studies (from seed to harvest) are conducted to determine both temporal and spatial expression levels of the novel protein(s). Mouse toxicity studies are conducted as one component of the mammalian safety assessment. Allergenicity potential of the novel protein(s) is evaluated by conducting digestibility studies and homology comparisons to known food allergens. The nutrient composition of plant parts destined for food or feed use is determined by measuring components such as protein, fat, fiber, carbohydrates, and vitamins as compared to non-transgenic versions of the crop plant. Nutritional equivalence is further established through livestock feeding trials. Environmenta 1 safety is assessed by measuring the impact of the novel proteins on beneficial organisms such as honeybees and ladybeetles, non-target organisms such as fish, aguatic invertebrates, birds, and soil organisms such as earthworms and springtails.

P2ANIMAL FEEDING STUDIES CONFIRM NUTRITIONAL EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN GENETICALLY-ENHANCED AND CONVENTIONAL CROP PLANTS. L.Artim-Moore, L.Privalle, S.Chartton, and J.Stein, Novartis Seeds, 3054 Cornwallis Drive, RTP, NC 27709

Biotechnology-enhanced crcip plants undergo a comprehensive and rigorous safety assessment prior to commercialization. This process includes extensive biochemical analysis of the expressed trait, toxicology testing, allergenicity evaluation, and environmental and non-target organism impact assessment. An integral part of the analysis includes an extensive nutrient composition analysis of plant parts destined for food and feed use. Nutrient analysis typically includes proximates (fat, fiber, protein, moisture, ash), starch, amino acid content, fatty acid profile, minerals and P-carotene, xanthophylls and vitamins. To further establish nutritional equivalency of biotechnology enhanced crop plants with their non-transgenic counterparts, numerous animal performance studies including poultry (layers and broilers), swine, beef cattle, dairy cows and sheep have been conducted. These studies further demonstrate nutritional equivalence and indicate no unintended health effects. All of the studies completed to date have shown that animals perform in a comparable manner when fed biotech crops as compared to conventional counterparts.

P3 POTENTIAL FOR REDUCTION OF MYCOTOXINS IN MAIZE THROUGH TRANSGENIC INSECT CONTROL. Gary P. Munkvold¹, Richard L. Hellmich², Cassandra <u>M. Biggerstaff</u>, P. Frank Ross³, and Larry G. Rice³, ¹ Dept. of Plant Pathology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, ² USDA-ARS Corn Insects & Crop Genetics Research Unit, Ames, IA 50011 ³USDA-APHIS NVSL, Ames, IA 50010

Infection of maize kernels by fumonisin-producing Fusarium species often is associated with insect damage. Infestation of conventional maize hybrids with European corn borer (ECB) larvae enhances kernel infection by F. moniliforme and fumonisin levels in the kernels. Control of ECB using transgenic maize hybrids (Bt hybrids) may provide an opportunity to reduce Fusarium infection and fumonisin concentrations in maize kernels. During four years of field studies, we evaluated the effects of transgenic insect control on Fusarium ear rot symptoms and fumonisin concentrations. Representatives of the five commercially available BI transformation events were included: MON810, 176, BT11, CBH351, and DBT418. With either natural or manual ECB infestation, BI hybrids that express CrvIA(b) in all plant tissues (events MON810 and BT11) consistently experienced significantly less ear rot and lower fumonisin concentrations compared to near-isogenic, non-Bt hybrids. Differences between Bt and non-Bt hybrids were more evident in treatments manually infested with ECB. Fumonisin concentrations in non-Bt hybrids were sometimes 10X higher (up to 32.5 µg/g) than near-isogenic MON810 or BT11 hybrids (<1.0 to 6.0 µg/g). Bt hybrids that express CryIA(b) only in green tissue and pollen (event 176) occasionally demonstrated similar results but did not consistently differ from non-Bt hybrids. Ear rot symptoms and fumonisin concentrations were consistently low in hybrids expressing Cry9C but these hybrids did not always differ from their nearisogenic, non-Bt counterparts. ECB damage to kernels was significantly correlated with fumonisin concentrations. These results indicate that genetic engineering for insect resistance can suppress fumonisin concentrations and enhance the safety of maize for animal and human consumption.

*P4 ALLELE FREQUENCIES INASTHMA CANDIDATE GENES AND DRUG TARGETS VARY AMONG ETHNICALLY DIVERSE GROUPS. K. Jordan, C.S. Sprankle, Z. Xue, S. Sharma, C.G. Binnie, W.H. Anderson, M.E. Fling and P.A. Sherman. Glaxo Wellcome, Research Triangle Park, NC

Asthma is a common disease, affecting 17 million Americans. A large body of evidence indicates that asthma has an important genetic component, but the gene or genes involved in the inheritance of a predisposition to asthma remain to be determined. There is also a substantial interindividual variability in the response to asthma medications, suggesting the presence of genetic variation in the genes coding for drug target proteins or proteins interacting with the drug target. The Allele Discovery group at Glaxo Wellcome has developed a number of assays for the genotyping of SNPs (Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms) in asthma candidate genes and genes coding for proteins involved in the leukotriene pathway, which contains several important asthma drug targets. We performed 19 assays, representing 11 genes, on DNAs from a group of healthy individuals from various ethnic groups to determine the frequency of these SNPs in the general population. The 5' nuclease assays were run on DNAs from 88 Caucasians, 86 African-Americans, 50 Hispanics, 30 Asians and 8 Southwest American Indians. Overall frequencies of the variant alleles ranged from <1% to 49%. Frequencies of variant alleles of eight SNPs were fairly consistent among ethnic groups. Eight SNPs exhibited an increase in variant allele frequency in one or two ethnic groups compared to the majority, while three SNPs exhibited a decrease in variant allele frequency. This information indicates the range of variation in frequency of variant alleles of these SNPs and demonstrates the value of knowing allele frequencies in ethnically diverse groups when designing and analyzing association and pharmacogenetics studies.

*PS CAN APOPTOTIC AND NECROTIC CELLS BE DISTINGUISHED USING THE NEUTRAL DIFFUSION COMET ASSAY? <u>R. S</u>toner, R.R. Tice. ILS, P.O. Box 13501, RTP, NC 27711.

The neutral diffusion Comet assay allows for the detection of apoptotic/necrotic cells based on the extent of DNA diffusion in a 0.5% agarose gel matrix under neutral, non-electrophoretic conditions (Vasquez and Tice, Ervision:Mole:Mutagenesis 29(528).

53, 1997). However, under these conditions, it is not possible to distinguish between apoptosis and necrosis-induced DNA degradation. Here, we evaluate if the neutral diffusion assay can be modified to distinguish between these two mechanisms of DNA damage (double-strand breaks) by embedding cells in a range of agarose concentrations and comparing the resulting extent of DNA diffusion. Our expectation is that the DNA in terminal apoptotic cells will have a lower molecular weight than DNA in necrotic cells. A preliminary range finding test was conducted using Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells killed by exposure to hydrogen peroxide to select the optimum range of agarose concentrations. Subsequently, using agarose concentrations ranging from 0.5 to 3%, neutral DNA diffusion associated with apoptosis versus necrosis was compared using two cells lines derived from Syrian hamster embryo cells; under low serum (0.2%) conditions, sup⁵ cells undergo apoptosis while sup³ cells undergo necrosis (Preston et al., Cancer Res. 54: 4214, 1994). Each cell culture was assessed for viability using ethidium bromide: 5-6 carboxyfluorescein diacetate, for the incidence of cells with low molecular weight DNA based on the extent of diffusion observed visually, and for the extent of diffusion determined using the Komet Version 4.0 Image Analysis System. The presence of apoptosis in sup^{•5} cells was verified by detecting the presence of a DNA ladder in a DNA agarose gel.

*P6 DIFFERENT MUTANT Ki-ras ALLELES DETERMINE SUBSEQUENT DAMAGE AT THE *Ink4a* LOCUS IN TRANSPLACENTALL Y INDUCED MURINE LUNG TUMORS. M C Mizesko, M S Miller, C Grewe, and A Grabner. Department of Cancer Biology, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC.

Activation of the Ki-ras gene has been implicated as an early event in the pathogenesis of lung tumors, particularly in adenocarcinomas in smokers, ranging in incidence from 30-80% of the tumors examined. Several groups have shown a correlation between the presence of a mutated Ki-ras gene and patient prognosis, which appears to depend on the actual base substitution present. Our previous studies demonstrated that, following treatment of pregnant D2 x (B6D2F1)F2 or Balb/c mice with 3-methylcholanthrene, lung tumors induced in the transplacentally exposed offspring exhibited a high incidence of mutations in the Ki-ras gene. The type of mutation present in the lesions appeared to influence tumor development. The presence of the VAL¹², ARG¹², and ARG¹³ mutant alleles correlated with a more progressive tumor stage (adenomas and adenocarcinomas) compared to the CYS¹² mutation, which appeared predominantly in hyperplastic lesions. In order to examine the role of different mutant Ki-ras alleles in lung tumor progression, we determined the methylation status of the *lnk4a* tumor suppressor gene in transplacentally induced lung tumors by methylation-specific PCR and screened for the presence of single base pair mutations by single strand conformation polymorphism analysis. Only 8% of the murine tumors exhibited methylation of the Ink4a promoter region, while an additional 6% of the tumors showed single base pair mutations at this gene locus. Three of the 5 tumors exhibiting promoter hypermethylation were adenocarcinomas, and 4 of these 5 tumors contained mutant ras alleles that were associated with the more oncogenic phenotype. In contrast, 3 of the 4 tumors harboring mutations in the Ink4a gene occurred in tumors containing the least oncogenic Ki-ras mutations. Tissue specific effects were also noted. Liver tumors, which all contained the ARG¹³ mutant ras allele, showed a higher incidence of point mutations (5/19) than promoter methylation (1 tumor). It thus appears that the type of damage seen at the Ink4a locus correlates with the type of mutation occurring in the Ki-ras gene, suggesting that early damage to Ki-ras may determine subsequent events occurring during tumor progression. Supported by NIEHS grants ES06501 and ES08252.

*P7 TRANSMISSION OF MUTATIONS IN TRANSGENES TO THE OFFSPRING OF ENU-TREATED BIG BLUE™ TRANSGENIC MALE MICE.L.B. Barnett', R.W. Tyl', B.S. Shane², M.D. Shelby³, and S.E. Lewis'. 'RTI, P.O. Box 12194, RTP, NC 27709-2194; ²Louisiana State University, Institute for Environmental Studies, Baton Rouge, LA 70803; ³NIEHS, RTP, N.C. 27709, and •903 Lexington Ct., Cary, NC 27516

Male mice hemizygous for the lambda/lac/ transgene were treated with the mammalian germ cell mutagen Ethylnitrosourea (ENU) in three weekly-fractionated doses of 100 mg/kg. Ten weeks later they were mated to T-stock females to produce progeny that were screened for both transgene mutations and specific locus mutations. The study was designed to determine if mutations in the transgene were transmitted to progeny. Among the 597 offspring screened, five carried specific locus mutations giving a mutant frequency of 0.0014 per locus which is consistent with previous results using the same treatment regimen. Mutant lac/ genes were carried by four of the 280 progeny screened. Each of the *lac*/ mutant F1 mice carried a mutation at a different site in the transgene as determined by DNA sequence analysis. Each F1 transgene mutant had the same mutation in all somatic tissues sampled, as well as in their germ cells. These results demonstrate that *lac/* mutations induced in male germ cells are effectively transmitted to their progeny. Therefore, transgenic mutation assays can be legitimately used to study induction of mutations in mammalian germ cells and thus can contribute to genetic risk assessment. (This project was supported by NIH R01 ES-06339 and Research Triangle Institute R6599-002).

PS WINDOWS® 32-BIT SOFTWARE FOR THE EPA/IARC GENETIC ACTIVITY PROFILE DATABASE. HF Stack', MA Jackson', WJA Lohman², PHM Lohman², D McGregor3 and MD Waters•; 'Alpha-Gamma Technologies , Inc., Raleigh, NC 27609; ²Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands; ³International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France; •usEPA, RTP, NC 27711.

Genetic and related effects data are available in the EPA/IARC Genetic Activity Profile (GAP) database from volumes 1-73 of the IARC Monographs and from selected EPA priority chemical projects. The GAP2000 software for Windows® is used to display histogram plots (profiles), tabular listings, and bibliographies of the toxicological studies on approximately 700 chemicals. The software and database are freely available for downloading via the Internet at www.epa.gov/gapdb. Profiles provide a visual overview of each chemical's test results. The lowest effective dose or highest ineffective dose is recorded from the published primary literature, and a logarithm of the dose is plotted on the histogram for each study. Tests are identified by three-letter codes that are graphically arranged according to the phylogeny of the organisms and the genotoxicity endpoints. GAP2000 uses unique mouse functions to examine the underlying profile data. Iconactivated tool bars, clipboard copying, and windowing features enable the viewing of multiple profiles and data listings. Additional features include Internet hyperlinks to access the IARC carcinogenicity evaluations, a bibliography of the source references for each chemical, and searchable bibliographies and help files. GAP's graphic display is useful for comparative assessments of qualitative and quantitative results across several dimensions (e.g., chemical concordance across species and endpoints, identifying data gaps, and evaluating relative potencies of chemicals). By examining the profiles of chemical analogs, it is possible to make better-informed decisions regarding the selection of tests to evaluate chemicals and their possible modes-of-action. Also, GAP data profiles may be useful in assessing the weight--of -evidence for hazard ranking schemes. This is an abstract for a proposed scientific presentation and may not necessarily reflect EPA policy.



GREINER manufactures a full line of laboratory plasticware including Microplates (96, 384 & 1536 well), Deep Well Plates, Flasks, TC Dishes, Serological Pipettes, Centrifuge tubes, PCR Plates, Freezing Vials, Pipette Tips, and more.

How represented h your ue.ii by: Ed Krehl

100.11.lt.4701 919.46'.I.6668 (phone, fax) 919.6'.14.6405 (cellular) EKREHL@greineramcrica.com



State-of-

TERPIECES

the-Art

Manufacturing high purity, superior qualify laboratory plastics for over 35 years.

A special thanks to GREINER for their contribution to the Coffee Break refreshments

INDEX

Alexander RL	T2
Anderson J	T1
Anderson WH	P4
Artim-Moore L	P1, P2
Barnett LB	P7
Biggerstaff CM	P3
Binnie CG	P4
Charlton S	P2
Cramer SD	T1
Fling ME	P4
Frankel AE	T2
Grabner A	P6
Grewe C	P6
Hall MC	T1
Hellmich RL	P3
Hu JJ	T1
Jackson MA	P8
Jordan K	P4
Kucera GL	T2
Lewis SE	P7
Lockett K	T1
Lohman K	T1
Lohman PHM	P8
Lohman WJA	P8

T1
P8
P6
P6
T1
P3
P1, P2
P3
P3
P7
P4
P7
P4
T1
P4
P8
P1, P2
P5
P5
T1
P7
P8
P4

GEMS Membership Dues for 2001

Name:	-
Affiliation :	
Address :	
Telephone :	
E-M Mail:	

Check if you do **not** want you phone number listed on the membership list:______

Amount paid (check one):

1 year- \$10_ 2 years- \$20_ 3 years- \$30_ 4 years- \$40_ 5 years- \$50 Lifetime- \$100_ Student- \$5_ International- \$25_

Additional Donation: \$_____

Total Amount: \$____

Would you be willing to run for election as Councilor or Officer of GEMS? Yes_ No_ If yes, what position are you most interested in?

Send this form with check (made payable to GEMS) to:

Stephen Little, Treasurer GEMS P.O. Box 13475 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Pamphlet prepared by Beth George