innovations

from The University of Vermont

TITLE: IDENTIFICATION OF ANTI-PROTOZOAL AGENTS

INVENTORS: Gary E. Ward, Kimberly Carey, Timothy Mitchison (Harvard Medical School), and Nicholas Westwood (Harvard Medical School)

DESCRIPTION: The present invention provides methods of identifying compounds capable of inhibiting protozoal infection. It will be appreciated that there is an urgent need for new chemotherapeutic agents to combat protozoal parasites that are sufficiently effective, do not have harmful side effects, and are not difficult or expensive to administer. The anti-protozoal compounds should be active against a broad spectrum of protozoa, while remaining non-toxic to human and other mammalian cells. Using a novel screening method, the inventors have developed a library of inhibitors of parasites that prevent invasion into a cell. The assay system can measure the ability of a parasite to invade a cell, as well as the ability of that parasite to increase or decrease its invasion activity. Pharmaceutical compositions can therefore be designed to treat microbial infections.

ADVANTAGES: Current therapies and preventative treatments suffers from short shelf life, the induced immunity declines significantly in the first two years post-inoculation. The treatments often have severe adverse side affects, require hospitalization, and are not always effective. The inhibitors discovered are believed to be active against a broad spectrum of protozoa, while remaining non-toxic to human and mammalian cells.

PATENT STATUS: US Patent Pending

LICENSING STATUS: World wide rights available, Licensing/ Sharing agreement in place with Harvard Medical School

CONTACT: Todd S. Keiller, Director, Technology Transfer University of Vermont

1 Pendulum Pass
Hopkinton, MA 01748

tel (508) 497-2497
fax (508) 497-0733
email: kinaird@aol.com