innovations

from the University of Vermont

TITLE: TREATMENT FOR MELANOMA

INVENTORS: Dr. Marcus Bosenberg, et al.

DESCRIPTION: Two small molecules with tumor suppressive activity in malignant melanoma have been identified. Malignant melanoma is difficult to treat with standard procedures, as it often does not respond to chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy and long-term survival remains dismal for this group of patients. New work in the lab of Dr. Marcus Bosenberg has found that expression of these molecules in metastatic melanoma cell lines is low to absent compared to benign primary melanocytes and in vivo expression results in greater than four-fold reduction of tumor size in mouse xenograft studies. These molecules are small secreted proteins (in the 7KD range) that could be delivered directly via intravenous delivery, as well as via gene therapy. These molecules may have similar therapeutic effect in additional types of cancers beyond advanced melanoma.

ADVANTAGES: Current therapies for advanced melanoma are systemic and are not effective. These molecules provide the potential for significant survival benefit for advance melanoma and other cancer patients.

PATENT STATUS: Patent pending

LICENSING STATUS: Worldwide rights available

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