alterations in expression of the TGFβ receptors I and II (TβRI and TβRII) are also observed during pancreatic cancer progression. These observations are consistent with an integral role of the TGFβ pathway components in pancreas biology and disease progression. However, the molecular details and the biology and disease progression. These observations are also observed during pancreatic cancer progression. These observations are another important regulatory role for the TGFβ-signaling pathway in insulin production. The inventors have shown that low levels of TGFβ can suppress insulin production through the actions of the SMAD signaling proteins. Small molecule regulators of SMAD-dependent signaling may lead to better insulin production and allow better glucose regulation. Thus, controlled administration of TGFβ signaling regulators may be useful in the treatment of diabetes, hyperglycemia and related complications.

In addition to licensing, the technology is available for further development through collaborative research opportunities with the inventors.

Anti-Marinobufagenin Antibodies and Methods for Their Use

Alexei Bagrov et al. (NIA).


Licensing Contact: Fatima Sayyid; 301–435–4521; sayyidf@mail.nih.gov.

Pre-ecclampsia is associated with increased blood levels of marinobufagenin (MBG), a steroid that increases blood pressure by inhibiting a membrane enzyme, Na/K ATPase, in the vascular wall. Pre-ecclampsia complicates up to 10% of pregnancies in the U.S. and is a significant factor in causing maternal and fetal mortality and morbidity worldwide.

The present invention relates to compositions and methods for detecting the presence of MBG in a biological sample. It also relates to methods for the use of monoclonal antibodies or antigen binding fragments as prophylactic, therapeutic, and diagnostic agents for the detection, inhibition and treatment of hypertension.

In addition to licensing, the technology is available for further development through collaborative research opportunities with the inventors.
collection of information is 1018–0119, which expires on December 31, 2005. We will request a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity. Federal agencies may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The ESA specifies the process by which we can list species as threatened or endangered. When we consider whether or not to list a species, the ESA requires us to take into account "those threats, if any, being made by any State or political subdivision of a State or any political subdivision of a State..." Protecting such species or any political subdivision of a State... to protect such species or any political subdivision of a State..."

States or other entities often formalize conservation efforts in conservation agreements, conservation plans, management plans, or similar documents. The actions proposed in conservation plans could prevent some species under the ESA. The development of such agreements or plans is voluntary, and there is no requirement that the agreement or plans, or the individual conservation efforts they include, be designed to meet the criteria in PECE. However, PECE encourages the development of conservation agreements/plans and provides certainty about the standard that individual conservation efforts contained in an agreement/plan must meet so that we can consider that such efforts contribute to forming a basis for a listing determination.

PECE applies to formal conservation efforts developed regardless of intent to influence a listing decision or involvement of the Service. Only those agreements/plans developed with the intent of influencing a listing decision and with involvement of the Service constitute an information collection that requires OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

PECE specifies that to consider that a conservation effort contributes to forming a basis for not listing a species or listing a species as threatened rather than endangered, the Service must find the effort is sufficiently certain to be implemented and effective so as to have contributed to the elimination or adequate reduction of one or more threats to the species. To gauge whether or not this standard has been met, PECE includes criteria for evaluating the certainty of implementation and the certainty of effectiveness of individual conservation efforts. One criterion for evaluating the certainty of effectiveness of a conservation effort is that the agreement/plan contains provisions for monitoring and reporting progress on implementation and effectiveness of the effort. The nature of the monitoring and reporting will vary according to the species addressed, land ownership, specific conservation efforts, expertise of participants, and other factors. The information collected through monitoring is invaluable to the Service, the states, and other entities implementing agreements and plans, and to others concerned about the welfare of the species covered by the agreements/plans.

We estimate the public reporting burden for this information collection covered by this renewal to average 2,500 hours for developing one agreement with the intent to declare a species; and 80 hours for one annual report. We expect that six agreements/plans will be expanded to attempt to make listing unnecessary. Consequently, we must base our estimate of the amount of work associated with developing conservation agreements or plans and monitoring and reporting of conservation efforts on information from conservation agreements developed in the past. We estimate the public reporting burden for the information collection covered by this renewal to average 2,500 hours for developing one agreement with the intent to declare a species; and 80 hours for one annual report. We expect that six agreements/plans will be expanded to attempt to make listing unnecessary. Consequently, we must base our estimate of the amount of work associated with developing conservation agreements or plans and monitoring and reporting of conservation efforts on information from conservation agreements developed in the past.

We invite your comments on: (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions, including the opinion of the respondent regarding the practical utility of the information; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the annual burden of information requested; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents. The information collections in this program will be part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Hope Grey,
Information Collection Clearance Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish & Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Conduct Restoration Planning: M/V Citrus Natural Resource Damage Assessment

AGENCY: Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to conduct restoration planning.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of the Interior, trustee for the incident involving the discharge of oil from the M/V Citrus, has chosen to enter into the restoration planning phase of a Natural Resource Damage Assessment. The purpose of this phase is to prepare a plan for the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or the acquisition of the natural resources injured, destroyed or lost, or the uses which were lost, as a result of this discharge.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Siekaniec, Refuge Manager or Laurie Daniel, M/V Citrus Case Manager, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (AMNWR), 95 Sterling Highway, Suite 1, Homer, AK 99603, or by phone at (907) 235–6546.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In mid-February of 1996, a large number of various species of oil-degraded waterfowl and seabirds were discovered on the Bering Sea islands of St. Paul and St. George, in the Pribilof Islands, Alaska. Laboratory analysis of oil samples taken from vessels in the area...