Safety Studies Begin for Chronic Pain Therapeutic

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receptor. This receptor is one of many involved in the transmission of pain signals to the brain. There are two general categories of pain to be considered in this process: 1) acute pain, a physiologically important survival tool (rose thorn pricking finger, cat claws scratching cheek), and 2) chronic or noxious pain (pain that persists beyond normal healing time), often the cause of severe pathological states. The scientists used standard models of chronic pain to determine that the perception of noxious pain in the models was greatly reduced in those animals who received injections of SP-SAP. But just as important, the perception of acute pain was left intact. This was an extraordinarily important finding and led ATS to the decision to begin the process of developing SP-SAP as a drug.

Over the next few months, ATS will be interacting with the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. This organization is part of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and will evaluate the drug development plan and make determinations about the composition and guidelines for the initial clinical trials in humans. Their preliminary feedback has been a recommendation to begin clinical trials in patients with terminal cancer whose pain is no longer treatable with opioid-based drugs such as morphine. The size of this patient population may qualify SP-SAP for development as an orphan drug.

ATS is optimistic about the therapeutic possibilities of SP-SAP. The funding from NIMH is an important first step in getting the drug development process under way. The process toobtain the additional funding needed to complete the toxicology tests required by the FDA has already begun. The present goal is to be able to begin the first clinical trials in humans before the end of 2002. Progress reports will be printed in this newsletter and on the ATS website at: www.ATSbio.com.

Watch future newsletters and the ATS website for drug development updates.

References

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Targeting Ticklers

Lab Personals

I don't always express myself on the surface, but I'm looking for a signal that you appreciate my complexity. Send me the right message that will penetrate my membranes, turn on my protein expression and release my potential energy.

Mature cell seeks same who still enjoys cycling and won't go apoptotic on me. Let's fight senescence together!

Some dates have called me a promotor. Others have referred to me as a real operator. Personally, I think I'm just a cute piece of DNA who is still looking for that special transcription factor to help me unwind.

I'm a prolific progenitor with great potential for growth and self-renewal. Call me if you're a potent hematopoietic factor who still believes in endless nights of colony stimulation.

Targeting Teaser Winners

Congratulations to the puzzle solvers from our last newsletter. Each winner receives $100 credit towards research product purchases from ATS.

The solution to the puzzle was:

Jumbles: ANTIBODY RECEPTOR VOLUME EFFECT

Answer: What the scientist said to the spinal cord --- YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE!

WINNERS: Dr. Reema Shafi, *Ohio State Univ* * Petra Moessner, *Baylor College Dentistry* * Dr. Judith Ball, *Texas A&M Univ* * Anne Goldman, *Northwestern Univ* * Dr. Michelle Edwards, *Univ Texas, Med Branch* * Theresa Sarkeda, *Univ Minnesota* * Mandy Lucas, *Univ Arkansas* * Dr. Michael Olszewshi, *Univ Michigan* * Dr. Sanjay Danthi, *Ohio State Univ* * Maxim Cheeran, *MMRF* * Dr. Erik Yu, *Naval Med Res Ctr* * Dr. Gretchen Kohls, *Sacramento, CA* * Dr. Bruce Pappas, *Carleton Univ* * Emily Topacio, *Oridigm* * Kristen Phend, *Univ North Carolina* * Dr. Pierre Vaysse, *Synaptic Pharm Corp* * Dr. Alexander Murashov, *E. Carolina Univ School of Med* * Dr. Lara Hutson, *Univ Utah* * Linda Lan, *Stanford Univ* * Shannon Shields, *UCSF* * Dr. Joseph McGivern, *Amgen Inc* * Dr. Grace Li, *UCLA* * Dr. Lisa Banner, *CSU Northridge* * Dr. Wendy Smith, *Northeastern Univ* * Deborah McCarty, *Lilly Res Lab* * Dr. Mathieu Lesort, *Univ Alabama at Birmingham* * James Doll, *Castro Valley, CA*