

Description: Wisconsin proposes to limit the amount of exempt funds that may be set aside as burial and related expenses for SSI-related Medicaid beneficiaries.

Date Received: March 9, 1994.

State Contact: Jean Sheil, Division of Economic Support, Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, 1 West Wilson Street, Room 650, P.O. Box 7850, Madison, WI 53707, (608) 266-0613.

Federal Project Officer: J. Donald Sherwood, Health Care Financing Administration, Office of Research and Demonstrations, Mail Stop C3-16-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

3. Approved Conceptual Proposals (Award of Waivers Pending)

No conceptual proposals were awarded during the months of August and September.

4. Approved Proposals

No proposals were approved during the months of August and September.

5. Disapproved Proposals

No proposals were disapproved during the months of August and September.

6. Withdrawn Proposals

No proposals were withdrawn during the months of August and September.

IV. Requests for Copies of a Proposal

Requests for copies of a specific Medicaid proposal should be made to the State contact listed for the specific proposal. If further help or information is needed, inquiries should be directed to HCFA at the address above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program, No. 93.779; Health Financing Research, Demonstrations, and Experiments)

Dated: November 30, 1995.

Bruce C. Vladeck,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

[FR Doc. 95-30066 Filed 12-8-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: Licensing Opportunity and/or Opportunity for a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) for the Development of Influenza A PB2 Gene Technology

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Institutes of Health is seeking licensees and/or CRADA Collaborators for the joint research, development, evaluation, and commercialization of its influenza A polymerase basic 2 (PB2) patent portfolio. The inventions claimed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/123,933 ("Method for Generating Influenza A Viruses Bearing Attenuating Mutations in Internal Protein Genes," filed September 20, 1993), and its related patent applications, are available for either co-exclusive or non-exclusive licensing (in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 and 37 CFR Part 404) and/or further development under one or more CRADAs for important clinical and research applications described below in the Supplementary Information section.

DATES: License applications must be received on or before March 11, 1996. CRADA proposals should be received on or before April 11, 1996 for *priority consideration*. However, CRADA proposals submitted thereafter will be considered until a suitable CRADA Collaborator is selected.

ADDRESSES: CRADA proposals and questions about this opportunity should be addressed to: Claire T. Driscoll, Technology Transfer Manager, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Building 31, Room 3B62, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892; Telephone: 301/496-2644; Fax: 301/402-7123; E-mail: cd68y@nih.gov.

Licensing proposals and questions about this opportunity should be addressed to: Cindy K. Fuchs, J.D., Technology Licensing Specialist, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, MD 20852-3804; Telephone: 301/496-7735 ext. 232; Fax: 301/402-0220; E-mail: Cindy_Fuchs@nih.gov.

Information on the patent applications and pertinent information not yet publicly disclosed can be obtained under a Confidential Disclosure Agreement. Respondees interested in licensing the invention(s) will be required to submit an Application for License to Public Health Service Inventions. Respondees interested in submitting a CRADA proposal should be aware that it may be necessary to secure a license to the above patent rights in order to commercialize products arising from a CRADA agreement.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This invention involves the use of modern molecular virologic techniques to introduce temperature sensitive (ts)

attenuating mutations into a complementary DNA (cDNA) copy of the influenza A polymerase basic 2 (PB2) protein gene and to recover viruses bearing the mutant PB2 gene. Viral RNA (vRNA) transcribed in vitro from the PB2 DNA is transfected into avian kidney cells in the presence of an influenza A helper virus. The PB2 gene of the helper virus, which restricts its replication in mammalian cells, is substituted by the transfected mutant PB2 gene, which is known to function efficiently in mammalian cells. Using this system it has been possible to introduce three attenuating temperature sensitive mutations into the PB2 gene and to recover an infectious virus bearing this triple mutant gene. The virus bearing this mutant gene was highly attenuated in animals, was stable genetically even after prolonged replication in immunosuppressed rodents, and induced resistance to challenge with wild type influenza A virus. This gene can now be transferred from a donor virus to new epidemic or pandemic variants of influenza A virus as they appear in nature. The end result is a live attenuated reassortant influenza A virus vaccine that not only contains an attenuating PB2 gene from the attenuated donor but also the protective antigens, i.e., the hemagglutinin and neuraminidase glycoproteins, from the newly emerged wild type virus. Such a reassortant virus can serve as a protective vaccine, when administered into the respiratory tract of a vaccinee, against disease caused by the epidemic influenza A viruses.

To speed the research, development, and commercialization of these agents, the NIH is seeking one or more license agreements and/or CRADAs with pharmaceutical or biotechnology companies in accordance with the regulations governing the transfer of Government-developed agents. Proposals relating to any biomedical area will be considered.

The CRADA aims will include the rapid publication of research results consistent with protection of proprietary information and patentable inventions as well as the timely exploitation of commercial opportunities. The CRADA Collaborator will enjoy the benefits of first negotiation for licensing Government rights to any inventions arising under the agreement and will advance funds payable upon signing the CRADA to help defray Government expenses for patenting such inventions and other CRADA-related costs.

The role of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases will be as follows: