COLD SPRING HARBOR LABORATORY



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Protein Tyrosine Phosphatases and the Control of Signal Transduction

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Characterization of Novel Cancer Therapeutics

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, Nobel laureate for the discovery of vitamin C, focused his later years in research on trying to find a cure for cancer and became interested in the properties of flavones in wheat germ. In pursuing this theme, Dr. Mate Hidvegi and his colleagues from Budapest, together with scientists at American Biosciences Inc, have identified a fermented wheatgerm extract termed Avemar®.

It has been commercialized in Europe and the United States as a nutraceutical that displays anticancer and antimetastatic properties. As part of a collaboration involving Dr. Hidvegi and his colleagues, as well as Darryl Pappin and Jim Watson here at CSHL, we have begun studies aimed at identifying and characterizing the active constituents of Avemar®.



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Avemar® is a proprietary fermented wheat germ extract (FWGE) that has been shown to have many beneficial 100 Research characteristics, including potent anticancer, anti-inflammatory, immunemodulatory, metabolic-regulatory, cardiovascularprotective, and anti-aging properties. FWGE impairs critical aspects of the transformed phenotype, including aerobic glycolysis, the pentose phosphate pathway, and ribonucleotide reductase. It displays significant antiproliferative effects and triggers tumor cell death through apoptosis. Clinical data reveal significant benefits to patients from treatment with FWGE, including in combination with existing cancer therapies. FWGE likely comprises thousands of different molecules. In particular, it is known to contain two biologically active compounds: lectins (WGA, wheat germ agglutinin) and methoxy-substituted benzoquinones (DMBQ, 2,6-dimethoxy-p-benzoquinone; MBQ, 2-methoxybenzoquinone). Nevertheless, neither of these components are the physiologically significant active molecules of the extract. Although current data support the use of FWGE as a nonprescription

nutraceutical in various cancers, it is clear that exploiting its full potential will require a more precise definition of the active ingredient core components of the mixture and the biochemical characterization of their mechanism of action. During the past couple of years, we have made considerable progress in purifying the active components of Avemar®, using procedures that are readily adaptable to large-scale production. Various fractions from the initial purification procedure have been screened in cell viability assays on a broad panel of tumor cell lines and animal models, with encouraging results. In an important first step, a fraction has been generated, termed A250, which represents ~3% of the dry weight of Avemar®, yet retains essentially all of the activity, and has the potential to represent a new product. In collaboration with Darryl Pappin and Jim Watson here at CSHL and Mate Hidvegi and his colleagues from Budapest, we are now focusing on producing stable, enriched, and well-characterized fraction(s) from crude FWGE that show significant activity in cell and animal models of cancer, with the goal of developing novel therapeutics.



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Characterization of Novel Kinase Inhibitors

In collaboration with Drs. Darryl Pappin and Jim Watson here at CSHL and Mate Hidvegi and his colleagues from Budapest, this lab led a project to identify the active components of Avemar®, a proprietary fermented wheat germ extract (FWGE) nutraceutical that has been shown to display significant antiproliferative effects and to trigger tumor cell death through apoptosis. Clinical data reveal significant benefits to patients from treatment with FWGE, including in combination with existing cancer therapies. Through this collaboration, a novel small-molecule protein kinase inhibitor (CSH-4044) has now been isolated from FWGE and characterized. This inhibitor has both a unique structure and a unique specificity for PIM (proviral integration site for Moloney murine

leukemia virus) and DYRK (dual specificity tyrosine-regulated kinase) when assayed against a panel of 140 distinct protein kinases. Current efforts are focused on testing this inhibitor in appropriate cancer models and optimizing its structure, both to enhance potency, specificity, and bioavailability, as well as to improve drug-like characteristics. In collaboration with Dave Tuveson, CSH-4044 is being tested in cell and animal models of pancreatic cancer, using inhibition of PIM and DYRK as a new approach to inhibiting signaling downstream of KRAS. In addition, it is being tested in collaboration with Chris Vakoc in his leukemia models. It is anticipated that this study will validate a novel therapeutic candidate for treatment of these cancers.



Founded in 1890, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) is a preeminent international research institution, achieving breakthroughs in molecular biology and genetics and enhancing scientific knowledge worldwide.

RESEARCH

United by the goal of alleviating major causes of human suffering, CSHIs 600 researchers and technicians focus on:

Cancer

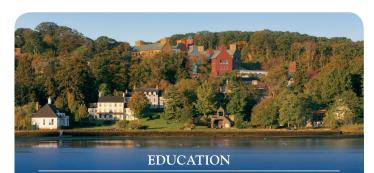
Quantitative

Neuroscience

Biology

Genomics

Plant Biology



CSHL is recognized as a pioneer in science education, training professional scientists, students and teachers:

Watson School of Biological Sciences: trains the next generation of scientists through an innovative Ph.D. program that fully funds the doctoral research of each student.

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CSHL ranked #1 in the world for impact in molecular biology and genetics.

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Published and cited between January 2002 and December 2012

Institution		per paper	
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2	MIT	87.82	
3	Salk Institute for Biological Studies	70.85	
4	Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute	70.27	
5	Massachusetts General Hospital	67.50	
6	Rockefeller University	62.46	
7	Dana Farber Cancer Institute	62.22	
8	European Molecular Biology Laboratory	59.41	
9	Brigham and Womens Hospital	59.03	
10	Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center	58.16	
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	1 Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. 2 MIT. 3 Salk Institute for Biological Studies. 4 Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute 5 Massachusetts General Hospital. 6 Rockefeller University. 7 Dana Farber Cancer Institute. 8 European Molecular Biology Laboratory. 9 Brigham and Womens Hospital.	Institutionper paper1Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.96.942MIT.87.823Salk Institute for Biological Studies.70.854Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute70.275Massachusetts General Hospital67.506Rockefeller University62.467Dana Farber Cancer Institute.62.228European Molecular Biology Laboratory59.41



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FACTS & FIGURES

Home to eight Nobel laureates, including James D. Watson, co-discoverer of the DNA double helix.

National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center for over 25 years.

Incubator for more than 20 biotechnology start-ups.

Highest rating from Charity Navigator.

BY THE NUMBERS

Annual Operating Budget\$150 million		
Endowment\$320 million		
Research laboratories52		
Postdoctoral fellows		
Graduate students		
Total employees & students		
Annual Meetings & Courses attendees 12,000		
Annual DNA Learning Center students 30,000		