

public participation in NIH activities through the Council of Public Representatives and other means.

Office of the Director (NA81, formerly HNA81). (1) Directs and coordinates the operations of the Office of Communications and Public Liaison; (2) functions as spokesman for the Director of NIH; (3) operates the NIH public liaison program; and (4) provides staff support for the Council of Public Representatives.

Public Information Office (NA82, formerly HNA82). (1) Advises the Associate Director for Communications on the public information and public affairs activities of NIH; (2) produces and reviews a wide variety of publications and media presentations about NIH programs and research for the general public and the scientific community; (3) assists NIH components to produce effective public information publications and presentations; (4) prepares speeches, articles, and other presentations for officials of NIH and the Office of the Secretary; and (5) supports media interactions by the Director, NIH, and other NIH scientists and officials.

Office of the Director (NA821, formerly HNA821). Plans and directs the operations of the Public Information Office.

New Media Branch (NA822, formerly HNA822). (1) Serves the central news contact for NIH and maintains contact with members of the electronic and print media; (2) prepares and issues feature materials describing NIH programs; (3) produces audio tapes of health messages and interviews with NIH scientists for use by radio stations; (4) manages press conferences for the Director of NIH and other scientists and officials; (5) keeps the NIH leadership informed about media coverage of NIH issues and programs; and (6) clears press releases and audiovisual productions with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs before distribution.

Editorial Operations Branch (NA824, formerly HNA824). (1) Plans and produces NIH-wide publications; (2) reviews articles and publications produced by Institutes and Centers for consistency with NIH policy and program objectives; (3) clears NIH publications with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs; and (4) publishes The NIH Record, the NIH Calendar of Events, the NIH Almanac, and the NIH Publications List and Information Index.

Science Communications Branch (NA825, formerly HNA825). (1) Facilitates the understanding of scientific concepts by the media and

general public; (2) publishes health information newsletters such as Word on Health; (3) conducts periodic seminars for science writers and staffs similar activities, such as residence programs for science writers; and (4) keeps up-to-date information on research advances by NIH scientists and grantees.

Online Information Branch (NA826, formerly HNA826). (1) Coordinates and supports the use of networked computers to provide information about NIH within the Office of Communications and Public Liaison; (2) manages the NIH World Wide Web Coordinating Committee, which provides leadership for the design and content of the NIH Web site; (3) works with other relevant offices and committees in establishing operational standards and guidelines for Web sites at NIH; (4) has direct responsibility for several major areas of the NIH home page that address the special needs of health care professionals, patients, members of the press, the public and employees; (5) manages the processing of electronic mail sent to the NIH home page; (6) provides Web support services and guidance to other OD offices including the Director, NIH; and (7) conducts special studies on the use of the NIH Web, including evaluation projects.

Special Projects Branch (NA827, formerly HNA827). (1) Plans, organizes, and conducts special public events and functions; (2) conducts tours and orientations for a wide variety of domestic and international groups visiting NIH; (3) operates the NIH Visitor Information Center; and (4) conducts NIH-wide voluntary efforts such as the Combined Federal Campaign.

Freedom of Information Office (NA83, formerly HNA83). (1) Manages the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) at NIH; (2) provides FOIA policy guidance, training, and advice to Institutes, Centers, and components of the Office of the Director, NIH; (3) responds to selected, highly sensitive FOIA requests; (4) coordinates the response to FOIA requests involving more than one NIH component; (5) issues all denials under the FOIA for NIH; (6) provides the NIH position if FOIA decisions are appealed to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs; and (7) helps the public interested in NIH to use the FOIA.

NIH History Office and Museum (NA84, formerly HNA84). (1) Provides guidance to Institutes and Centers regarding the preservation of historical materials such as documents, photographs, and artifacts; (2) provides

the Director, NIH, and other senior staff with oral or written historical perspectives on current policy issues; (3) prepares oral and written histories and historical presentations primarily on NIH-conducted or -sponsored biomedical research; (4) maintains selected historical materials; (5) manages the DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Museum of Medical Research, which: (a) Collects, preserves, and exhibits biomedical research instruments, technologies, and memorabilia, especially those related to NIH; and (b) educates the public about the process and achievements of biomedical research through exhibits and publications that generally focus on the research of NIH investigators.

Delegations of Authority Statement: All delegations and redelegations of authority to offices and employees of NIH which were in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this reorganization and are consistent with this reorganization shall continue in effect, pending further redelegation.

Dated: February 10, 1999.

Harold Varmus,

Director, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 99-4305 Filed 2-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Prospective Grant of Exclusive License: Transformation Associated Recombination (TAR) System in Yeast for Specific Cloning of DNAs as Yeast Artificial Chromosomes (YACs)

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is notice, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209(c)(1) and 37 CFR 404.7(a)(1)(i), that the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health and Human Services, is contemplating the grant of an exclusive license worldwide to practice the invention embodied in: International Application PCT/US96/11478 and USPA SN 09/060,023 (CIP of the above), titled "Transformation Associated Recombination (TAR) System in Yeast for Specific Cloning of DNAs as Yeast Artificial Chromosomes (YACs)" to Genasense Pharmaceuticals, Inc., having a place of business in New Haven, Connecticut. The United States of America is an assignee of the patent rights in this invention.

DATES: Only written comments and/or application for a license which are received by the NIH Office of Technology Transfer on or before May 24, 1999 will be considered.

ADDRESSES: Requests for a copy of the patent applications, inquiries, comments and other materials relating to the contemplated license should be directed to: L. Manja R. Blazer, Ph.D., Technology Licensing Specialist, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, MD 20852-3804; Telephone: (301) 496-7056, ext. 224; Facsimile: (301) 402-0220; e-mail: mb379e@nih.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The TAR system enables the isolation of specific families of genes, individual genes and chromosome fragments as linear or circular YACs. The system provides enrichments that are orders of magnitude higher over previous reports. The circular YACs provide special opportunities for isolation and transfer of cloned material to other organisms. The system includes cloning with and without a yeast origin of replication on the TAR cloning vectors to assure opportunities to clone a wide range of DNAs.

The prospective exclusive license will be royalty bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7 and may be limited to the field of use of providing genomics services to alliance partners. The method and materials of this invention would be available from the NIH to third party organizations for internal research purposes. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within 90 days from the date of this published Notice, NIH receives a written evidence and argument that establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Properly filed competing applications for a license filed in response to this notice will be treated as objections to the contemplated license. Comments and objections submitted in response to this notice will not be made available for public inspection, and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be released under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Dated: February 11, 1999.

Jack Spiegel,

Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer.

[FR Doc. 99-4306 Filed 2-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4442-N-04]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment

AGENCY: Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: Comments due: April 23, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Reports Liaison Officer, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Room 8226, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garland E. Allen, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Room 8140, Washington, DC 20410; telephone 202-708-3700, extension 5710 (this is not a toll free number). Copies of the proposed forms and other available documents to be submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Allen.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affecting agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology,

e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Case Study of Section 8 Rental Voucher and Rental Certificate Programs in Alameda County, California.

Description of the need for information and proposed use: The Department is conducting, under contract to the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University, a case study of the unusually high rate of movement by Section 8 recipients to Alameda County, particularly from the neighboring cities of Oakland and Berkeley, California. Using a case study methodology, the study will determine the neighborhood outcomes for recipients, the reasons for making the move and to document procedures employed by the three housing agencies in administering the Section 8 program which allowed such moves to occur.

Members of the affected public: A sample of Section 8 recipients will be interviewed.

Estimation of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response: The researchers will administer a one-time, telephone survey to 300 residents. The interviews are expected to last 30 minutes for a total burden estimate of 150 hours.

Status of the proposed information collection: Pending OMB approval.

Authority: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: February 12, 1999.

Lawrence L. Thompson,

General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

[FR Doc. 99-4283 Filed 2-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-62-M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4442-N-05]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is