

An imbalance between matrix metalloproteinase (MMP)-2 and its endogenous inhibitor, tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase (TIMP)-2 causes the degradation of the extracellular matrix associated with pathological events including invasion, metastasis and angiogenesis. Since TIMPs are secreted molecules, they have the potential to be used for gene therapy of certain tumors. In present study, we have studied the retrovirus-mediated delivery of TIMP-2 in H-ras MCF10A cells in which MMP-2 was shown to be responsible for the H-ras-induced invasive phenotype. PG13 cells, packaging cells, were infected with the recombinant retrovirus containing TIMP-2 gene (rRetTIMP-2). Recombinant retrovirus containing LacZ (rRetLacZ) was used as a control. Overexpression of TIMP-2 was detected in H-ras MCF10A cells infected by rRetTIMP-2 after 5 days in culture. Retroviral delivery of TIMP-2 in H-ras MCF10A cells caused a significant downregulation of MMP-2 in a dose-dependent manner as evidenced by Western blot and gelatin zymography. Migration and invasive phenotype H-ras MCF10A cells were markedly inhibited by rRetTIMP-2 infection compared to the cells infected with rRetLacZ. In addition, retroviral delivery of TIMP-2 efficiently inhibited angiogenesis of HUVECs dose-dependently as evidenced by in vitro tube formation assay. Taken together, we show that the downregulation of MMP-2 by TIMP-2 overexpression inhibits migrative and invasive properties of H-ras MCF10A cells and angiogenesis of HUVECs, suggesting a possible application for gene therapy to prevent and treat cancer.

[PC1-39] [10/17/2002 (Thr) 13:30 - 16:30 / Hall C]

Identification and characterization of a novel cancer/testis antigen gene

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We applied serological analysis of cDNA expression library technique to identify cancer-associated genes. We screened cDNA expression libraries of human testis and gastric cancer cell lines with sera of patients with gastric cancers. We identified a gene whose expression is testis-specific among normal tissues. We cloned and characterized this novel gene. It contains D-E-A-D box domain and encodes a putative protein of 630 amino acids with possible helicase activity. It showed wide expression in various cancer tissues and cancer cell lines. The corresponding gene was named cancer-associated gene (CAGE). PCR of human x hamster Radiation Hybrids showed localization of CAGE on the human chromosome Xp22. Transient transfection of CAGE showed predominantly nuclear localization. Both western blot and plaque assay indicated seroreactivity of CAGE protein. It was shown that CAGE expression was induced in cell cultures treated with 5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine. This suggests that methylation plays a role in regulation of CAGE expression. Direct sequencing of the CAGE gene after sodium bisulfite treatment of genomic DNA revealed that the methylation of CpG sites had occurred in those cancer cell lines without CAGE expression. This confirms that the methylation of CpG sites is associated with silencing of CAGE expression. We are currently carrying out transient transfection experiment to check whether methylation repress transcription of CAGE in cells containing transcription factors required for expression. Because CAGE is expressed in a variety of cancers but not in normal tissues except testis, this gene can be a target of antitumor immunotherapy.

[PC1-40] [10/17/2002 (Thr) 13:30 - 16:30 / Hall C]

GDNF Enhances Hs683 Human Glioma Cell Migration: Possible Involvement of MAPKs

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Glial cell-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) is a potent neurotrophic factor that enhances survival of midbrain dopaminergic neuron. GDNF and its receptors are widely distributed in brain and are believed to be involved in the control of neuron survival and differentiation. In this study, we examined the effect of GDNF on proliferation and migration of Hs683 human glioma cells. GDNF markedly enhances proliferation and migration of Hs683 cells in a dose-dependent manner. Since involvement of mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs) in the cellular effect of GDNF has been suggested, we wished to investigate the activation of JNK, ERK-1,2 and p38 by GDNF treatment in Hs683 cells. GDNF (80 ng/ml) prominently increased phosphorylated form of p38 without affecting total p38 level. A kinetic study of GDNF-induced p38 activation showed that p38 was maximally activated within 30 min after GDNF treatment and decreased at 1 hr in the Hs683 cells. Activation of other MAPKs, JNK and ERK-1,2, was also detected upon GDNF treatment, to a lesser degree compared to p38. Our data suggest that the

enhancing effect of GDNF on glioma cell migration may possibly be mediated by activation of MAPKs, especially p38.

[PC1-41] [10/17/2002 (Thr) 13:30 - 16:30 / Hall C]

Effect of porcine testis-derived glycosaminoglycans on blood coagulation and immune responses

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Glycosaminoglycans (PT-Gag) were isolated from the porcine testis. From the PT-Gag, we obtained two different types of Gag fractions using Dowex macroporous Resin MSA-1 column, PT-Gag-1.5% NaCl and PT-Gag-16% NaCl. Various biological activities of the GAGs were examined in aspect of anticoagulant and immunomodulating activity. The anticoagulant activity of the GAGs was evaluated by activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT) assay and thrombin time (TT) assay. The GAGs of porcine testis markedly increased the clotting times of both of aPTT and TT, showing that PT-Gag-16% NaCl was more effective than PT-Gag-1.5% NaCl. The immunomodulating activity of the GAGs was examined in relation to regulation of cytokine production of murine peritoneal macrophages. Treatment with the GAGs prominently enhanced the production of cytokines, IFN- γ and TNF- α , from macrophages. Taken together, GAGs isolated from porcine testis possess biological functions such as anticoagulant and immunomodulating activity.

[PC1-42] [10/17/2002 (Thr) 13:30 - 16:30 / Hall C]

REGULATION OF BETA-AMYLOID-STIMULATED PROINFLAMMATORY RESPONSES VIA MITOGEN ACTIVATED PROTEIN KINASES AND REDOX SENSITIVE TRANSCRIPTION FACTORS

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Inflammatory as well as oxidative tissue damage has been associated with pathophysiology of Alzheimer's disease (AD), and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs have been shown to retard the progress of AD. In this study, we have investigated the molecular mechanisms underlying oxidative and inflammatory cell death induced by beta-amyloid (Abeta), a neurotoxic peptide associated with senile plaques formed in the brains of patients with AD, in cultured PC12 cells. PC12 cells treated with Abeta exhibited increased intracellular accumulation of reactive oxygen species and underwent apoptotic death. Abeta caused activation of redox sensitive transcription factors NF- κ B and AP-1, which appeared to be mediated via transient induction of MAPKs such as ERK 1/2 and p38. Exposure of PC12 cells to Abeta resulted in time-dependent activation of COX-2 and production of prostaglandin E2. In another experiment, treatment of Abeta led to increased iNOS expression, nitric oxide generation and subsequent peroxynitrite production. Pretreatment with the COX-2 selective inhibitor celecoxib or the peroxynitrite scavenger ergothioneine ameliorated Abeta-induced oxidative cell death. Both SB203580, a widely used p38 MAPK inhibitor and U0126, an inhibitor of MEK1/2 suppressed Abeta-induced cell death through downregulation of COX-2 expression. The above findings suggest that MAPKs and redox sensitive transcriptional factors play an important role in Abeta-stimulated proinflammatory pathways.

[PC1-43] [10/17/2002 (Thr) 13:30 - 16:30 / Hall C]

Transforming Growth Factor- β (TGF- β) Induces Invasion and Migration of Ras-Transformed MCF10A Human Breast Epithelial Cells

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