

Announcements

The Fifth International Conference On Antiviral Research

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Hyatt Regency Vancouver
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

For additional information about the conference, please contact Earl R. Kern, Ph.D., Secretary, International Society for Antiviral Research, Department of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital Tower, Suite 653, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL 35294, U.S.A., Telephone (205) 934-1990, Telefax (205) 934-8559.

Antiviral Research Branch, NIAID In Vitro Antiviral Screen and Antiviral Evaluation in Animal Models

The goal of NIAID's Antiviral Research Program is to identify promising agents for therapy of human viral infections (other than AIDS) and facilitate their development. The Program interacts with commercial and academic scientists in both the pre-clinical and clinical evaluation of their compounds. All rights to the compounds evaluated remain entirely with the compound sponsor. The sole interest of the government is to ensure that effective therapies for viral diseases are identified, developed, and licensed as expeditiously as possible. Two of the Program's preclinical services are described below.

I. The Antiviral Research Branch has recently established *in vitro* antiviral screening facilities to expedite the identification of compounds with inhibitory activity for herpes and respiratory viruses. In these facilities: 1) Therapeutic indices of potential antiviral compounds are determined; 2) Active compounds are further evaluated in additional cell lines using several virus strains including clinical and resistant isolates; and 3) More extensive studies on mechanism of action and activity in drug combinations are conducted with the consent of the sponsor. Confidentiality is strictly maintained.

Screening of compounds for antiviral activity is available for:

HERPESVIRUSES: HSV 1, HSV 2, HCMV, VZV, EBV

RESPIRATORY VIRUSES: Flu A, Flu B, RSV, Paraflu 3, Ad 5, Measles

II. A major aspect of the Antiviral Substances Program's preclinical antiviral evaluation occurs in animal model systems that mimic a viral disease process in man. A list of the models currently supported by the Program follows:

1. HCMV in rabbits, guinea pig CMV, murine CMV
2. HSV encephalitis in mice, neonatal herpes in mice, genital herpes in mice, guinea pigs
3. Varicella-zoster virus infection of guinea pigs, rabbits
4. RSV in cotton rats, measles in cotton rats
5. Influenza in mice, parainfluenza in cotton rats
6. Shope papillomavirus infection of domestic rabbits
7. Xenograft system for growth of HPV 11 papillomas in nude mice

For more information, contact:

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