

Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology News

The use of government sponsored research at universities to start commercial companies and the effect of such initiatives on university research promises to receive considerable attention in the coming months. Three government entities are examining the question in one form or another at the present time: The House Science and Technology Committee; The National Institute of Health; The National Science Board, which oversees the National Science Foundation.

Hoechst A. G. has an agreement to finance Massachusetts General Hospital with \$50 million over 10 years for research in molecular biology. In exchange, Hoechst receives exclusive rights to patents resulting from the research, and royalties will be shared by scientists, the hospital, and the new Molecular Biology Department.

A report by G. B. Carter of England indicates that Russia is the largest producer of single-cell protein in the world at 1.1 million tons per year. The Russians have a national goal of agricultural self-sufficiency and hope that producing 11-12 million tons per year of SCP as animal feed supplement will help them attain that goal.

It has been reported that because of the wide publicity that interferon has received, a black market has developed for its sale. Scientific data to date has actually given mixed results.

The Japaneses Fermentation Research Institute was recently named the third location in the world to accept cultures under the 1977 Budapest Treaty.

Reported comparisons of Eli Lilly's recombinant—or biosynthetic—insulin to Novo's porcine insulin or human insulin show that the behavior is identical.

Many new ventures have been formed to use recombinant DNA technology and the current growth in new company formation is ventures to use monoclonal antibodies. One report is that there will be a \$500 million market by 1985 for products using monoclonal antibody technology.

Reports

Recombinant DNA Forum '81, Technology

Marketing Group \$1,200

Interferon Forum '81, Technology

Marketing Group \$1,000

Opportunities in Biotechnology, 1980 to 1988-90

T. A. Sheets \$2,200

Genetic Engineering and Recombinant DNA

Stanford Research Institute \$10,500

Biotechnology for the Chemical Industry

Industrial Liaison Bureau \$4,350

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