BioSET Inc. uses the peptide in bone graft system and initiates clinical trials

Brookhaven Science Associates, the company that operates and manages BNL, and its Partner, the Bio-Set International Technology, Inc. (BioSET), have been issued a U.S. Patent for the synthetic peptide, called B2A.

"About 250,000 Americans undergo lumbar spine fusions each year to treat lower back pain," said Tom Roueche, BioSET’s President and CEO. "We have developed a novel combination medical device, called AMPLEX, that incorporates B2A osteo-inductive growth factor with an ultra-high grade ceramic bone substitute for use in this type of surgery. Preclinical studies have found that it is a safe and highly effective." B2A enhances the effects of a tissue growth factor known as bone morphogenetic protein 2, or BMP-2. BMPs are a family of proteins in the human body responsible for bone formation, repair and differentiation of cells in many tissues, including bone.

Louis Peña of the Medical Department developed B2A with BioSET, and he performed the initial studies at BNL. The initial research to develop B2A was funded by DOE’s Office of Science, the National Institutes of Health, and BioSET.

"I became interested in bone growth factors after NASA built a radiation research facility at Brookhaven," Peña said. "Weightlessness in space causes bone loss, and cosmic radiation can cause damage to cells, so I thought I might be able to study the interaction of the two. In setting up for that, I developed B2A and couldn’t ignore its biomedical applications, so I focused on it instead. The ability to shift direction as the training leads is important in science, and I’ve had the freedom to do that at Brookhaven. I am grateful that BioSET has been able to take the B2A technology to a new level of clinical testing."

In recent preclinical studies, University of Iowa researchers used a rat model to evaluate AMPLEX spine fusion. They found that it enhanced the fusion, compared to a conventional surgical method that uses the rat’s own pelvic bone to form the bone graft. Also, a team of researchers assembled by BioSET reported at a 2008 Orthopedic Research Society meeting that AMPLEX enhanced spine fusion in sheep, a large animal model with a spine that more closely resembles the human spine.

BioSET has received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to initiate a pilot study to evaluate the safety and preliminary efficacy of AMPLEX in approximately 22 patients. Also, the company received approval from Health Canada for a similar study with 24 patients in that country. Each controlled study will compare AMPLEX to an autograft from the patient’s own hip bone in lumbar fusion directed procedures to treat degenerative disc disease.

The first patient surgery in the Canadian study was performed by a neurosurgeon at Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary, Canada. The surgeon reported that AMPLEX handled as well as other ceramic graft alternatives and that the graft was progressing well after surgery. Data from all patients in the clinical studies will be evaluated at six-month intervals.


BioSET is a private, clinical stage company developing proprietary therapeutic peptides as medical devices to improve bone and soft tissue repair. BioSET products incorporate chemically synthetic growth factor mimetics with procedure specific biomaterials to address multiple large and clinically relevant applications. The company’s lead product combines BNL’s novel B2A osteo-promotive peptide with a resorbable bone scaffold of substantial safety and cost benefits to currently available bone grafting alternatives. For more information, contact Tom Roueche, President of BioSET at: (801) 795-6610.

Diane Greenberg

BNL’s Paul Sorensen Receives Prize From the American Physical Society

Paul Sorensen, a Maurice & Gertrude Goldhaber Distinguished Fellow in the Physics Department, will receive the 2009 George E. Valley Jr. Prize from the American Physical Society (APS). The $20,000 prize was established in 2000 under the terms of a bequest from Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist George E. Valley, Jr. It is awarded biennially to recognize one individual in the early stages of his or her career for an outstanding scientific contribution to physics that is deemed to have significant potential for a dramatic impact in the field. Sorensen will receive the prize at the April 2009 APS meeting in Denver, Colorado.

Chemistry’s Doctoral Student Patterson Wins Stony Brook University Award

Melissa Patterson, a doctoral student mentored by Michael White, Chemistry Department, has been named a recipient of Stony Brook University’s (SBU) Presidential Award to Distinguish Doctoral Students. The award for excellence in research is given to five students each year. She will receive the award, which consists of a citation and $500, on May 20, two days before her graduation ceremony.

Patterson was cited “for improving our understanding of chemical reactions on nanostructured catalysts for energy applications.”

Patterson and her BNL colleagues created model nanocatalysts of molybdenum sulfide, the first step in developing the next generation of materials to be used in hydrosulfurization (HDS), a process that removes sulfur, a pollutant, from natural gas and petroleum products. "In our laboratory, we are using the tools of nanoscience to modify the activity of molybdenum sulfide nanoparticles by tuning their size, structure and chemical composition," Patterson said. "We have identified one particular structure that is most reactive as a model HDS catalyst, since it readily absorbs sulfur and releases carbon monoxide."

After earning a B.S. in chemistry from SUNY Binghamton in May 2003, Patterson enrolled in SBU’s doctoral program in chemistry in 2004. Since that time, she has been a research assistant for White, who is also on the faculty of SBU. All of her doctoral research has been done at BNL.

"When I visited Brookhaven Lab, I knew it would be a good opportunity to work here," Patterson said. "I’ve been able to collaborate with many scientists in Chemistry as well as other departments."
In Memoriam

William Eberspacher, who joined the Central Shops Divi-
sion as a machinist on September 26, 1955, and retired as an
experienced machinist on June 30, 1971, died on August 25, 2008, at
97. He had worked for the Lab as a temporary contract in the Plant Engi-
neering Division on October 4, 1971, retiring on December 31, 1976.

Paul Roman, who worked for the Lab as a school bus driver
November 10, 1947, as a glassblower A, and retired as a glass-
blowing specialist 1 after more than 40 years of service. He
September 30, 1991, died on Febru-
ary 11, 2009.

Michael Evans, who served as a temporary ser-
vant in the summer of 1961 and 1962 and joined the
Plant Engineering Division as a machinist on February 18, 1963, died at age 81 on Febru-
ary 11, 2009. She retired from the Procurement & Property Manage-
ment as an administrative services associate in 1994.

Robert MacGregor, who joined the Chemistry Depart-
ment as a chemistry associate II on March 16, 1972, and retired as a chemistry associate I on
March 31, 2001, died at the age of 72 on February 15, 2009.

Udo Von Wimmersperg, who came to the Lab as an invit-
ee on June 13, 1987, and joined the Department of Nuclear Energy (NE) on March 21, 1990, as a research engineer, died on February 20, 2009. He
also worked on the Relativity-
ities Heavy Ion Project from March 9, 1990, to early 90s, and retired from NE on
March 31, 2006.

Henry Boomer, who came to the Lab as a temporary laborer
March 22, 1958, became a per-
manent employee on May 26, 1961, and worked from the Plant Engineering Division as general supervisor of custodial services on October 13, 1989, died on March 1, 2009. He was 85.

Clarification

In the Bulletins of 4/3/09 and 4/10/09, clarification is needed for the names of the Secretary of the Energy Efficiency Awards for 2006 and the Director of Management given on March 31 to BNLS’s Center for Functional Nutrition, Dr. Sarah Hahn, from the U.S. ATLAS Detector Project and Fermi National Accelerator Lab-
oratory’s N. Compact Munoz Solenoid (U.S. CSM) Detector Project. U.S. ATLAS and U.S. CSM have been replaced by the DOE Secretary of Energy’s Project Management Award for Achievement. The CSMl is the Project Management Excellence in Acquisition Award.

What is my carbon foot-
print? Does this car get
enough miles per gallon? Should I buy solar panels for my
home? When is the best
time to fill the home-heating tank? Is there an alternative
energy that should I use? Have you found yourself ques-
tioning your energy usage and the financial and environ-
mental costs? Ron Schroeder, Collider-Accel-
erator Director, has— for more than 30 years. As a chil-
dren, he learned about his own
alternative-energy systems for both his car and his home.
Schroeder, an electron-
can, is a native of Ohio and the son of a chem-
ists who lived through the Great Depression, he is also
one resourceful guy. His first
alternative-energy stemmed from an amateur
radio hobby in which he
designed solar and land fuel systems to power radio
equipment on mountaintops where electricity was not available.

Since Schroeder’s early successes using land fuel to power a die-
generator for radio equipment, he has continued to use recycled cooking oil in a multitude of ways. A diesel engine can run on almost any com-
 bustible fluid that you can inject it in the exhaust. “Going green” and diesel fuel was inexpensive when I started, but I knew that the local Michigan’s waste was a problem getting rid of the land used to
make gang fires. I was able to make it go for four more things.

Hitch the Road, Ron

In early 1981, Schroeder
expanded his work on the diesel generator powered by French fry
land finished in 1979, second
fuel system in his one-year-old
diesel-powered Audi. The modi-
car still started with ordinary
diesel fuel, but during the first
few minutes of driving, the heat emitted by the motor was
used to melt and thin the recycled land. Once the land was heated, it
became a liquid, and Schroeder
power the engine with the land
fuel system.

When restaurants shifted to healthier vegetable oils rather than
land, Schroeder’s modified Audi continued to run successfully. “Regardless of what was cooked in the oil I use, most people say
that the exhaust smells like "beany
and steak. It doesn’t smell as much as diesel fuel though,” Schroeder
said while listing the advantages of his vegetable oil-powered
motors. “The alternate fuel systems don’t emit as much greenhouse
gases because they come from renew-
able CO, neutral sources. There are
fewer unburned nitrous oxide and sulfur oxide compounds so it contributes less to pollution and acid rain.”

While Schro-
der’s recycled cooking oil
systems have

worked well for
him, he does not
claim that they
are the solution
to the
dependence on fossil
fuels. “If everyone in New
York modified their
cars, there would probably
only be about
12 gallons of recycled vegetable oil for each person per year. Also,
preparing the fuel is very time
consuming.” Schroeder must
clean the recycled vegetable
oil before using it, not only to
remove leftover food scraps, but
to remove any particles sus-
pected in the recycled oil that
would dramatically reduce the
life of his car.

Still, Schroeder has stuck with
the system that has worked well for
him. He would not hes-
itate to drive his current car, a modi-
fied 1985 diesel Mercedes Benz, for
a long stretch. “I would have to fill
my tank with junk of pre-cleaned oil before leaving because there isn’t any good way of de-watering the oil on the road. But if I were ever in a bend
on the road, I could still run
the car of regular diesel fuel or
buy new, clean cooking oil.” he added.

Before Ron Schroeder purifies old, used oil from his recycled cooking oil, raw, recycled cooking oil is cloudy yet transparent. The purified, de-watered recycled cooking oil is ready for use on the car.

Patterson from pg. 1

“I am one of hundreds of peo-
ple who have worked at RHIC, and this award reflects on
the hard work and talent of all those who have been
involved,” Schroeder said. “I partic-
ularly would like to thank my thesis
advisor, Huan Huang, my mentor at
the University of Michigan, and
Leader Tim Hallman at BNLS, and
STAR spokesperson Xu Xu for their valuable contributions as well as my colleagues and all the students and postdocs I’ve
worked with over the years, who
helped to make this award possible. It’s fun to be part of this team that is pushing the frontiers of physics. As exciting as what we’ve learned already is, I think the next couple of years will be absolutely explosive.”

In 2005, physicists at RHIC
created a state of hot, dense mat-
ter out of quarks and gluons, the
fundamental building blocks of
matter, that has not existed since the beginning of the universe. Contrary to theory, which predicted that a gas called a quark gluon plasma would form, the matter created appeared to behave more like a perfect fluid. With his col-
leagues, Sorenson measured the
mass, momentum and direction
subatomic projectiles. From the data
derived from the STAR detec-
tor at RHIC, Sorenson and his
Diane Greenberg

In 2007, Patricia Patterson
from pg. 2

Throughout her doctorate, Patterson has been involved in university ser-
vice. She was Senator for the Chemistry Department in the Graduate Student Con-
stitution, 2005–2008, serving as a representative for chemistry graduate students. She also
Sorenson prefers the main component to his home-heating recycled cooking-oil burner.

Bringing It All Back Home

When Schroeder modified a car or
truck, he added a heated-
die fuel system to power the engine
with the home-heating equivalent of
a car engine—a burner in which the oil would be processed and create
the heat for his entire home.

“The burner is especially dif-
cult compared to converting a
diesel vehicle,” Schroeder stated.
The completed piece is nearly the
same size as a regular home-
heating oil burner. Schroeder can provide
a diesel burner that uses regular
diesel oil for $300 in 2008. Schroeder believes biodie-

solutions. “For the long term, we DO have to
consider Schroeder’s advice: “It’s
very easy to be more comfortable while using less energy,” he said.

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Take Our Children To Work Day, 4/23
“Take Our Children to Work Day” for Lab employees’ children or grandchildren of ages 10 to 15 will be held on Thursday, April 23. The day will start at 8:30 a.m. and finish at 2:30 p.m. Onsite registration will be available at the Human Resources homepage. Click on “Take Our Children’s Day Registration Form” and follow the prompts. For more information or to get paper registration form, call Liz Gilbert, Ext. 2315.

TIAA-CREF One-On-One Retirement Counseling
A TIAA-CREF consultant will be available on Thursday, April 23, and Wednesday, April 29, to answer employees’ questions about financial matters. The consultant will help you understand the importance of protecting your assets against inflation, find the right allocation mix, learn about TIAA-CREF retirement income flexibility, and compare lifetime income vs. cash withdrawal options. For an appointment, call 1-800-712-8133.

EARTH WEEK 5K Walk/Run, 4/19
Join with Stony Brook University’s Spring Festivites to celebrate Earth Week at the first annual Martin Schoenem 5K Walk/Run at the picturesque SBU Southampton campus on Sunday April 19.

The proceeds from this event will help provide funding for a scholarship to be awarded to a Stony Brook Southampton student. Arrive early, the first 500 will receive a T-shirt. Register online at www.stonybrook.edu/southampton.

BNL Celebrates Earth Week, 4/19-24
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“Your Environments” will highlight the contributions that all BNL employees make to environmental protection.

Earth Week Calendar
Monday, 4/20, noon, Berkner Hall: Mark Lembo, BNL, will talk on “Global Change and the Terrestrial Biosphere.” This Earth Day talk also serves as the 450th Brookhaven Lecture. See story on pg. 1.

Tuesday, 4/21, noon, Berkner Hall: Room B, Richard Kidd, Kidl, Program Manager for the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) will discuss FEMP’s direction and its future role, federal funding trends, future financing trends, and Earth Day observations.

Wednesday, 4/22, 4 p.m., Berkner Hall lobby: Open Mic Night: “Celebrate Holi/ Spring.” Hosted by Acta.

Thursday, 4/23, 4 p.m., Berkner Hall lobby: Rosemary Wiesner, BNL, will talk on “Global Change and the Terrestrial Biosphere.” This event also serves as the 451st Brookhaven Lecture. See story above.

Friday, 4/24, 4 p.m., Berkner Hall: Eric Forsyth, former U.S. Energy Chief, will discuss the Challenges Facing Renewable Energy — Rethinking America to Eliminate the Use of Fossil Fuel. Forsyth takes the view that replacing the fossil-fuel economy of the US with alternative energy sources will be the largest engineering undertaking ever attempted, with a success rate slowed by changes in the energy is generatized and used. He will explain that the transition will take many decades and urge the essential need for a timeline for the introduction of alternatives as fossil-fuel resources dwindle.

Earth Day Art Poster Awards Ceremony
Thursday, 4/23, 4:30 p.m., Berkner Hall Awar in BNL’s annual “Your Environ Ments” art contest. More information, contact BNL, Ext. 5917. 

Virtual Carpooling, 4/21-Mid-May
Free online program for shift workers will be held Monday, April 21 through Monday, May 16. For more information, call Laura Miller, Ext. 3385.

BNL and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) are pleased to announce the launch of the Nation Wide Trip Planning website, www.tripware.com. The website is a key component of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s SmartWay program. SmartWay encourages freight companies, shippers, and carriers to use fuel-efficient practices to reduce emissions and help make our environment cleaner for future generations.

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OPEN RECRUITMENT - Opportunities for Level I/II Postdoctoral Research Associates – Stony Brook University, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. Experience in biology, chemistry, physics, geology, geosciences, oceanography, palaeontology, or similar discipline is required. Please have a bachelors degree in geology or a related field with at least 1 year of experience in sedimentology and experience conducting research on mid-ocean ridges. A Ph.D. in ocean sciences and experience in the collection and analysis of sediment cores is required. Experience in the preparation and interpretation of digital images and experience with computer software such as Adobe Photoshop is required. A master's degree in marine geology or related field is desired. Proficiency in English is required. The successful candidate will (1) participate in a field setting, in the design and execution of research experiments on the mid-ocean ridge, (2) analyze sediments, and (3) contribute to a graduate student. The successful candidate will carry out research in the area of sedimentology and paleoceanography at the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. Biweekly stipends will be awarded to individuals carrying out this work. The School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences is committed to increasing the diversity of its faculty and students. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Applications received on or before November 30, 2010, will be given priority consideration.

Rideshare Incentives for April

Through a Long Island Transportation Management (LTM) grant, the lab is offering incentives for individuals who carpool to and from work a minimum of 12 days each month. The award gratuity is approximately $200 and will be paid by credit card. Participants must park to and from work a minimum of 12 days each month and register their vehicles involved in carpooling. The registration process is required. A form will be posted on the lab’s website at http://www.nrndl.gov/nrndl/main/main.jsp. As a special short-term rideshare incentive, a $20 gas card will be awarded to the first 25 individuals who register their carpoolers on the NURDL website before May 1, 2011. Also, a $20 gas card will be awarded to individuals who form new carpools or join existing carpools and register for at least six rideshare trips on NURDL by April 30. For more information, see Notice of New Proposal on 6/6/2009 (http://www.tsinterest.org/snp/memo/1/ or contact Ventana Machine Sales

A survey is available until April 24 for comments regarding the service provided by vending machines on site. Ruth Comas, Conference Support Manager, will review the comments and prepare a report which will be used to improve services. See http://www.tsinterest.org/survey/vending.


PIANO LESSONS – Classical, All Levels, K-8, 30 minutes, $30.00, 33 minutes, $33.00, 45 minutes, $45.00, 60 minutes, $60.00, 90 minutes, $90.00. Tony, 736-7942.

DECORATIVE GLASS – Beautiful solutions for all decorative glass needs, front door, kitchen, bath, skylight, or custom-shaped windows all types of glass, custom designs. 315-697-1611.

FLOORING, INSTALLING & REPAIRS – Carpentry, Vinyl and Laminate, Quality sales and service. Over 20 years’ experience. 631-947-4167.

GEOGRAPHY – advice and research on family history and geography, 30 yr. exp. Jim, 921-6179 or jhiggens@brookhavenpsychology.com. 631-751-2356.

TUTOR – Experienced chemistry teacher with 10 years experience. Master level, college or High School levels. Stony Brook. Tony, 736-7942.

PIANO LESSONS – Classical, All Levels, NYSMA preparation, in Shoreham, 744-3823.

BROOKHAVEN HAMLET, OPEN HOUSE & AUTO SHOW, May 1, 2:00-6:00 pm. 1-1/2 acre, 1-story 3bdrm Ranch, 3ba., rec renov., 1 acre, pvt. well & septic, nr/stores, school bus, nat. prsvr, attch office w/waitr rm., 2 full baths, one on first fl. $585,000 neg. 286-4584.

SHOREHAM – Ranch, newly renov, 3 bdrms, 1 bath, l/r, balc, nr/stores, laund. rm. $499,000, 280-2848.

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