

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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STANFORD—

A mutant cancer cell line, developed by Stanford University scientists and used for producing human monoclonal (pure) antibodies, will be made available for research purposes to scientists around the world, the University announced Friday, November 7.

Announcements that the myeloma cell line, developed by Drs. Henry S. Kaplan and Lennart Olsson, will be made available to other scientists appeared in the journals *Nature* and *Science* this week.

"The mutant myeloma line, SKO-007, useful for making human hybridomas. . . is available to a) academic scientists under prior agreement to restrict further distribution, and b) to industry under a non-exclusive license agreement," the announcement said.

Cells for distribution to scientists will be ready to be shipped in about three weeks," said Dr. Henry S. Kaplan.

He explained that cells need to be grown to the requisite culture volume, then frozen for shipment after rigid quality control tests are completed. These steps have been under way for several weeks, he said.

Under a policy adopted by the University last week, scientists may obtain the cells by paying nominal handling costs and signing a statement that the cells will be used solely for research purposes.

"The cell line is provided as a service to the research community," said Stanford Vice President for Public Affairs Robert Rosenzweig.

Kaplan and Olsson reported the development of human monoclonal antibodies from artificially created cells, called hybridomas, in the September issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Until their efforts, hybridoma technology had produced only mouse antibodies which are not considered the first choice for diagnosis and treatment because of the body's natural reaction againsts foreign proteins.

Therefore, the development of pure antibodies from human cells has created great scientific interest. The pure antibodies are expected to be used as a powerful tool for studying human disease, and as a method for diagnosis of virus and bacterial infections, and detection of cancer.

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EDITORS: Individuals interested in obtaining the cell line should contact the Stanford Technology Licensing Office (415) 497-3567