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Friday, May 24, 2013

Professor Yasuaki Harabuchi
Chair, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Asahikawa Medical University
Midorigaoka E2-1-1-1, Asahikawa, 078-8510, Japan

Dear Professor Harabuchi,

It is with great joy to congratulate you on the celebration of your 15th year anniversary as Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Asahikawa Medical University. I am well aware of the outstanding accomplishments of your Department during your tenure, as Chair and I am confident that you will continue with this trajectory for many more years in the future. For more than a decade, I have been very fortunate to closely interact and collaborate with you and other very talented physician-scientists of the Asahikawa Medical University, which resulted in two dozen publications in prestigious peer-reviewed scientific journals (see Appendix-A). I hope that we will continue to closely collaborate for many more years to come.

In closing, please allow me to continue to be your friend and college that wish you persistent success in your very productive career and as Department Chair of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Asahikawa Medical University.

My best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Esteban Celis".

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Appendix-A

Joint Publications of Professor Esteban Celis with Scientists of Asahikawa Medical University

1. Kobayashi, H., Kennedy, R., Lu, J., Davila, E., and Celis, E. (2000). MHC-binding peptides as immunotherapeutics for cancer. *Immunol. Invest.*, **29**:105-110..
2. Kobayashi, H., Wood, M., Song, Y., Appella, E., and Celis, E. (2000). Defining promiscuous MHC class II helper T-cell epitopes for the HER2/neu tumor antigen. *Cancer Res.*, **60**:5228-5236.
3. Kobayashi, H., Kimura, S., Aoki, N., Sato, K., Celis, E., and Katagiri, M. (2001). Existence of MHC class I-restricted alloreactive CD4+ T cells reacting with peptide transporter-deficient cells. *Immunogenetics*, **53**:626-633.
4. Kobayashi, H., Lu, J., and Celis, E. (2001). Identification of helper T-cell epitopes that encompass or lie proximal to cytotoxic T-cell epitopes in the gp100 melanoma tumor antigen. *Cancer Res.*, **61**:7577-7584.
5. Kobayashi, H., Song, Y., Hoon, D.S., Appella, E., and Celis, E. (2001). Tumor-reactive T helper lymphocytes recognize a promiscuous MAGE-A3 epitope presented by various major histocompatibility complex class II alleles. *Cancer Res.*, **61**:4773-4778.
6. Giuntoli, R.L., 2nd, Lu, J., Kobayashi, H., Kennedy, R., and Celis, E. (2002). Direct costimulation of tumor-reactive CTL by helper T cells potentiate their proliferation, survival, and effector function. *Clin. Cancer Res.*, **8**:922-931.
7. Huarte, E., Sarobe, P., Lu, J., Casares, N., Lasarte, J.J., Dotor, J., Ruiz, M., Prieto, J., Celis, E., and Borrás-Cuesta, F. (2002). Enhancing immunogenicity of a CTL epitope from carcinoembryonic antigen by selective amino acid replacements. *Clin. Cancer Res.*, **8**:2336-2344.
8. Kobayashi, H., Omiya, R., Ruiz, M., Huarte, E., Sarobe, P., Lasarte, J.J., Herraiz, M., Sangro, B., Prieto, J., Borrás-Cuesta, F., and Celis, E. (2002). Identification of an antigenic epitope for helper T lymphocytes from carcinoembryonic antigen. *Clin. Cancer Res.*, **8**:3219-3225.
9. Lu, J., Giuntoli, R.L., 2nd, Omiya, R., Kobayashi, H., Kennedy, R., and Celis, E. (2002). Interleukin 15 promotes antigen-independent in vitro expansion and long-term survival of antitumor cytotoxic T lymphocytes. *Clin. Cancer Res.*, **8**:3877-3884.
10. Omiya, R., Buteau, C., Kobayashi, H., Paya, C.V., and Celis, E. (2002). Inhibition of EBV-induced lymphoproliferation by CD4(+) T cells specific for an MHC class II promiscuous epitope. *J. Immunol.*, **169**:2172-2179.
11. Kobayashi, H., Omiya, R., Sodey, B., Yanai, M., Oikawa, K., Sato, K., Kimura, S., Senju, S., Nishimura, Y., Tateno, M., and Celis, E. (2003). Identification of naturally processed helper T-cell epitopes from prostate-specific membrane antigen using peptide-based in vitro stimulation. *Clin. Cancer Res.*, **9**:5386-5393.
12. Kobayashi, H., Nagato, T., Yanai, M., Oikawa, K., Sato, K., Kimura, S., Tateno, M., Omiya, R., and Celis, E. (2004). Recognition of adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma cells by CD4+ helper T lymphocytes specific for human T-cell leukemia virus type I envelope protein. *Clin. Cancer Res.*, **10**:7053-7062.

13. Ruiz, M., Kobayashi, H., Lasarte, J.J., Prieto, J., Borrás-Cuesta, F., Celis, E., and Sarobe, P. (2004). Identification and characterization of a T-helper peptide from carcinoembryonic antigen. *Clin. Cancer Res.*, **10**:2860-2867.
14. Kobayashi, H., Nagato, T., Oikawa, K., Sato, K., Kimura, S., Aoki, N., Omiya, R., Tateno, M., and Celis, E. (2005). Recognition of prostate and breast tumor cells by helper T lymphocytes specific for a prostate and breast tumor-associated antigen, TARP. *Clin. Cancer Res.*, **11**:3869-3878.
15. Kobayashi, H., Nagato, T., Aoki, N., Sato, K., Kimura, S., Tateno, M., and Celis, E. (2006). Defining MHC class II T helper epitopes for WT1 tumor antigen. *Cancer Immunol. Immunother.*, **55**:850-860.
16. Kobayashi, H., Nagato, T., Sato, K., Aoki, N., Kimura, S., Tanaka, Y., Aizawa, H., Tateno, M., and Celis, E. (2006). In vitro peptide immunization of target tax protein human T-cell leukemia virus type 1-specific CD4+ helper T lymphocytes. *Clin. Cancer Res.*, **12**:3814-3822.
17. Kobayashi, H., Nagato, T., Sato, K., Aoki, N., Kimura, S., Murakami, M., Iizuka, H., Azumi, M., Kakizaki, H., Tateno, M., and Celis, E. (2007). Recognition of Prostate and Melanoma Tumor Cells by Six-Transmembrane Epithelial Antigen of Prostate-Specific Helper T Lymphocytes in a Human Leukocyte Antigen Class II-Restricted Manner. *Cancer Res.*, **67**:5498-5504.
18. Nagato, T., Kobayashi, H., Yanai, M., Sato, K., Aoki, N., Oikawa, K., Kimura, S., Abe, Y., Celis, E., Harabuchi, Y., and Tateno, M. (2007). Functional analysis of birch pollen allergen Bet v 1-specific regulatory T cells. *J. Immunol.*, **178**:1189-1198.
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21. Kobayashi, H., Azumi, M., Kimura, Y., Sato, K., Aoki, N., Kimura, S., Honma, M., Iizuka, H., Tateno, M., and Celis, E. (2009). Focal adhesion kinase as an immunotherapeutic target. *Cancer Immunol. Immunother.*, **58**:931-940.
22. Kobayashi, H., Azumi, M., Hayashi, S., Sato, K., Aoki, N., Kimura, S., Kakizaki, H., Nagato, T., Harabuchi, Y., Tateno, M., and Celis, E. (2010). Characterization of human CD4 helper T cell responses against Aurora kinase A. *Cancer Immunol. Immunother.*, **59**:1029-1039.
23. Hayashi, S., Kumai, T., Matsuda, Y., Aoki, N., Sato, K., Kimura, S., Kitada, M., Tateno, M., Celis, E., and Kobayashi H. (2012). Six-transmembrane epithelial antigen of the prostate and enhancer of zeste homolog 2 as immunotherapeutic targets for lung cancer. *J. Transl. Med.* **9**:191.
24. Kobayashi, H., Kumai, T., Hayashi, S., Matsuda, Y., Aoki, N., Sato, K., Kimura, S., and Celis, E. (2012). A naturally processed HLA-DR-bound peptide from the IL-9 receptor alpha of HTLV-1-transformed T cells serves as a T helper epitope. *Cancer Immunol. Immunother.* **61**:2215-2225.