



TECHNOLOGY

Control of Apoptosis by Controlling the Propensity of Ceramide Channel Formation

OVERVIEW

Cell researchers believe that the efflux of proteins from mitochondria is an activation event that eventually leads to apoptosis.

A number of mechanisms have been proposed for the protein permeation pathway. Candidate mechanisms include the ceramide channels.

Researchers at the University of Maryland have a fairly robust model for the structure of the ceramide channel to use in a systematic approach to search for high-affinity compounds (compounds that can influence the formation and disassembly of the channel). They also have a method that could be modified to generate a high throughput screen for such compounds. Additionally, they have identified chemicals that influences the ceramide channel both positively and negatively. The results suggest an anti-apoptotic therapy.

For additional information contact the Office of Technology Commercialization at the University of Maryland 301-405-3947 or by e-mail at otc@umd.edu.

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Additional Information

INSTITUTION

University of Maryland, College Park

PATENT STATUS

Patent(s) pending

LICENSE STATUS

Available for non-exclusive license

CATEGORIES

- Chemicals
- Drug Screen

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

- [US Patent 7,897,401](#)

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