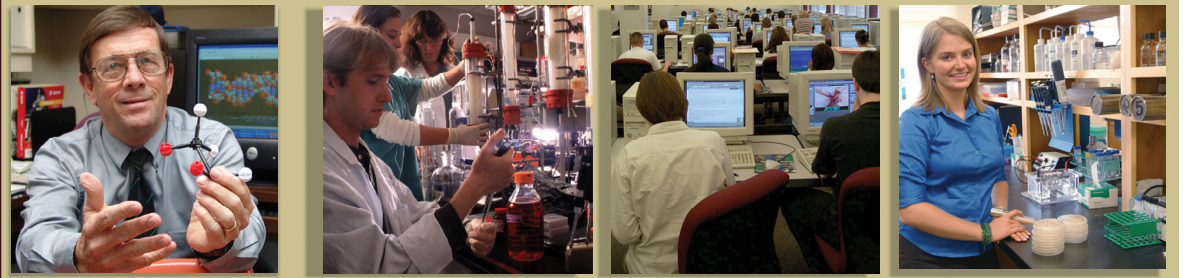




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Technology Opportunity

Novel Application of Melatonin Antagonists in Obstetrical Practice

This is a method for the prevention of pre-term labor that will introduce, intravenously, a melatonin antagonist to women who are predisposed to premature birth. Melatonin antagonists are drugs that do not provoke a biological response themselves, but bind to melatonin receptors, and, therefore, prevent endogenous melatonin itself from binding to the receptor. It is believed that the inhibition of melatonin action will prevent women from beginning labor.

Applications

Method for using melatonin to delay pre-term labor by targeting mothers who are at risk for premature labor.

Advantages

- Delay pre-term labor
- Save millions of dollars from premature births each year
- Prevent thousands of work hours for healthcare providers each year
- No expensive new drug development

Technology

Melatonin is a naturally occurring neurohormone found in most animals, including humans. Its role in the body is associated with the maintenance of a biological clock, or circadian rhythm. Besides this function, it is also a powerful antioxidant. Melatonin, or melatonin analogues, are consumed by millions daily for sleep induction. However, the application of melatonin in obstetrics represents a completely novel approach to the management of labor.

Technology Opportunity

The Inventors

Dr. James Olcese Dr. Olcese has served as a visiting assistant professor at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., as an assistant professor and associate professor at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., and as a professor and group leader at the Institute for Hormone & Fertility Research at the University of Hamburg Medical School in Hamburg, Germany.

Dr. Olcese is currently an associate professor here at Florida State University College of Medicine in the department of biomedical sciences.



For Licensing Opportunities Contact

Office of IP Development & Commercialization
2010 Levy Avenue, Suite 276-C
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2743
Jack Sams / E-mail jsams@fsu.edu
Ph: (850) 645-0048
Fax: (850) 644-3675



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