Cornell University

Center for Technology Enterprise and Commercialization

WHERE INNOVATIONS MEAN BUSINESS

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CCTEC ENEWS

SEPTEMBER, 2007

Keeping plants young

Cornell professor of Horticulture, Dr. Susheng Gan and team, discovered a method to control senescence, or the aging process, in plants. The Cornell researchers isolated the NAP gene, a gene which regulates senescence (yellowing) in leaves. Silencing the expression of the NAP protein in a plant significantly slows down the aging process in crop plants, turf and ornamental plants. Conversely, over-expressing the NAP protein in a plant or plant seed will accelerate the growth and aging of leaves. Guo and team were able to inactive the NAP gene in plants by introducing mutations into the DNA.

Delaying leaf senescence has many practical, commercial applications. "The NAP gene is widely present in many plant species; right now we're focusing on soybeans, maize and canola plants. We think the NAP gene has potential in turf grass management and in gardening ornamental plants," says Alice Li, the licensing professional managing the technology. Researchers speculate that inactivating the NAP gene can increase forest growth and increase the freshness (therefore value) of postharvest crops and plants.

For more information about this invention, contact Alice Li, xl11@cornell.edu

The soybean plant to the left is unaltered.

In the soybean plant to the left, the NAP gene was silenced

Upcoming Events

For more information on the following events please email, Laura Cima, at lc12@cornell.edu.

IP & Pizza (a CCTEC event)
October 9, 2007 12:00-1:30pm
Weill Greenberg Center
Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, New York

National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) Delegation
Visit to CCTEC
October 17, 2007 9:00-11:00am

CCTEC Open House (a CCTEC event)
October 19, 2007 3:45-5:30pm
CCTEC, 395 Pine Tree Road, Suite 310, Ithaca, New York

Cornell Technology Venture Forum (a CCTEC event)
October 26, 2007 9:00am-3:30pm
Industrial and Labor Relations Conference Center
Cornell campus, Ithaca, New York

Seminar and Social Hour (a CCTEC event)
October 30, 2007 5:30-7:00pm
CCTEC, 395 Pine Tree Road, Suite 310, Ithaca, New York

Seminar and Social Hour (a CCTEC event)
November 28, 2007 5:30-7:00pm
CCTEC, 395 Pine Tree Road, Suite 310, Ithaca, New York

Dr. Alan Paau, Vice Provost for Technology Transfer & Economic Development, Speaking @ Cornell Entrepreneur Network (CEN) Event
December 3, 2007 6:30-9:30pm
Location: Cornell Club, NYC

Did you know? *In the 1930s, Dr. George Nicolas Papanicolaou, an Assistant Professor of Anatomy at Weill Cornell Medical College, discovered a method to detect early stages of cancer in the cervix. The test was dubbed "the pap smear;" since then, millions of women have received the Pap test and deaths from cancer of the cervix have been greatly reduced.*

About CCTEC

The Cornell Center for Technology Enterprise and Commercialization (CCTEC) connects industry partners to technological innovations created by Cornell researchers. CCTEC supports faculty at Cornell's main campus in Ithaca, New York and at the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. CCTEC facilitates the commercialization of Cornell technologies by securing the proper intellectual property rights protection, and by marketing and licensing the technologies to businesses.

Do you know someone who would be interested in receiving CCTEC enews? Please send mail to cctecconnect@cornell.edu with their complete contact information or sign up at our online form.