

AD \_\_\_\_\_

Award Number: DAMD17-97-1-7274

TITLE: Mucl Facilitation of Growth in Chemically Induced Mammary Gland Tumors in Mucl Mutant and MUC1 Transgenic Mice

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Sandra J. Gendler, Ph.D.

CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION: Mayo Foundation  
Rochester, Minnesota 55905

REPORT DATE: August 1999

TYPE OF REPORT: Annual

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command  
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT: Approved for Public Release;  
Distribution Unlimited

The views, opinions and/or findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision unless so designated by other documentation.

**DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 4**

**20000809 113**

# REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved  
OMB No. 074-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503

<b>1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)</b>		<b>2. REPORT DATE</b> August 1999	<b>3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED</b> Annual (1 Aug 98 - 31 Jul 99)	
<b>4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE</b> Mucl Facilitation of Growth in Chemically Induced Mammary Gland Tumors in Mucl Mutant and MUC1 Transgenic Mice			<b>5. FUNDING NUMBERS</b> DAMD17-97-1-7274	
<b>6. AUTHOR(S)</b> Sandra J. Gendler, Ph.D.				
<b>7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</b> Mayo Foundation Rochester, Minnesota 55905  E*Mail: <u>gendler.sandra@mayo.edu</u>			<b>8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER</b>	
<b>9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</b> U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5012			<b>10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER</b>	
<b>11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES</b>				
<b>12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT</b> Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited			<b>12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE</b>	
<b>13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 Words)</b> MUC1 is a cell-associated mucin glycoprotein that is highly over-expressed in greater than 90% of mammary gland carcinomas. Our hypothesis is that the high level of expression of MUC1 in tumors facilitates tumor progression and metastasis. To generate spontaneously occurring tumors, we have mated mice carrying the unactivated c-neu protooncogene under control of the mouse mammary tumor virus (MMTV) LTR with Mucl wildtype (+/+) or knockout (-/-) mice. These mice develop mainly unifocal tumors at about 7 to 12 months of age. Surprisingly, age at the onset of tumor growth was significantly lower for the Mucl-deficient mice than for the wild type mice (p = 0.02 from two-sided, two-sample t-test (t=2.4, df = 34). However, once tumors were palpable, the rate of tumor progression was similar in both groups. Mucl-deficient mice are twice as likely to have lung metastasis than Mucl +/- mice (39% vs. 18%). We found that the immune system of the Mucl -/- mice was severely compromised, as T cells showed virtually no proliferative response to Concanavalin A or T-cell receptor stimulation. Although data are incomplete at this time, Mucl has a dramatic effect on tumor latency, metastasis and general immune competence.				
<b>14. SUBJECT TERMS</b> Breast Cancer			<b>15. NUMBER OF PAGES</b> 12	
			<b>16. PRICE CODE</b>	
<b>17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT</b> Unclassified	<b>18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE</b> Unclassified	<b>19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT</b> Unclassified	<b>20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT</b> Unlimited	

NSN 7540-01-280-5500

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 2-89)  
Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39-18  
298-102

FOREWORD

Opinions, interpretations, conclusions and recommendations are those of the author and are not necessarily endorsed by the U.S. Army.

\_\_\_\_\_ Where copyrighted material is quoted, permission has been obtained to use such material.

\_\_\_\_\_ Where material from documents designated for limited distribution is quoted, permission has been obtained to use the material.

\_\_\_\_\_ Citations of commercial organizations and trade names in this report do not constitute an official Department of Army endorsement or approval of the products or services of these organizations.

*JG* In conducting research using animals, the investigator(s) adhered to the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals," prepared by the Committee on Care and use of Laboratory Animals of the Institute of Laboratory Resources, national Research Council (NIH Publication No. 86-23, Revised 1985).

\_\_\_\_\_ For the protection of human subjects, the investigator(s) adhered to policies of applicable Federal Law 45 CFR 46.

*JG* In conducting research utilizing recombinant DNA technology, the investigator(s) adhered to current guidelines promulgated by the National Institutes of Health.

*JG* In the conduct of research utilizing recombinant DNA, the investigator(s) adhered to the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules.

\_\_\_\_\_ In the conduct of research involving hazardous organisms, the investigator(s) adhered to the CDC-NIH Guide for Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories.

*Sandra J. Gindler* Aug. 25, 1999  
PI - Signature Date

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

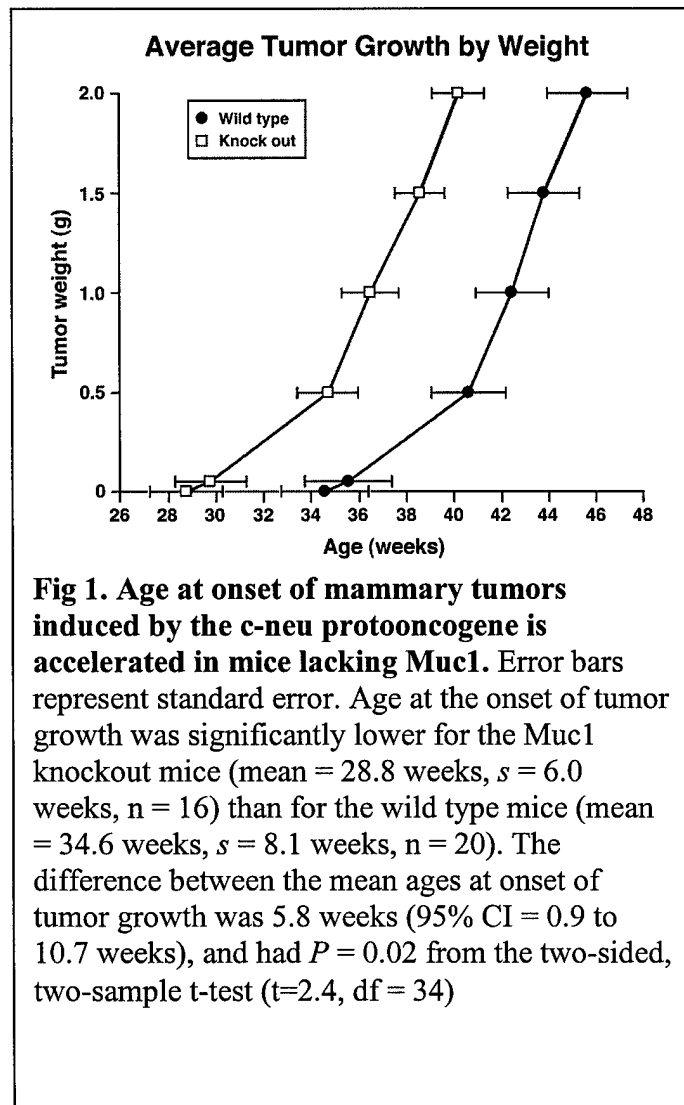
Front Cover	1
Report Documentation Page – (SF) 298	2
Foreword	3
Table of Contents	4
Introduction	5
Annual Summary	6-11
Appendix	12

## **Introduction**

MUC1 is a cell-associated mucin glycoprotein that is highly over expressed in greater than 90% of mammary gland carcinomas. The high level of expression in carcinomas and metastatic lesions suggests an important role in tumor progression and metastasis. Our hypothesis is that MUC1 is a multi-functional protein and that several structural features contribute to its ability to modulate tumor progression and metastasis. These structural features include the large rodlike extracellular domain that extends far out from the cell surface and in all likelihood modulates the adhesiveness of cells (cell-cell and cell-matrix) and the vulnerability of the tumor cells to immune effector cells. The second structural feature of significance is the cytoplasmic tail domain that is phosphorylated and interacts with other phosphorylated proteins and with cytoplasmic proteins that may be involved in signal transduction. Our aims, as modified in the first annual report (August 1998), were to induce tumors in Muc1-deficient and wild type mice by mating them with mice carrying the unactivated c-neu protooncogene driven by the mouse mammary tumor virus long terminal repeat (MMTV- LTR). We further proposed to examine the effects of T cells and NK cells on tumor development and metastasis in these mice and to examine the characteristics of mammary tumor cells derived from the Muc1  $-/-$  and  $+/+$  mice to recognize and bind to various extracellular matrix ligands. This study is still in progress, but it has already yielded significant and surprising results.

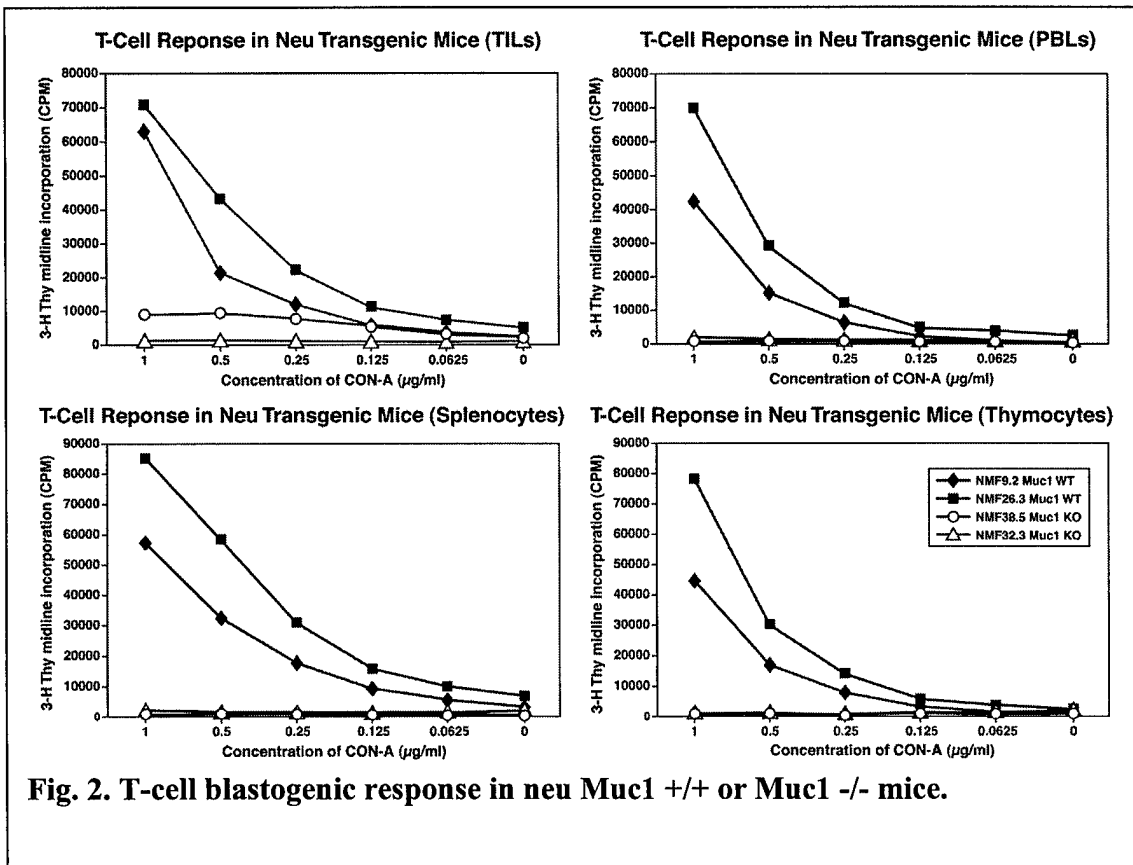
## Annual Summary

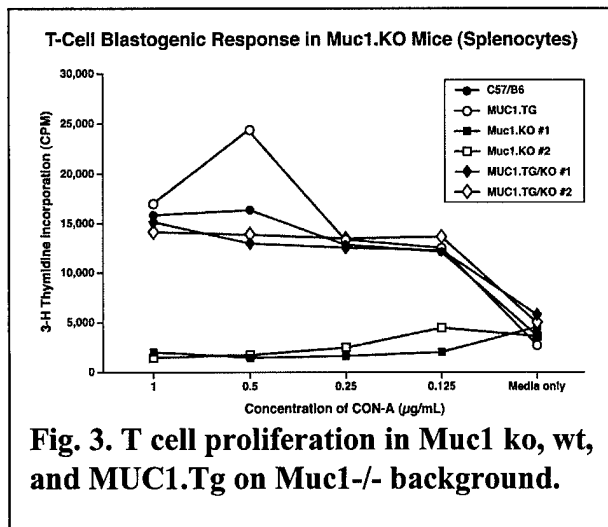
In order to utilize the neu tumor model to test the effect of Muc1-deficiency on tumor latency, progression, and metastasis, we had to backcross the Muc1-null animals onto the FVB strain, as the C57BL/6 strain has genes that modify neu tumor occurrence [1]. The backcrossing has taken nearly two years to accomplish. We have gone through 8 backcrosses of the Muc1 knockout (KO) mice onto inbred FVB mice, which should result in animals that are 99.61% FVB. Neu tumors are physiologically relevant, as about 30% of human breast cancers overexpress neu [2]. Neu tumors develop between 7 and 12 months of age and are unifocal rather than multifocal, in general; metastasis occurs in a large percentage of animals [3].



We have nearly 120 animals enrolled in this study (in order to achieve statistical significance) and are presently palpating tumors in about 40 mice in each arm (Muc1 -/- and Muc1 +/+, each with the neu oncogene). Age at the onset of tumor growth was significantly lower for the Muc1 knockout mice (mean = 28.8 weeks,  $s = 6.0$  weeks,  $n = 16$ ) than for the wild type mice (mean = 34.6 weeks,  $s = 8.1$  weeks,  $n = 20$ ). The difference between the mean ages at onset of tumor growth was 5.8 weeks (95% CI = 0.9 to 10.7 weeks), and had  $P = 0.02$  from the two-sided, two-sample t-test ( $t=2.4$ ,  $df = 34$ ) (Fig. 1). However, the rate of tumor progression, once the tumor reaches palpable size, appears to be similar in both groups. Muc1-deficient mice are twice as likely to have lung metastasis than Muc1 +/+ mice (39% vs. 18%). One possible interpretation of these results is that the immune system may have an effect on tumor progression at a time when the numbers of tumor cells were small, but once the tumors reached a sufficiently large size to be palpable, tumor proliferation overcame the capacity of the immune system to respond effectively.

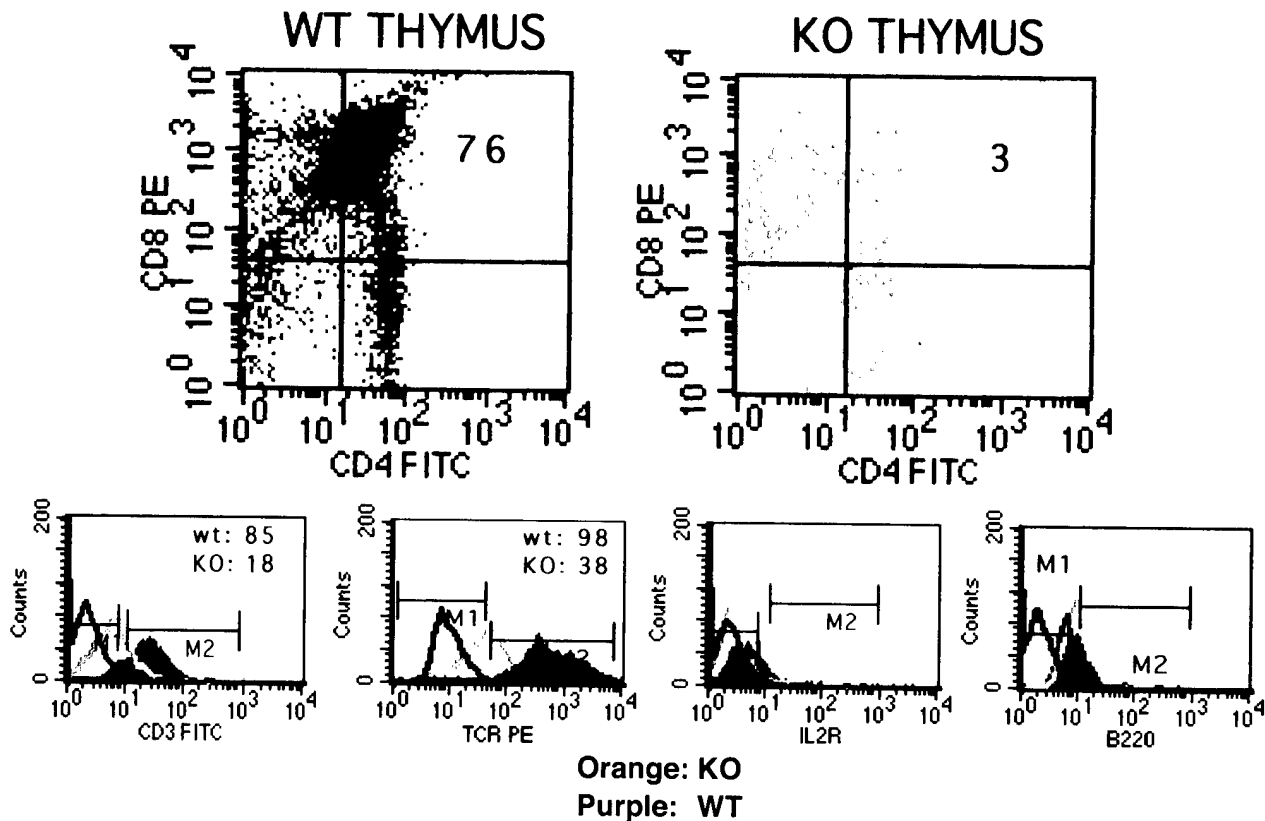
To determine the general immunocompetent state of the immune system in these two groups of mice, a T cell blastogenesis assay was performed. Spleen, thymus, peripheral blood lymphocytes and tumor infiltrating lymphocytes were prepared and analyzed for <sup>3</sup>H-thymidine incorporation following stimulation with a limiting dilution of Concanavalin A ((ConA) 1  $\mu$ g/ml down to 0.0625  $\mu$ g/ml) (Fig. 2). Whereas the T cells from the Muc1-expressing mice were fully capable of proliferating following a six-day stimulation with ConA, the T cells from the Muc1-deficient mice showed virtually no proliferation. Similar results were obtained when T cells were stimulated more specifically with antibodies for CD3 $\epsilon$  and CD28.



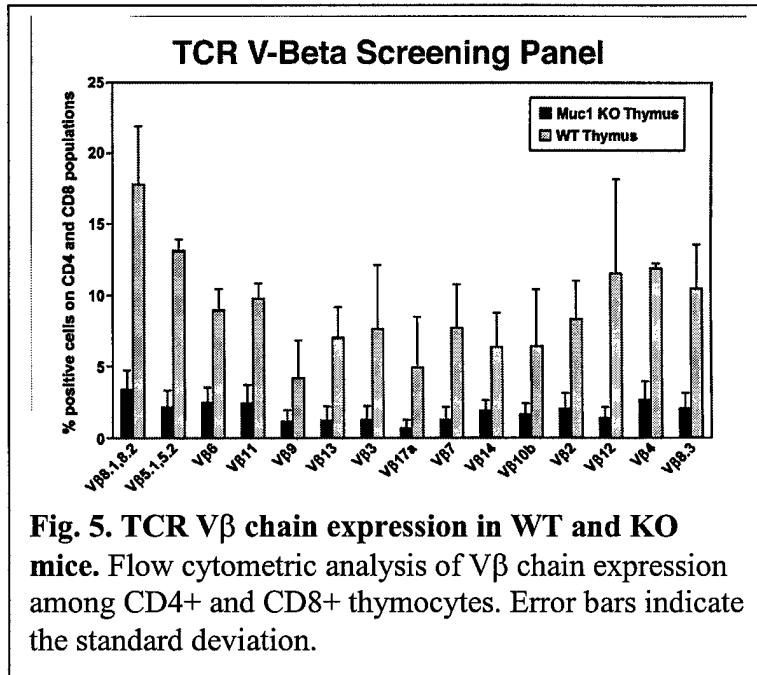


blastogenesis was assayed in MUC1.Tg mice on the Muc1-deficient background, the human MUC1 gene was found to compensate for the loss of mouse Muc1. Uptake of <sup>3</sup>H-thymidine was observed in wild type (Muc1-expressing) and MUC1.Tg mice lacking mouse Muc1 but not in Muc1-deficient mice (Fig. 3).

The failure of the T cells from the Muc1-deficient mice to proliferate was a very surprising result. To more fully assess this phenotype, T cell development was examined. T cell development is characterized by sequential steps that can be easily defined by the expression of particular cell surface proteins. Most T cells develop in the thymus through an ordered maturation process, giving rise to mature T cells with antigen-specific T cell receptors (TCRs). The earliest immature T cells lack expression of CD4 or CD8 and are called double negative (DN). DN thymocytes express the TCR signaling subunits TCR $\zeta$  and the CD3 chains, but remain negative for mature TCR until rearrangement of the TCR ( $\gamma, \delta, \beta$ ) genes begins. Rearrangement of the  $\beta$  chain allows the TCR $\beta$  chain to associate with the invariant  $\alpha$  chain to form a pre-TCR complex. Signaling through the pre-TCR allows the differentiation of DN cells to the CD4+CD8+ (double positive [DP]) stage, where rearrangement of TCR $\alpha$  then leads to expression of the mature form of the  $\alpha\beta$ TCR. DP,  $\alpha\beta$ TCR+ thymocytes undergo a number of TCR-mediated selection events and ultimately differentiate into either CD4+ or CD8+ mature single-positive (SP) T cells. Surprisingly, thymocyte development in the Muc1(-/-) mice showed an early arrest in the DN population. Total thymocytes from Muc1(-/-) or Muc1 (+/+) mice were analyzed for expression of CD4, CD8, CD3 $\epsilon$  and a variety of other markers. Flow cytometric analysis revealed that DP thymocytes were largely absent in the Muc1-deficient mice (3%) compared to wildtype mice (76%) (Fig. 4a,b). Decreased levels of CD3 $\epsilon$ , CD3 $\zeta$ , CD28, CD25, TCR $\alpha\beta$  and  $\gamma\delta$ , intracellular IL-2, IL-4 and IFN- $\gamma$  were also observed.



**Fig. 4. Flow cytometric analyses of thymocytes from *Muc1*<sup>-/-</sup> and *Muc1*<sup>+/+</sup> mice.** Thymocytes from 6 to 8 week old adult mice were prepared, surface stained, and analyzed by standard flow cytometry. Two-color plots show staining of total thymocyte cells with antibodies against CD4 and CD8 $\alpha$  (top row). The top two panels show DP thymocytes make up 76% of the cell population, whereas in the *Muc1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice the DP population is only 3%. Single color-plot (bottom row) shows staining of thymocytes with  $\alpha$ -CD3 $\epsilon$ ,  $\alpha$ -TCR $\beta$ ,  $\alpha$ -IL2R, and  $\alpha$ -B220 (purple = *Muc1*<sup>+/+</sup>; yellow = *Muc1*<sup>-/-</sup>; black = isotype control antibody). Numbers in quadrants indicate percentage of gated cells within the quadrant. Alterations in CD3 and TCR were observed.



**Fig. 5. TCR Vβ chain expression in WT and KO mice.** Flow cytometric analysis of Vβ chain expression among CD4+ and CD8+ thymocytes. Error bars indicate the standard deviation.

Using a panel of antibodies reactive with a number of different TCR Vβ chains, we determined that WT mice had rearranged the beta chain on thymocytes, whereas the Muc1 KO mice did not appear to have rearranged the beta chain or else very low levels were expressed (Fig. 5). This result suggested that thymocyte development was arrested early in the DN stage of development.

**Characterization of immune defects** In this last year of this grant we will characterize these results more fully by determining if other lymphocytic subsets are

affected by the Muc1 knockout, such as B cells, Natural Killer (NK) cells, and dendritic cells. We will use lipopolysaccharide (LPS) to determine if B cells are functional, perform NK cell assays using YAC cells as targets, and immunophenotype other cell types. Assays will be performed on any cell type shown to be compromised. We will test if the Muc1-deficient mice can reject allogeneic tumors or skin grafts. Studies characterizing B cells, NK cells, and dendritic cells will be performed on Muc1 +/+ and Muc1 -/- mice. Due to the length of time it takes to generate neu tumors, it is not feasible to perform such studies in tumor-bearing mice.

These studies are incomplete at this time, as tumor development in the neu mice occurs from about 7 to 12 months of age and proceeds for about ten additional weeks. The statistical analysis provided in this report is preliminary, as it was based on a partial cohort of mice enrolled in the study and was performed in order to complete this annual report. Once all the mice have reached 18 months of age, we will close the study and analyze a number of variables in addition to latency and metastasis. These include growth rate, time to onset (latency), length of tumor exposure (number of days between diagnosis of primary tumor and sacrifice at 2 gram size), metastasis, length of tumor exposure vs. density of pulmonary metastases, unifocality vs. multifocality of tumors, and expression of Muc1 and neu on tumors and metastatic lesions. The effect of a Muc1 deficiency on T cell development is a very recent and most unexpected finding. Muc1 has long been thought to be an epithelial-specific protein. It has been found only very recently that human T cells express human MUC1 [5]. We have recently determined that T cells in the mouse also express mouse Muc1 [6]. The observation that the immune system is defective in the Muc1 -/- mice originated from these studies. This work is providing us with additional knowledge of the function of the Muc1 mucin during tumorigenesis and progression. Muc1 is an important tumor antigen that appears to have profound effects on the immune system. Additional knowledge of this effect will enable us to better understand the biology of mammary gland adenocarcinomas.

## References

1. Rowse, G.J., Ritland, S.R., and Gendler, S.J. (1998) Genetic Modulation Of Neu Proto-Oncogene-Induced Mammary Tumorigenesis. *Cancer Research*, 58(12):2675-2679.
2. Slamon, D.J., Clark, G.M., Wong, S.G., Levin, W.J., Ullrich, A., and McGuire, W.L. (1987) Human breast cancer: correlation of relapse and survival with amplification of the HER-2/neu oncogene. *Science*, 235(4785):177-82.
3. Guy, C.T., Webster, M.A., Schaller, M., Parsons, T.J., Cardiff, R.D., and Muller, W.J. (1992) Expression of the neu protooncogene in the mammary epithelium of transgenic mice induces metastatic disease. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 89(22):10578-82.
4. Rowse, G.J., Tempero, R.M., VanLith, M.L., Hollingsworth, M.A., and Gendler, S.J. (1998) Tolerance and Immunity to MUC1 in a Human MUC1 Transgenic Murine Model. *Cancer Research*, 58:315-321.
5. Agrawal, B., Krantz, M.J., Parker, J., and Longenecker, B.M. (1998) Expression of Muc1 Mucin On Activated Human T Cells - Implications For a Role of Muc1 in Normal Immune Regulation. *Cancer Research*, 58(18):4079-4081.
6. Mukherjee, P., Madsen, C., Canales, N., Sterner, C.J., Hollingsworth, M.A., and Gendler, S.J. Expression of MUC1 mucin on activated T-cells from human MUC1 transgenic mice (MUC1.Tg): Implications in the development of MUC1 based vaccines for cancer. in American Association for Cancer Research. 1999. Philadelphia, PA: Abstract #3114, p. 471.

## Appendix

### 1) Key Research Accomplishments

- Generation of mammary gland tumors in Muc1 +/+ and Muc1 -/- mice (120 mice enrolled in ongoing study)
- Statistically significant increase in age of onset of tumors in Muc1 -/- mice
- Growth rate similar in Muc1 +/+ and Muc1 -/- mice once tumors are of palpable size
- Increased incidence of lung metastasis in Muc1 -/- (39%) compared to Muc1 +/+ (19%) mice
- Severely compromised immune system in Muc1 -/- mice, as T cells fail to proliferate to either Concanavalin A or anti-CD3 and anti-CD28 stimulation
- Human MUC1 gene compensates for the deletion of mouse Muc1 gene in T cell proliferation assay in MUC1 transgenic mice
- T cell receptor beta chain failed to rearrange in Muc1 -/- mice
- Thymocyte development arrested in CD4/CD8 double negative stage

### 2) Reportable Outcomes

This work is not complete at this time, thus no reports have been made publicly. The postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Russell J. Vanderboom, left my laboratory to take a job as a Science Writer at The Cleveland Clinic. I am temporarily assuming this grant to ensure completion of this project.

### 3) Not Applicable