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Allen F. Gant
CEO, Biomarck Pharmaceuticals
2619 St. Mary's Street
Raleigh, NC 27609

Dear Mr. Gant,

I am pleased to comment on the development of a MARCKS antagonist that was initiated by Dr. Adler and is now being developed at BioMarck Pharmaceuticals.

I have reviewed several of the publications by Dr. Adler and his colleagues. My understanding is that a peptide antagonist of MARCKS protein, when delivered to the airways, is capable of significantly blocking methacholine-induced mucous secretion in a mouse model of allergic asthma. Other findings support a biochemical rationale for the action of MARCKS in regulating mucus secretion.

These findings have the potential to significantly impact a very difficult problem in clinical medicine. Patients with airway diseases such as asthma and COPD are greatly compromised by obstruction of their pulmonary airways with mucus. Moreover, there are no effective and specific therapies for this common problem at present. Thus, a specific means for preventing or reversing mucus obstruction would represent a major breakthrough in the treatment of chronic obstructive lung disease.

My understanding is that BioMarck is now testing a MARCKS antagonist in humans. If MARCKS inhibition can effectively block mucous secretion in humans with asthma or other chronic airway diseases, it should provide a very useful therapeutic intervention in chronic lung diseases. This approach therefore represents an exciting opportunity in pulmonary medicine, and in the field of internal medicine in general.

Sincerely,

M. Holtzman

Michael J. Holtzman, M.D.