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Example

CHARACTERIZATION OF A cAMP REGULATORY ELEMENT IN THE HUMAN AROMATASE (ARO) GENE THAT UP-REGULATES PROMOTER I.3

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Promoters I.3 and II are the major promoters driving ARO expression in breast cancer and surrounding adipose stromal cells, but promoter I.4 is used in non-cancerous regions. We recently characterized a positive regulatory region upstream from promoter I.3. In tumor fibroblasts, the transcriptional activity of promoter I.3 was found to increase 5-6-fold by forskolin treatment. A cAMP responsive element (TGAAGTCA) upstream from promoter I.3 was identified by DNA deletion analysis. DNA mobility shift and UV cross-linking analyses using nuclear extracts from SK-BR-3 breast cancer cells and tumor fibroblasts revealed that CREB protein could not bind to this cAMP responsive element, suggesting that the transactivation process involves a CRE binding protein which is different from CREB. Since the CAT activity in cells transfected with a plasmid containing both the cAMP responsive element and the silencer (that it is situated between promoters I.3 and II) has been found to be identical to that in cells transfected with a plasmid containing only the cAMP responsive element, it is thought that the positive regulatory cAMP responsive element can overcome the negative regulatory action of the silencer. Our current hypothesis is that in normal breast cells, the action of promoters I.3 and II is suppressed by the silencer. However, in cancer cells and surrounding adipose stromal cells, the level of cAMP elevates and ARO promoters are switched to cAMP-dependent promoters, i.e., I.3 and II. (Supported by NIH grant CA44735)

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1. **Deadline submission: July 10, 2006.**
2. **Abstracts should be printed with a 10-pt font.**
3. **Place an asterisk (*) after the name of the author who will present the poster.**

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5th International Symposium on Hormonal Carcinogenesis
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