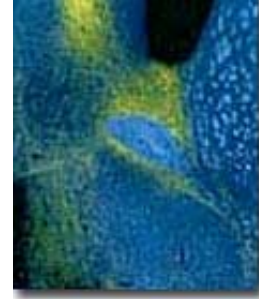




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Research Interests

Research in this laboratory is aimed at understanding the mechanism of repair and regeneration in the auditory and vestibular epithelium in the inner ear. Experiments in avian ears are designed to characterize precursor cells and signals that mediate repair and production of new hair cells after trauma. Research in mammals is directed at developing gene transfer technology for inner ear application. As genes that play important roles in development, survival, resistance, repair and regeneration of the inner ear are being discovered and characterized, it is important to be able to deliver these genes into cells and fluids of the ear. Viral-mediated gene transfer is one of the more innovative and attractive means for gene transfer. Our experiments are directed at expressing transgenes that may protect inner ear cells from trauma or enhance repair and regeneration following acoustic or ototoxic insults to the ear.

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