

we have employed the xanthogenate D-609 which inhibits the induction of iNOS by blocking the activation of phosphatidylcholine-specific phospholipase C (PC-PLC). PC-PLC activation is a proximal step in the signal transduction pathway that leads to the activation of iNOS [16]. As can be seen from the results expressed in FIG. 4, daily administration of 1 mg D-609 delays the onset of the clinical symptoms of EAE elicited by pMBP immunization of SWXJ-14 mice.

Separate experiments involving gel-shift assays, not described in detail here, showed that D609 (50  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) inhibits the transcriptional activation of the iNOS gene in human A549 cells activated with 1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of LPS (bacterial lipopolysaccharide) and mouse RAW 264.7 cells activated with a mixture of IL-1 $\beta$  (100 units/ml),  $\gamma\text{IFN}$  (500 units/ml) and TNF $\alpha$  (10 ng/ml), also that the activation of the transcription factor NF- $\kappa\text{B}$  in those human and mouse cells.

#### References

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- What is claimed is:
1. A process of treating a disease of the central nervous system of a mammal, which process comprises administering to the mammal a pharmacologically effective dose of uric acid wherein the disease of the central nervous system is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, AIDS with general symptoms, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, cerebral malaria, Pick's disease, and a virus-induced encephalitis.
  2. A process of claim 1 where the mammal is a human.
  3. A process of treating a disease of the central nervous system of a mammal, wherein said disease involves the action of peroxynitrite, said process comprising the administration to the mammal of a pharmacologically effective dose of uric acid.
  4. A process of claim 3 wherein the mammal is human.
  5. A process of claim 2 wherein the disease is multiple sclerosis.

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