

Leslie Lobel M.D., Ph.D.
Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics
Faculty of Health Sciences
Ben Gurion University

Brief Biography:

Leslie Lobel earned his B.A., Summa Cum Laude from Columbia College of Columbia University in Chemistry and entered the Medical Scientist Training Program at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University earning the M.D.-Ph.D. degrees. His doctoral work was in Retrovirology under Stephen Goff at Columbia University. He currently directs a Laboratory of Immunovirology in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics at Ben Gurion University.

Synopsis of Current Research

Dr. Lobel's work focuses on totally human monoclonal antibodies against infectious diseases. To this end unique cell lines were developed that are a highly efficient fusion partners for human lymph node lymphocytes, splenocytes and peripheral blood lymphocytes (PBLs). Hybridomas produced with these cell lines have been in continuous culture for many years and produce significant quantities of human monoclonal antibodies. These dual marked cell lines can also effectively fuse with lymphocytes from all human sources thus far tested since the secondary marker facilitates selection against unfused lymphocytes that can eliminate the growing hybrids in mixed culture. With these cell lines, Dr. Lobel and his collaborators have isolated libraries of totally human monoclonal antibodies, from peripheral blood lymphocytes, against numerous viruses including influenza A virus, Avian Influenza, Ebolavirus, Marburgvirus and other serious viral pathogens. These antibodies will hopefully be used one day to provide both passive immunity and immunotherapy for patients infected with these viruses.