

ABSTRACT

SOLUBLE FACTOR STIMULATION OF ATTACHMENT AND HEMIDESMOSOME ASSEMBLY
IN EPITHELIAL CELLS

A method for growing epithelial cells *in vitro* using soluble proteins secreted by 804G rat bladder carcinoma cells. These proteins are able to stimulate cell attachment and hemidesmosome formation in cells grown in contact with the proteins. The purification of these proteins from 804G culture supernatant is greatly facilitated by culturing the cells under low serum conditions. Trans-epithelial appliances coated with the soluble proteins and the use of the soluble proteins in the maintenance of human tissue *ex vivo* are also disclosed.