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(54) Title: EXPRESSION VECTORS CONTAINING HYBRID UBIQUITIN PROMOTERS

(57) Abstract: Sustained transgene expression will be required for the vast majority of genetic diseases being considered for gene therapy. The initially high levels of expression attained with plasmid DNA (pDNA) vectors containing viral promoters, such as that from cytomegalovirus (CMV), decline precipitously to near background levels within 2 to weeks. We have constructed pDNA vectors containing the human cellular ubiquitin B (Ub) promoter and evaluated their expression in the mouse lung. Cationic lipid-pDNA complexes were instilled intranasally (IN) or injected intravenously (IV) into immunodeficient BALB/c mice. Chloramphenicol acetyltransferase (CAT) reporter gene expression from the Ub promoter was initially very low at day 2 post-administration but by day 35 exceeded the level of expression attained from a CMV promoter vector by 4- to 9-fold. Appending a portion of the CMV enhancer 5' of the Ub promoter (CMV-Ub) increased CAT expression to nearly that of the CMV promoter and expression persisted in the lung for at least three months, with 50% of day 2 levels remaining at day 84. In the liver, expression from the CMV-Ub hybrid promoter was sustained for 42 days. Since previous studies have shown that eliminating immunostimulatory CpG motifs in pDNA vectors reduces their toxicity, we constructed a CpG deficient version of the CMV-Ub vector expressing alphagalactosidase A, the enzyme that is deficient in Fabry disease, a lysosomal storage disorder. After IN or IV administration, levels of alpha-galactosidase A from this vector were not only undiminished but increased 500% to 1500% by day 35. These results suggest that CpG-reduced plasmid vectors containing a CMV-Ub hybrid promoter may provide the long-term expression and efficacy required for a practical gene therapeutic.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C12N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, WPI Data, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data, EMBASE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 063 598 A (BERGEMANN KLAUS ET AL) 16 May 2000 (2000-05-16) page 3, line 66 -page 4, line 15 page 25; claims 1,4,6,15 page 26; claim 16	1-4,6-11
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Y	WO 00 14262 A (GENZYME CORP) 16 March 2000 (2000-03-16) cited in the application page 65; claim 1 figure 6	5

A	WO 98 32869 A (BAVARIAN NORDIC RES INST AS ;JOHANSEN TEIT E (DK); NEUROSEARCH AS) 30 July 1998 (1998-07-30)	

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	Seroz, T

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication,where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

ıational Application No
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