(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
27 March 2014 (27.03.2014)

WIPO | PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2014/044845 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
C12N 15/85 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2013/069715

(22) International Filing Date:
23 September 2013 (23.09.2013)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
12185728.8 24 September 2012 (24.09.2012) EP

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(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

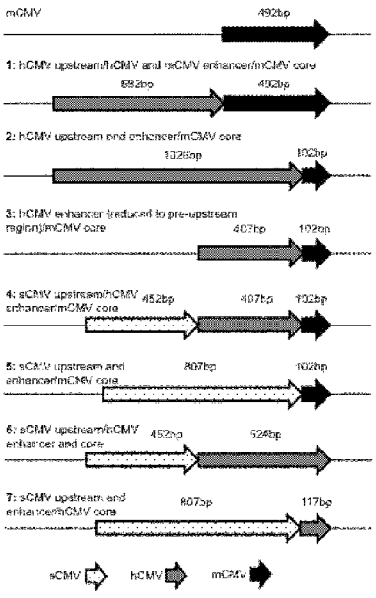
Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

— *with sequence listing part of description (Rule 5.2(a))*

(54) Title: EXPRESSION VECTORS COMPRISING CHIMERIC CYTOMEGALOVIRUS PROMOTER AND ENHANCER SEQUENCES

FIGURE 3



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to expression vectors for the heterologous expression of a nucleic acid sequence of interest in mammalian cells, the vectors comprising a chimeric promoter regulatory sequence being operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence to be expressed, wherein the chimeric promoter regulatory sequence comprises a cytomegalovirus promoter sequence derived from murine cytomegalovirus or from human cytomegalovirus and being operably linked to the transcriptional start site of the nucleic acid sequence to be expressed; and a cytomegalovirus upstream region and/or enhancer sequence derived from human and/or the simian cytomegalovirus, wherein the upstream region and/or enhancer sequence is located 5' of and operably linked to the murine or the human promoter sequence, and wherein the chimeric promoter regulatory sequence comprises sequence elements being derived from at least two of the group consisting of murine cytomegalovirus, human cytomegalovirus and simian cytomegalovirus. In particular embodiments, the chimeric promoter regulatory sequence comprises sequence elements derived from the murine or the human cytomegalovirus IE1 promoter and from the human and/or the simian cytomegalovirus IE1 region. The invention also relates to mammalian host cells transfected with such expression vectors, a method for heterologous expression of a nucleic acid sequence in a mammalian host cell by employing such expression vectors, and the use of such expression vectors for the heterologous expression of a nucleic acid sequence.

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