Claims

1. A polynucleotide sequence comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. A polynucleotide sequence comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 4.

3. A polynucleotide sequence comprising a nucleic acid sequence with at least 97% sequence identity with the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 1.

4. A polynucleotide sequence comprising a nucleic acid sequence with at least 97% sequence identity with the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 4.

5. A cell characterized in that it comprises integrated into its genome a sequence coding for the α chain of hCG selected from: a sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1; a sequence which has at least 96.5 % homology with the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; a sequence which has at least 97 % homology with the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; a sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 4; a sequence which has at least 96.5 % homology with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4; and a sequence which has at least 97 % homology with the sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

6. A cell according to claim 5 which is a PER.C6® cell such as a PER.C6® cell deposited under ECACC no. 96022940.

7. A PER.C6® cell such as a PER.C6® cell deposited under ECACC no. 96022940, characterized in that it further comprises integrated into its genome a sequence coding for the α chain of hCG.

8. A cell according to any of claims 5 to 7 characterized in that it further comprises integrated into its genome a cDNA encoding alpha-2,3-sialyltransferase .

9. A cell according to any of claims 5 to 8 characterized in that it further comprises integrated into its genome a nucleic acid sequence coding for the β chain of hCG.

10. A method for producing recombinant protein in a cell, comprising culturing a cell according to any of claims 5 to 9 in a suitable medium and harvesting the recombinant protein from said cell and/or said medium.

11. A method for producing recombinant hCG in a cell, comprising culturing the cell in a suitable medium and harvesting the recombinant protein (hCG) from said cell and/or said medium, wherein the cell is a PER.C6® cell comprising integrated into its genome a sequence coding for the α chain of hCG.