CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of changing culture medium of a suspension culture, the suspension culture comprising cells suspended in the culture medium, the method comprising:
   (i) transferring a fraction of the suspension culture into a container, wherein the container comprises at least one opening at the bottom;
   (ii) allowing the cells comprised in the fraction of the suspension to settle at the at least one opening at the bottom of the container by gravitation, thereby forming a supernatant;
   (iii) dispensing the cells settled at the bottom of the container (back) into the suspension culture;
   (iv) discarding the supernatant;
   wherein in step (ii) the fraction of the suspension is held static, thereby allowing the cells comprised in the fraction of the suspension to settle at the at least one opening at the bottom of the container by gravitation.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is carried out in a bioreactor, wherein the bioreactor preferably is a stirred bioreactor, a rocking motion bioreactor and/or a multi parallel bioreactor.

3. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the suspension culture is continuously stirred;
   and/or wherein the cells are essentially homogenously distributed in the culture medium.

4. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the container is tubular; and/or wherein the container has a conical bottom; and/or
   wherein the container is a pipette tip, a (single-use) bag or the conical/conically-shaped part of a (single-use) bag.

5. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the fraction of the suspension culture is aspirated into the container in step (i).

6. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cells are eukaryotic cells such as human cells, fungal cells such as yeast cells such as *P. pastoris*, insect cells

such as *Drosophila melanogaster* S2 and *Spodoptera frugiperda* Sf9 cells, bacterial cells such as *E. coli*, *Streptomyces* and *Salmonella typhimurium* cells, or plant cells.

7. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cells are adherent cells that are cultured in suspension.

8. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cells are selected from the group consisting of, primary cells, cells obtained from a tissue or an organ, immortalized cells, pluripotent stem cells, preferably the cells are pluripotent stem cells, more preferably induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC).

9. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cells are selected from the group consisting of TC-1133, the Human Episomal iPSC Line of Gibco ATCC ACS-1004, ATCC ACS-1021, ATCC ACS-1025, ATCC ACS-1027, ATCC ACS-1030, HEK293, HEK293T, BHK 21, CHO, NS0, Sp2/0-Ag14.

10. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cells are human.

11. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cells are cell aggregates, wherein the cell aggregates preferably have an average diameter between about 50 and 800 µm, between about 150 and 800 µm, of at least about 800 µm, of at least about 600 µm, of at least about 500 µm, of at least about 400 µm, of at least about 300 µm, of at least about 200 µm, of at least about 150 µm, between about 300 and 500 µm, between about 150 and 300 µm, between about 50 and 150 µm, between about 80 to 100 µm, between about 180 to 250 µm or between about 200 to 250 µm.

12. The method of any one of the preceding further comprising
(v) adding a volume equivalent to the supernatant to the suspension culture.

13. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein in step (ii) the period, in which the cells are allowed to settle, is at least 1 min, at least 2 min, at least 3 min, at least 4 min, at least 5 min, at least 6 min, at least 7 min, at least 8 min, at least 9 min, at least 10 min, at least 11 min, at least 12 min, at least 13 min, at least 14 min, at least 15 min, at least 16 min, at least 17 min, at least 18 min, at least 19 min or at least 20 min.

14. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 97.5%, at least 99% or essentially all cells of the cells transferred in step (i) are dispensed (back) into the suspension culture in step (iii).

15. The method of any one of claims 1-7, 9-10, and 12-14, wherein the cells are grown on microcarrier particles and/or wherein the suspension culture is a microcarrier culture.

~~16. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein in step (ii) the fraction of the suspension is held static, thereby allowing the cells comprised in the fraction of the suspension to settle at the at least one opening at the bottom of the container by gravitation.~~

~~17~~16. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein in step (i) the fraction of the suspension is transferred through the at least one opening at the bottom of the container into the container.

~~18~~17. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein in step (iii) the cells settled at the bottom of the container are dispensed through the at least one opening at the bottom of the container (back) into the suspension culture.