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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
14 November 2002 (14.11.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/090533 A3

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: C12N 15/63, 15/67, 15/85, 5/06

(21) International Application Number: PCT/CA02/00683

(22) International Filing Date: 7 May 2002 (07.05.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/288,790 7 May 2001 (07.05.2001) US

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA** [CA/CA]; 1200 Montreal Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R6 (CA).

(72) Inventors; and

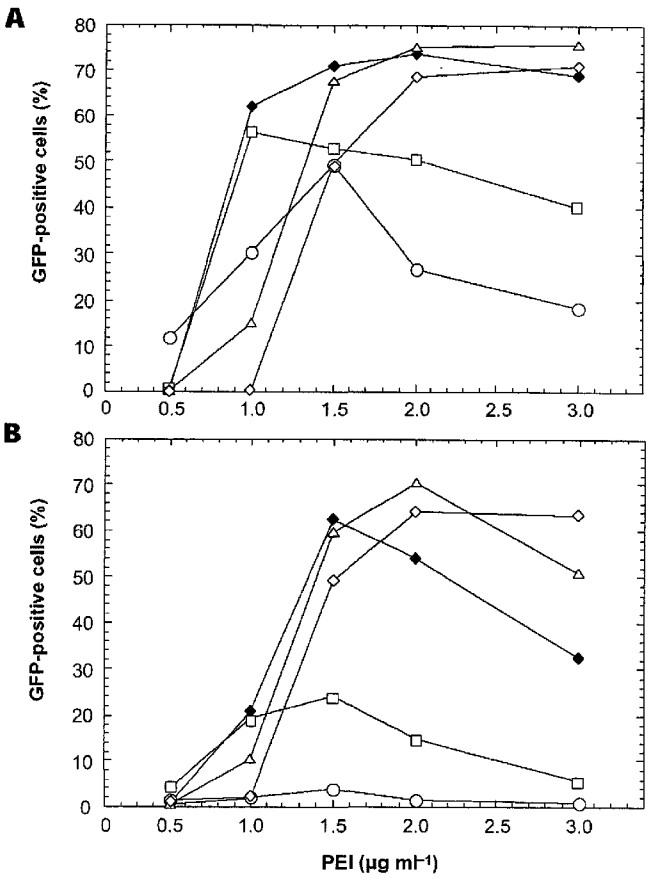
(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **DUROCHER, Yves** [CA/CA]; 5551 rue Garnier, Montréal, Québec H2J 4E2 (CA). **PERRET, Sylvie** [CA/CA]; 5342 rue Chabot, Montréal, Québec H2H 1Y8 (CA). **PHAM, Phuong, Lan** [CA/CA]; 2206 rue de Bergame, Laval, Québec H7M 5S3 (CA). **ST-LAURENT, Gilles** [CA/CA]; 3195 Parkville, Apt. 17, Montréal, Québec H1N 3B4 (CA). **KAMEN, Amine** [CA/CA]; 4542 rue Coronation, Montréal, Québec H4B 2C6 (CA).

(74) Agents: **PAXTON, John, E.** et al.; Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, World Exchange Plaza, 100 Queen Street, Suite 1100, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J9 (CA).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ENHANCED PRODUCTION OF RECOMBINANT PROTEINS BY TRANSIENT TRANSFECTION OF SUSPENSION-GROWING MAMMALIAN CELLS



(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a new process for the production of recombinant proteins, by transient transfection of suspension-grown human embryonic kidney cells (293 cell line and its genetic variants) with an expression vector, using polyethylenimine (PEI) as a transfection reagent. In a preferred embodiment, the process uses 293E cells expressing the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) EBNA 1 protein, in combi nation with an oriP-based episomal expression vector having an improved cytomegalovirus expression cassette comprising the CMV5 promoter. The process combines in a single step the cell growth, transfection and protein expression, is carried out without changing the culture medium, and allows to achieve high expression levels in a short period of time. The process may be carried out in a serum-free, low-protein culture medium, is easily scalable, compatible with continuous production processes, and fully adapted to high-throughput production of milligram quantities of recombinant proteins.

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LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
22 May 2003

(15) Information about Correction:
Previous Correction:
see PCT Gazette No. 52/2002 of 27 December 2002, Section II

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.