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(54) Title: GENE EXPRESSION IN MAMMALIAN CELLS

(57) Abstract

Proteins such as human β-interferon or human erythropoietin are prepared by culturing mammalian cells which harbour a nucleic acid sequence comprising: (i) a coding sequence which encodes the desired protein and which is operably linked to a promoter capable of directing expression of the coding sequence in a mammalian cell in the presence of a heavy metal ion; and (ii) a first selectable marker sequence comprises a metallothionein gene and which is operably linked to a promoter capable of directing expression of the metallothionein gene in a mammalian cell in the presence of a heavy metal ion; and optionally (iii) a second selectable marker sequence which comprises a *neo* gene and which is operably linked to a promoter capable of directing expression of the *neo* gene in a mammalian cell.

