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(54) Title: CONSTRUCTS AND METHODS FOR PREPARING CIRCULAR RNA

(57) Abstract: Provided are linear RNA precursors and constructs for preparing circular RNAs (circRNAs) comprising from the 5' end to the 3' end: (a) a first portion of an RNA element (such as an IRES), (b) an effector RNA sequence, and (c) a second portion of the RNA element, wherein the first portion of the RNA element and the second portion of the RNA element associate with each other to form a double-stranded region of at least 4 basepairs (bp) long, wherein the 5' end of the first portion of the RNA element and the 3' end of the second portion of the RNA element form a nick in the double-stranded region, and wherein the nick can be ligated by a RNA ligase. Also provided are methods of preparing circRNAs, and circRNAs prepared thereof.

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