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OriGene Technologies Awarded NHGRI Grant to Isolate 400 Very Large Full-Length Genes for Addition to TrueClone™ Collection.

Award Further Validates OriGene's RapidScreen™ Technology for full-length cloning of very large cDNAs for commercialization.

Rockville, MD. September 23, 2004 – OriGene Technologies Inc., a privately held company currently providing the world's largest collection of 22,000 authentic full-length cDNA clones (TrueClone™), announced today that it has received a Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institutes of Health through the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI).

"Proteins encoded by large transcripts play important roles in cell-cell interaction, signal transduction, intracellular transportation, structural organization and regulation of nucleotide and protein metabolism. Positioning cloning also indicated that genes associated with various genetic diseases tend to encode large proteins, such as BRCA1 (9) and BRCA2 (10) for breast cancer," said Zairen Sun, VP of Molecular Biology of OriGene. "The coding region of some large transcripts is ever being extended through continued large-scale cDNA sequencing and genome annotation. To date, 635 large transcripts (ORF >5kb) have been released from the recent human genome build, but only less than a dozen are commercially available to the research community."

Reliable cDNA cloning for very large genes is critical to functional genomics, which enables researchers to investigate how cells or tissues develop and change in response to stimuli or disease. To expand the collection of full-length cDNA clones, and specifically those that are currently inaccessible by standard methods will greatly facilitate disease phenotype analysis in both research and diagnostic applications. "RapidScreen™ provides the technology base for such products which we have used for our TrueClone™ collection," said Zairen Sun. "We are happy to receive this funding, and the scientific validation it implies from the NIH."

About OriGene Technologies

OriGene Technologies, a molecular tool provider for system biology studies, utilizes high-throughput gene cloning and gene expression profiling to develop commercially available products for pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and academic research and discovery applications. OriGene's flagship product is the TrueClone™ Collection, a searchable gene bank of over 22,000 human full-length cDNA clones suitable for transfection and *in vivo* or direct *in vitro* expression. The TrueClone™ Collection cDNA clones are obtained directly from plasmid cDNA libraries avoiding the sequence errors introduced by other cloning methods. More information about OriGene Technologies and their products can be found at the company's web site at <http://www.origene.com>.

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