



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OriGene Technologies Awarded NHGRI Grant to develop a validated shRNA Vector Set for Protein Kinases.

Rockville, MD. June 29, 2005 – OriGene Technologies Inc., a privately held company currently providing the world's largest collection of 24,000 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) to validate its exhaustive short-hairpin RNA Kinome collection.

“Protein kinases mediate most of the cellular signal transduction in eukaryotic cells. By modification of substrate activities, they control transcription, metabolism, cell movement, cell proliferation, differentiation, and apoptosis. In addition to their critical roles in cancer development, protein kinases are also implicated in wide range of human diseases in metabolic system, immune system and central nervous system. Protein kinases have emerged as one of the best targets for drug discovery and development, particularly in the area of cancer drug development.”

OriGene has built the largest collection of human full-length kinase genes in a uniform expression vector, allowing researchers to express either a few or the entire collection of protein kinases in a given target cell line to study their roles in cancer development. This collection also provides a solid base for both the development of plasmid-based shRNA vectors and the validation of the functions of these vectors. “We have developed a plasmid vector system utilizing retroviral integration sites and a drug selectable marker, allowing the rapid development of stable cell lines. Our shRNA (small hairpin RNA) expression library approach using the cDNA of genes is a faster method than the synthetic oligo-based plasmid construction method. With this shRNA expression library technology, we generated a large number of shRNA plasmids for selected genes in a high throughput manner and have functionally validated the shRNA plasmids with a co-transfected target gene.” said Zairen Sun. “We are happy to receive this funding, and the scientific validation it implies from the NIH.”

About OriGene Technologies

OriGene provides innovative technologies for large-scale gene function analyses. OriGene's flagship product is the TrueClone Collection, a searchable source of cDNA clone containing over 24,000 human full-length cDNA clones suitable for transfection and protein expression. More information about OriGene Technologies and their other products can be found at the company's web site at <http://www.origene.com>.

For additional information regarding this announcement, please contact:

Rich Hamer, Ph.D.
Business Development
OriGene Technologies
240-620-5781
businessdev@origene.com