



InvitroCue Obtains Worldwide Sublicense for HepaRG™-RP Progenitor Cells from Biopredic International

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InvitroCue has obtained a worldwide non-exclusive sublicense for the HepaRG™-RP progenitor cells from Biopredic International. The sublicense includes the production and sales of mature HepaRG™-RP cells in vials and in combination with InvitroCue's cell culture models, namely 3D CelluSponge and HepatoCue. InvitroCue will also offer *in vitro* DMPK and *in vitro* toxicology services using mature HepaRG™-RP cells.

Biopredic International holds exclusive, unrestricted worldwide rights for the HepaRG™ cells which was developed by the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM). According to Biopredic International, HepaRG™ is one of the most interesting and useful hepatic cell lines discovered to date. It is derived from a human hepatocellular carcinoma and features the full array of functions, responses and regulatory pathways of primary human hepatocytes. The HepaRG™-RP cells have not undergone transfection or gene modifications and retain many characteristics of human hepatocytes. This enables their use in versatile applications, such as *in vitro* ADME or hepatotoxicity screening and mechanistic toxicology testing. HepaRG™ is a unique and well established hepatic stem cell line as demonstrated in more than 200 publications to date.

"We are very excited to offer the HepaRG™-RP cells together with our 3D cell culture models to our customers. It allows us to combine the advantages of HepaRG™-RP cells over other hepatic cell lines with the advantages of our 3D cell culture models to get better predictive data for human drug metabolism and toxicology," said Dr Michael McMillian, Head of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs at InvitroCue with more than two decades of experience in drug testing and toxicology.

"Biopredic International has extensive experience in producing consistent HepaRG™ cell source. We are delighted to announce this partnership. It will significantly benefit InvitroCue's customers and strengthen our product and service offerings using primary human hepatocytes for ADMET applications," said Dr Steven Fang, Founder and Managing Director of InvitroCue.

Christophe Chesne, CEO of Biopredic International comments: "Biopredic International is pleased to have a new partner on board to develop new applications relying on the HepaRG™-RP cells besides the well-known CYP induction protocol, and to promote the cells. InvitroCue will receive from Biopredic the new HepaRG™-RP cell line, reprogrammed (RP). These cells are derived from the HepaRG™ parental line after reprogramming them to a stem cell status (protected via another patent in the HepaRG™ IP portfolio) and then redirecting after epigenetic manipulation towards the hepatic lineage. The HepaRG™-RP cells display a phenotype very similar to the parent HepaRG™ but with better stability over multiple passages with modified culture media."

About Biopredic International

Since 1993, Biopredic International produces and distributes human and animal products (tissues, primary cells, cell lines, blood products, fluids) for academic and industrial research in drug discovery, drug development and cosmetics. Biopredic International is recognized worldwide for its expertise in liver products (tissues, primary cells) and is the exclusive worldwide licensor of the HepaRG™ cell line. Visit www.heparg.com

About InvitroCue

InvitroCue provides innovative products and services in the fields of *in vitro* DMPK, *in vitro* toxicology and digital pathology utilizing cell-based models and image analysis tools. InvitroCue's technologies and assays have been developed and validated together with renowned leading pharmaceutical companies and scientific collaborators, such as the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), National University of Singapore (NUS), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and renowned pathologists. The company currently owns several 3D *in vitro* cell culture models for long term hepatocyte culture and various image analysis tools for automated quantification of cells and tissue. InvitroCue uses these technologies and assays to support better decision making in preclinical studies, clinical trials and diagnostics. Its solutions can be applied in the realms of drug testing as well as research and development of cosmeceuticals and medical devices.

InvitroCue was established in 2012 as a spin-off from A*STAR and is headquartered in Singapore.

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