

# **Press release**

## Cellectis bioresearch Announces the First TGCA Winner.

**Paris, December 9, 2010** - Cellectis bioresearch, a specialist in genome customization and a subsidiary of Cellectis (Alternext: ALCLS), has today announced the recipient of its post-doctoral fellowship award program. The Genome Customization Award (TGCA) is going to Dr Nelson Lau's research group, from the Department of Biology at Brandeis University (Waltham, Massachusetts). The award was granted after thorough review of several very high profile applications for its outstanding research program on improving transgenesis of *Xenopus tropicalis* for RNA interference methodologies.

As the winning academic team, Dr Lau's research group will receive €15,000 (US\$ 18,000) to partially fund for one year one postdoctoral fellow recruited to work on the project, with a possible renewal for a second year.

The award review committee selected Dr Nelson Lau's project based, in part, on its high probability of being successful. The project, which is focused on improving technologies in the model species *Xenopus tropicalis*, aims at:

- Elucidating the rules of molecular specificity in RNA interference experiments
- Applying custom meganucleases for improved transgenesis of expression cassettes in a vertebrate model for biomedical research

- Expanding the technology in Xenopus for broad functional genomic studies.

Dr. James Haber, originally on the judging panel for the Award, did not take part in the vote due to the fact that he is a member of the same research institution as Dr Lau.

"We are delighted to be part of the endeavor to bring custom meganucleases to a new model organism where the technology has not been tested yet but has strong promise", stated Dr Nelson Lau.

*"The investigator is a pre-eminent researcher who plans to use Cellectis' custom meganucleases in a very smart way,"* declared Prof. Rodney J. Rothstein of Columbia University, Chairman of the Committee.

Marc Le Bozec, CEO of Cellectis bioresearch, will officially present the Award to Dr Nelson Lau in March 2011 at the Grand Opening of Cellectis bioresearch Inc facilities in Cambridge (Massachusetts).

The TCGA was established by Cellectis bioresearch in 2010 with the goal of spreading the use of meganucleases for genome customization throughout the Life Sciences community.

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#### About Cellectis bioresearch

Cellectis bioresearch was incorporated as a subsidiary of Cellectis (Alternext: ALCLS) in June 2008. It provides life science researchers with ready- and easy-to-use tools for genome customization. These tools, based on meganucleases, enable the engineering of cells with optimized features for drug discovery, protein production and gene functional study. The kits can be purchased online from <a href="http://www.cellectis-bioresearch.com">www.cellectis-bioresearch.com</a>. More information on the website.

#### **About Cellectis**

Cellectis is a pioneer in the field of genome engineering. The company designs and markets innovative tools -meganucleases. These molecular scissors enable targeted modifications to DNA, with applications in the research, biomanufacturing, agrobiotechnology and therapeutic sectors. To date, Cellectis has formed over 20 academic research partnerships and has established more than 50 agreements with pharmaceutical laboratories, seed producers and biotech companies across the world. The company holds exclusive rights to a portfolio of over 260 patents granted or pending.

Since 2007, Cellectis has been listed on the NYSE-Euronext Alternext market (code: ALCLS) in Paris and has secured over €70 million in funding since inception. More information at www.cellectis.com



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