

## Announcement: FSHD muscle cell distribution 7-12-11

This memo announces the availability of FSHD and control primary skeletal muscle cell strains and immortalized clonal cell lines from the NIH BBRI Senator Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Cooperative Research Center for FSHD Research.

### Primary cell strains:

Primary cells from multiple family cohorts are now available to the research community. Each cohort includes cells isolated from the biceps and deltoid muscles of at least one FSHD patient with a confirmed 4qA contraction, and one familial control subject without a contraction. Clinical and diagnostic information (e.g. age, gender, muscle strength, EcoRI/BlnI fragment length, etc) will be provided.

Primary cells have been sorted for the CD56 cell surface marker to enrich for myogenic cells. The majority of cell strains have undergone no more than ~20 population doublings (PD) prior to freezing, and under our culture conditions, cells can typically be expanded to at least a total of 35 PD (i.e. ~15 additional PD). Cells have been frozen in small aliquots in order to distribute as widely as possible.

### Immortalized cell clones:

Immortalized cell clones from 1 cohort (with two cohorts pending) are also available. Primary cells were immortalized by lentiviral transfection of CDK4 and hTERT and selected CD56+ cell clones were expanded. These clones have been cultured successfully to >200-300 PD; however, changes in differentiation morphology over time may be observed. Complete details regarding immortalized cell clone generation and phenotype may be found in the article by Stadler et al. (2011; Skeletal Muscle 1:12 doi:10.1186/2044-5040-1-12).

### To request cells:

Please e-mail requests to Charles P. Emerson, Jr at emersonc@bbri.org; please cc: Jennifer Chen at jchen@bbri.org.

A copy of the material transfer agreement (MTA) and a summary table of available cells will be sent in the reply e-mail. Requests will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis, upon return of completed MTA. Depending on the level of interest, we may not be able to accommodate all requests immediately with the current reserve; the stocks are renewable to a limited extent, but this effort will require time. A fee per cohort will be charged to offset handling costs; shipping will be billed either through the recipient's FEDEX account number or as a separate charge.