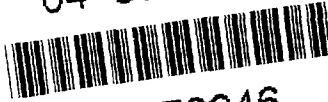


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(37 C.F.R. §§ 3.28 & 3.31)

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Conveying party: Mark if additional names of conveying parties attached

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
301 Burruss Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Execution Date:
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Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, Inc.
1872 Pratt Drive
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Blacksburg, VA 24060

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Total number of pages of attached conveyance document including any attachments: 2

Correspondent name and address:

Anne M. Rosenblum, Esq.
163 Delaware Avenue
Suite 212
Delmar, NY 12054

Tel. (518) 475-0611

Total number of properties involved: 1

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Anne M. Rosenblum

Anne M. Rosenblum, Registration No. 30,419

April 11, 2002

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ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (hereinafter referred to as ASSIGNOR) an institute of higher education organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, having an office and principal place of business at 301 Burruss Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061, is the owner of the entire right, title and interest in and to the nonprovisional application for United States Letters Patent, bearing U.S. Application No. 10/029,840, filed on December 31, 2001 in the names of Xiang-Jin Meng, Gholamreza Haqshenas and Fang-Fang Huang for Avian Hepatitis E Virus, Vaccines and Methods of Protecting Against Avian Hepatitis-Splenomegaly Syndrome and Mammalian Hepatitis E and of the invention therein described; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as ASSIGNEE), a non-stock corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and having a principal place of business at 1872 Pratt Drive, Suite 1625, Blacksburg, VA 24060, is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in, to and under said application and said invention and in, to and under Letters Patent or similar legal protection to be obtained therefore in the United States and in any and all foreign countries.

NOW, THEREFORE, TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Be it known that in consideration of the payment by ASSIGNEE to ASSIGNOR of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, and for other good and valuable consideration, ASSIGNOR hereby sells, assigns and transfers to ASSIGNEE, its lawful successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention in the United States and its territorial possessions and in all foreign countries, including all rights to claim priority, and to all Letters Patent or similar legal protection in the United States and its territorial possessions and in any and all foreign countries to be obtained for said invention by said application or any continuation, division, continuation-in-part, reexamination, renewal, substitute, extension or reissue thereof or any legal equivalent thereof in a foreign country for the full term or terms for which the same may be granted; and authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents of the United States and any official of any foreign country whose duty it is to issue patents or legal equivalents thereto, to issue same for this invention to ASSIGNEE, its lawful successors and assigns.

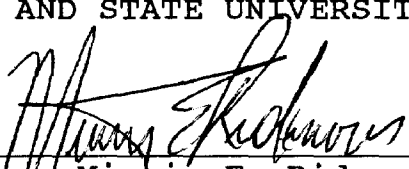
ASSIGNOR hereby covenants that no assignment, sale, agreement or encumbrance has been or will be made or entered into which would conflict with this assignment and sale.

ASSIGNOR further covenants that ASSIGNOR will promptly provide ASSIGNEE, upon its request, with all pertinent facts and documents relating to said application, said invention, said Letters Patent and said legal equivalents in foreign countries as may be known and accessible to ASSIGNOR and will testify as to the same in any interference or litigation related thereto and will promptly execute and deliver to ASSIGNEE or its legal

representative any and all papers, instruments or affidavits required to apply for, obtain, maintain, issue and enforce said application, said invention, said Letters Patent, said continuation, division, continuation-in-part, reexamination, renewal, substitute, extension or reissue thereof, and said equivalents thereof in any foreign country which may be necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, ASSIGNOR has caused the hand of its proper office to be subscribed hereto on this 20 day of March, 2002.

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY


By: Minnis E. Ridenour
Chief Operating Officer

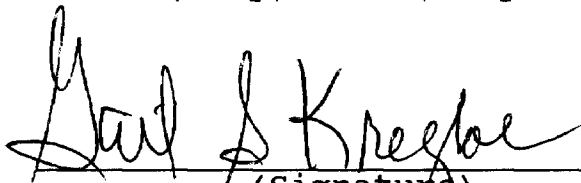
Witnessed by:


(Signature)

TRACEY K. GALLAGHER
(Print Name)

413 MURPHY ST.
(Street Address)

BLACKSBURG, VA 24060
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(City, State, Zip Code)