Guest Editor

Dr L Hennighausen

Lothar Hennighausen obtained his PhD in 1982 from the Department of Genetics at the University of Cologne in Germany where he cloned mRNAs and genes from mammary tissue. After a post-doctoral fellowship under the mentorship of Philip Leder at Harvard Medical School he joined the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland in 1985. For the past 20 years Dr Hennighausen has focused on the molecular mechanisms underlying normal and neoplastic development of the mammary gland. His work ranges from cloning genes expressed in mammary tissue, to analysing their regulation and control elements in transgenic animals, to studying their function in transgenic and gene knockout mice. He made major contributions in the development of transgenic technologies, including the identification of DNA control elements that target gene expression specifically to mammary tissue, the production of human pharmaceuticals in milk of livestock, the introduction of the tetracycline gene switch into mice and the advancement of the Cre-loxP recombination system to develop mouse models for the study of human breast cancer. Dr Hennighausen is the Chief of the Laboratory of Genetics and Physiology in the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland. His current research investigates signaling pathways that control cell survival and death in normal mammary development and breast cancer.