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(54) **Methods for modulating the expression and aggregation of CAG-expanded gene product in cells and methods for identifying agents useful for doing the same**

(57) This invention provides a method for modulating the expression of a first gene in a cell wherein the first gene is one containing more than 36 CAG trinucleotide repeats and encoding a protein that form polyglutamine-mediated protein aggregation. Suppression of the first gene is achieved by reducing the expression of *SPT4* gene or *SUPT4H* gene. It can also be achieved by inhib-

iting the formation of a Spt4/Spt5 complex or a Supt4h/Supt5h complex. Also provided is a method for identifying an agent useful for modulating the expression and aggregation of CAG-expanded gene product, or treating a polyglutamine disease such as Huntington's disease.

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