

leader sequence (in biotechnology)

1. A polynucleotide region between *promoter* and structural *gene*, necessary for the correct *transcription* of *DNA* into *mRNA*.
2. An N-terminal extension of *polypeptides* (also known as the signal sequence) which is necessary for the transport of the *protein* into or through the membrane or for its secretion into the extracellular medium.

1992, 64, 158