Generation of Genetically Engineered Rodent Models

TO CRISPR OR NOT TO CRISPR ?

That is the question !

Jimmy MANCIP

À CHAQUE ÉTAPE DU PROCESSUS



TO CRISPR OR NOT TO CRISPR, THAT IS THE QUESTION:

Questions to Answer Regarding Intellectual Property (IP), Technical Issues, & the 3Rs

Does CRISPR allow for the generation of relevant models?

Is it compatible with the goals of the 3Rs?

CRISPR/Cas9 IP/license constraints: how does it impact your project?





CHARLES RIVER CUSTOM RODENT MODEL GENERATION SERVICES

Charles River's global partnerships for *in vivo* model creation:

<u>Phenomin ICS</u>, IMPC member and leader in the field of mouse & rat model creation and phenotyping.

<u>Mirimus</u>, a leader in RNAi interference technology specializing in the creation of customized genetically engineered mouse models.

<u>Laboratory Animal Resource Center, University of Tsukuba</u>, one of Japan's largest production institutes for genetically modified mice.

STREPTOCOCCUS PYOGENES CAS9 A REMARKLY FLEXIBLE TOOL



deadCas9 protein

- Mutations in RuvC1 and HNH nuclease domains
- dCas9 retains the ability to target specific sequences through the sgRNA and PAM.





Transcriptional Control Epigenetic Modulation



CRISPR/CAS9 FOR GENE EDITING





ADAPTATION OF CRISPR-CAS9 FOR RODENT MUTANT PRODUCTION





CRISPR/CAS9 GENE EDITING IN EMBRYOS THE NEW GOLD STANDARD FOR RODENT MODEL GENERATION ?

CRISPR QUICK EASY INEXPENSIVE 'Any idiot can do it.' Genome editor CRISPR could put mutant mice in everyone's reach

By Jon Cohen | Nov. 3, 2016 , 10:00 AM

https://www.sciencemag.org

Is mouse embryonic stem cell technology obsolete?

<u>William C Skarnes[⊠]</u>

Genome Biol. 2015; 16(1): 109. Published online 2015 May 27. doi: <u>10.1186/s13059-015-0673-6</u>

Thus, the end of mouse ES cell technology now seems inevitable.



CRISPR/CAS9 PERFORMANCE FOR RODENT MODEL PRODUCTION

- ADVERTIZED CRISPR "BONUSES" SHOULD BE CAREFULLY VERIFIED !
- ONLY FACTS MATTER !
- THE TECHNOLOGY SHOULD BE ASSESSED FROM VARIOUS ANGLES

> MODEL RELEVANCY & TIMELINES

➤ 3Rs

> INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

TO CRISPR OR NOT TO CI



Model Relev

- Species ?
- Genetic backgrounds ?
- Model types ?
- Additional mutations ?
- Timelines ?





MODEL RELEVANCY EXTENDING TO A LARGE PANEL OF SPECIES

Not an exhaustive list The only limits of CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing are the ability to make the system enter germinal cells

RAT FOCUS



- Most efficient tool today to generate rat models
- In vitro (microinjection and electroporation) as well as in vivo CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing (GONAD technology) have been successful in rats
- In rats, the technology suffers from same limitations as in mice



CRISPR/CAS9 GIVES DIRECT ACCESS TO A WIDE RANGE OF GENETIC BACKGROUNDS AND STRAINS

- Any strain from which pre-implantation embryos can be isolated and manipulated *in vitro* is amenable to a CRISPR gene editing approach
- In vivo CRISPR gene editing (injection of CRISPRCas9 into oviducts of mated female) may even extend the technology to « difficult » strains
- Wide range of mouse or rat strains can thus be used, allowing the generation of models on defined genetic backgrounds without a backcross step
 - ✓ Diverse inbred genetic background
 - ✓ Mutant strains
 - ✓ Disease model strains



Gurumurthy et al. Curr Protoc Hum Genet.; 88: 15.8.1–15.8.12.



GENE EDITING IN ANIMAL DISEASE MODELS

NOD/ShiLtJ



CRISPR/Cas9-mediated gene editing for 10 genes delivered by microinjection

	Microinjection (NOD/ShiLtJ)				
Target gene	Embryos transferred	Mice born	Mutant mice	Mutant percentage (%)	
Cd69	59	23	0	0	
Cd226	61	19	4	21	
Clec16a	57	0	NA	NA	
Cyp27b1	64	23	12	52	
Fut2	64	25	7	28	
Ormdl3	62	19	17	89	
Rgs1	62	18	8	44	
Thr7	66	22	6	27	
Thr8	60	15	1	7	
Tnfsf9	61	21	15	71	
Total	616	185		Live birth rate 30%	

Qin et al. Genetics 2015

NOD/ShiLtJ: Non Obese diabetic, polygenic model for type 1 diabetes



CRISPR/CAS9 GENOME EDITING IN NON-STANDARD GENETIC BACKGROUNDS

Getting fertilized eggs or embryos from NRG mice through natural mating is difficult due to lack of plugging and fertilization by NRG males



charles river

MODEL RELEVANCY GENE EDITING EFFICIENCY





CRISPR/CAS9 STILL SHOWS OBVIOUS LIMITATIONS FOR KIN MODELS

- CRISPR/Cas9 in mouse & rat embryos works extremely well for the generation of simple alleles such as constitutive knock-out and knock-in using donor DNA less than 2-3kb (SNPs/tags, small reporter molecules)
- In mice, it is not the technology of choice for the introduction <u>in embryos</u> of complex modifications relying on homologous recombination for larger regions (ex: paired loxP site and large cDNAs/transgenes)
- In rats, there are no other options (ES cell) so still worth trying complex Kin models but with potential risks of failure and extended timelines and budget !
- Promising recent data about Easi-CRISPR technology (long single stranded DNA) indicate that CRISPR limitation towards some Kins models may be overcome in the future



ALTERNATIVE APPROACH: CRISPR/CAS9 IN ES CELL

- CRISPR/Cas9 boosts HR in ES cells: 100% targeting success whatever the locus (Phenomin-iCS)
- Up to 40 kb fragment replacement achieved (Phenomin-iCS)
- Opens new possibilities for humanization of large genomic regions in mice

Project	DNA matrix	positives clones by LR-PCR/clones screened	positives clones by LR-PCR/clones screened	% positive	
		without CRISPR/Cas9	+ CRISPR/Cas9		
1	linear vector	0/543	16/372	4.3%	
2	circular vector	0/586	78/141	55.3%	
3		0/586	46/186	24.7%	
4		0/1560	26/158	16.5%	
5		0/85	165/186	88.7%	
6		ND	131/159	82.4%	
7		ND	44/93	47.3%	
8		ND	154/163	94.5%	
9		0/29	13/36	30.5%	
10		0/333	15/93	16.1%	

Rescue of failed projects with the help of CRISPR/cas9

PHENOMIN-ICS unpublished results



CASE STUDY: HUMANIZATION OF LARGE LOCUS IN MICE

- ✓ Replacement of ApoE mouse gene by ApoE2, ApoE3 and ApoE4 human variants including Tomm40 gene
- ✓ Full replacement of a 37 kb sequence achieved in C57BL/6N ES cells using Neo/Hygro + CRISPR/Cas9 selection
- ✓ 4 variants achieved (5.2%±0.9% positive/screened clones)





MODEL RELEVANCY ADDITIONAL MUTATIONS – OFF TARGET EVENTS

Off target mutations (cut outside target sequence)

- ✓ Rare when CRISPR/cas9 is used *in vivo* mouse and rat and other species too...
- ✓ Proper experiment design reduces the risk
- Line breeding to segregate additional mutations further reduces the risk

RISK is very limited for *in vivo* models if proper experiment design is followed

No unexpected CRISPR-Cas9 off-target activity revealed by trio sequencing of gene-edited mice

Vivek Iyer 🚥 🔟, Katharina Boroviak 🚳, Mark Thomas, Brendan Doe, Laura Riva, Edward Ryder 🕷 David J. Adams 🕷

Exome sequencing in the knockin mice generated using the CRISPR/Cas system

Kazuo Nakajima, An-a Kazuno, John Kelsoe, Moe Nakanishi, Toru Takumi & Tadafumi Kato 🌌

Nat Methods. 2015 Jun;12(6):479. doi: 10.1038/nmeth.3408.

Off-target mutations are rare in Cas9-modified mice.

<u>Iyer V¹, Shen B², Zhang W³, Hodgkins A¹, Keane T¹, Huang X², Skarnes WC¹.</u>

MODEL RELEVANCY ADDITIONAL MUTATIONS AT TARGET LOCUS

Unwanted mutational events at the target locus can frequently be observed !

- Double DNA strand break at target locus following CRISPR/Cas9 and cell repair mechanism can be at the origin of a series of additional mutational events
- In vivo genetic screening strategy should be highly relevant for detection of all types of mutational events
- Mosaicism in founder mice (F0) adds extra genetic complexity rendering identification of target and additional mutations challenging



ADDITIONAL MUTATIONS AT TARGET LOCUS

Multiple integration at target site - CASE STUDY (Phenomin-ICS)

- ROSA26 locus offers an open chromatin region well suited for expressing cDNAs
- ROSA26 has been extensively used in ES cells
- Case study: CRISPR/Cas9 was used to target ROSA26 locus with homologous recombination vector





ADDITIONAL MUTATIONS AT TARGET LOCUS

LARGE GENOMIC REARRANGEMENTS





UNDERSTANDING HUMAN STRUCTURAL VARIATIONS LEADING TO DISEASES

- ✓ Examples of syndromes in Human
 - Viable trisomy
 - Trisomy 21
 - Trisomy 18
 - Trisomy 13
 - Klinefelter syndrome (XXY)

- Microdeletions and microduplications
- 1p36 microdeletion syndrome
- 1p21.1 recurrent microdeletion and microduplication syndrome
- 3q23 microdeletion and microduplication syndrome
- 7q11.23 duplication syndrome and Williams-Beuren syndrome
- Angleman syndrome /Prader-Willi syndrome
- 16p11/2-12.2 microdeletion syndrome
- 16p13.11 recurrent microdeletion and microduplication syndrome
- Potock-Lupski syndrome, Smith-Magenis syndrome



HOW GENOME EDITING MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO GENERATE MODELS OF STRUCTURAL VARIATION DISEASES



Article | OPEN | Published: 07 March 2017

Efficient and rapid generation of large genomic variants in rats and mice using CRISMERE

Marie-Christine Birling, Laurence Schaeffer, Philippe André, Loic Lindner, Damien Maréchal, Abdel Ayadi, Tania Sorg, Guillaume Pavlovic & Yann Hérault [™]

Scientific Reports 7, Article number: 43331 (2017) Download Citation 🚽



MOSAICISM LEADS TO COMPLEX GENOTYPES IN FO GENERATION

THEORY (frequently advertised): One-step generation of mice



Volume 153, Issue 4, 9 May 2013, Pages 910–918

Resource

One-Step Generation of Mice Carrying Mutations in Multiple Genes by CRISPR/Cas-Mediated Genome Engineering

Haoyi Wang^{1, 6}, Hui Yang^{1, 6}, Chikdu S. Shivalila^{1, 2, 6}, Meelad M. Dawlaty¹, Albert W. Cheng^{1, 3}, Feng Zhang^{4, 5}, Rudolf Jaenisch^{1, 3}, ⁴



F1 are heterozygotes of the same allele



MOSAICISM & SERIES OF ALLELIC VARIANTS

REALITY: mice & rats born from injection of CRISPR/Cas9 are mosaic







F1 heterozygote of different alleles



Tyr locus mutation

• Completely albino and a wide range of pigmentation mosaic founders were generated

• Deep sequencing showed that most founders had >2 new mutant alleles

Yen et al., 2014, Dev Biol



CAS9-INDUCED MOSAICISM IN FOUNDER ANIMALS



http://jackson.jax.org/rs/444-BUH-304/images/LT0071 CRISPR whitepaper WEB.pdf



MOSAICISM IMPACT ON MODEL DEVELOPMENT

- Many different allele variants can be found in one single founder
- F0 are not established lines
 - ✓ Presence of several alleles in same animal
 - ✓ No phenotyping at F0 stage
- Breeding to F1 generation is still mandatory
 - ✓ To be included in budget and timelines
 - ✓ Breeding to F1 generation is still mandatory



MODEL RELEVANCY TIMELINES

WEEKS ES CRISPR gRNA +/- ssODN VECTOR 10 4 **RECOMBINANT CLONES** 10 10 10 **INJECTION INJECTION** 11 11 **CHIMERA BREEDING FOUNDERS BREEDING** 11 **HOMOZYGOUS GENERATION** 11 **HOMOZYGOUS GENERATION** 52 36

Ex: constitutive KO or SNP mutation models

About 30% timeline reduction for the generation of basic modified alleles with CRISPR/cas9 approach

• What about complex mutations, large Kins ?

Advantage of CRISPR/Cas9 approach tends to vanish as complexity of model increases but for structural variants and copy number variation models



3Rs

- Replace
- Refine
- Reduce





RODENT MODEL GENERATION VIA CRISPR/CAS9 AND THE 3RS

3Rs

1. Replacement: methods which avoid or replace the use of animals in research

- **2. Reduction**: use of methods that enable researchers to obtain comparable levels of information from fewer animals, or to obtain more information from the same number of animals.
- **3.** Refinement: use of methods that alleviate or minimize potential pain, suffering or distress, and enhance animal welfare for the animals used.



REDUCE

Major contributions of CRISPR/Cas9 to the 3Rs:

- Access to wider range of genetic backgrounds and strains -> abolish the need for backcrossing the generated line to genetic background of interest
 - ✓ 400 mice are used on average during a standard backcross (10 generations)
 - ✓ 200 for accelerated backcross (5 generations, SNPs selection of breeders)
- Very high germ line transmission of mutation
 - ✓ CRISPR: 3-4 founders are sufficient
 - ✓ ES: <u>at least 6-8</u> chimeric males (from 2 independent clones) are required



Intellectual Pr

- Historic battle...
- Current landscape
- Potential impact on your *in vivo* research





A BATTLE BETWEEN ACADEMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS



CRISPR IP CURRENT LANDSCAPE



- On 10 September 2018, the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held the use of CRISPR-Cas9 in eukaryotes, as claimed by the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was patentable over Doudna's and Charpentier's use of CRISPR-Cas9 in vitro
- This means both the Broad group and the Berkeley group can separately license their technologies in the US



- The European Patent Office revoked the patent that was granted to the Broad group, leaving only the patents awarded to the Berkeley group
- The awarded patents cover the use of the CRISPR technology in both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells/organisms
- Opposition proceedings at the European Patent Office have just begun...It is still possible that Broad may be awarded patents as well



- The Berkeley group was also awarded patent protection in China
- it is still possible that Broad may be awarded patents there as well



These conflicting decisions are further complicated by a set of interlocking license agreements from the inventors' biotech companies, with a great deal of uncertainty playing out in the global commercial sector for CRISPR



CRISPR-CAS9 LICENSING AGREEMENTS

INSTITUTIONS/PAT	ENT HOLDERS SURROO	ATES	OTHER LICENSEES		
MASSACHUSETTS	Human therapeutics EDIT,	S Chimeric antigen rec	eptor T cells		
GENERAL HOSPITA	AL MEDIC	NE Research tools	0101175011		
DUKE UNIVERSITY	-	Research products an	TH Services		
		Research and drug di			
(HARVARD & MIT)	7	Agriculture			
(,		Drug target assessm	ent		
		Research application			
		Research application			
		Research and drug di			
	Exclusive	Research and animal	models		
\rightarrow	Non exclusive	Translational research			
		Research tools and re	agents		
		Animal models and re	agents FIORIZON		
		Genetically engineer	ed rats		
		Agriculture-major ro	w crops		
OC BERKELET	All fields CARIB	DU Livestock			
	BIOSCIENCES	Genetically engineere	ed mice THE JACKSON		
OF VIENNA		Reagents for research	LABORATORY		
	Human	Drug screening and v	alidation		
		Chimeric antigen rec	eptor T cells		
	INTEL THERAPE	LIA UTICS Theraeutic products	for the liver		
		Tools for drug develo	pment REGENERON		
EMMANUELLE CHARPENTIER	All fields except	Research tools amd r	eagents		
	human therapeutics ERS	Industrial application			
	GENON	ICS Cross-divisional appl	cations BAYER		
		Engineered model or			
	Human therapeutics CRISI	R Blood, eye, and heart	disease CASEBIA		
	THERAPE	UTICS Cystic fibrosis and sid	Cystic fibrosis and sickle cell diseases VERTEX		

Several layers:

1. Patent holders

- 1. "Surrogate" companies have been granted exclusive licenses:
 - Editas Medicine*
 - Caribou Biosciences
 - ERS genomics
 - CRISPR Therapeutics*

3. Spin-out companies

Intellia Therapeutics* with exclusive license from Caribou Biosciences: focus on their own R&D activities in human therapy, and specific out-licensing in certain areas.

* Editas Medicine, CRISPR Therapeutics and Intellia Therapeutics are publicly registered in the NASDAQ Stock Market



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EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

APPLICATION AREAS



- 3 different commercialization areas of CRISPR/Cas9 patents:
- CRISPR/Cas9 used in medical applications with focus on human therapeutics and drug discovery
- 2. Agriculture and food applications
- 3. Research tool applications, cell line and animal models



CRISPR IP – IMPACT ON IN VIVO RESEARCH

ACADEMIC & NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

CRISPR tools, knowledge, methods and other IP for genome-editing freely available to the academic and non-profit community

COMMERCIAL (FOR-PROFIT) ORGANIZATION

Non-exclusive license granted for use in commercial research

Non-exclusive license granted to sell tools and reagents for genome editing

No financial impact if all work performed in house and no profit application of research

Financial impact if work is outsourced to profit organization and if profit application is considered Impact on model development costs and related services due to royalties

Infringement risks



INFRINGEMENTS RISKS

Patent landscape is complex, constantly changing, with several main actors



IP management may be complex for small size companies or academic institutions

Potential consequences of infringement

- To be obliged to stop all uses of the invention and to pay for past uses
- To have to destroy all material made with the use of the patent
- To pay damages to the patent owner (or exclusive licensee)
- To pay all costs of the lawsuit
- To have very deleterious publicity (information is public and infringer may be obliged to post it on its website)

Make sure you are covered when developing in house or out-sourcing services to be able at later stages to operate your model

Alternative technologies may replace CRISPR/Cas9 to generate your rodent model thus securing your IP environment



IMPACT ON FINANCIALS

MODEL DEVELOPMENT & ASSOCIATED RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT



From www.technologyreview.com - December 27, 2016 12:08 PM

Royalties usually apply to development of licensed product (custom mouse or rat model) and all related services using the licensed product:

- Propagation services (breeding, feeding and health monitoring...)
- Embryology services (rederivation, cryopreservation...)
- Genotyping
- Quarantine to support health monitoring
- Obtention of samples (blood, urine...)
- TOX studies
- ... not exhaustive list ...
- Impact on global project budget (and not only on mouse/rat model generation step) is to be evaluated
- Alternative model creation technologies may replace CRISPR/Cas9 thus reducing global project cost



CRISPR/CAS9 - OUR IP POSITION

- Freedom to operate for ES cell models in Europe
- CRISPR/Cas9: secure your project with both ERS Genomics Limited & Broad Institute in Europe, Japan & US
- Our offering allows clients to work with one company to develop *in vitro* models and cell lines and later place them into *in vivo* studies

Charles River Adds ERS License to

CRISPR/Cas9 Service Offering

WILMINGTON, Mass.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Dec. 6, 2017-- Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. (NYSE: CRL) today announced the expansion of its CRISPR/Cas9 service offering with the addition of a license from **ERS Genomics Limited**. The license, coupled with the existing license through the **Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard**, allows Charles River to offer custom *in vivo* and *in vitro* genome editing.



Conclusion





STRATEGIES FOR RODENT MODEL GENERATION TO CRISPR OR NOT TO CRISPR ?

CRISPR/Cas9 embryo-mediated gene editing is highly relevant for:

- Rat models
- Mouse and rat models on specific genetic backgrounds/strains: model relevancy, 3Rs, cost
- Generation of structural variants/copy number models (CRISMERE technology)
- Quick and inexpensive generation of basic mutation models: constitutive KO, small Kins ...when IP issues (IP fees and infringement risks) are not problematic



STRATEGIES FOR RODENT MODEL GENERATION TO CRISPR OR NOT TO CRISPR ?

Alternative strategies to CRISPR/Cas9 in embryos are worth considering when:

- Need for models, even basics, and would like to retain freedom to operate the model wo IP fees & infringement risks
- Kin models involving fragments above 2-3kb: use of ES cells is advised to secure project budget and timelines
- Large humanization in mouse -> CRISPR in ES cell is a very good option



Generation of Genetically Engineered Rodent Models

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Dr. Jean Cozzi

À CHAQUE ÉTAPE DU PROCESSUS



ADDITIONAL MUTATIONS - OFF TARGET LOCUS

RANDOM INSERTION EVENTS IN KNOCK-IN MODELS



Unpublished data from Charles River Japan



OFF-TARGET ssODN DONOR INTEGRATION

Gene targeted	Species	Number of F0 screened	Number of F0 with on- site integration	Number of F0 with NHEJ	Number of F0 with random integration of ssDNA	% random integration
Gene #1	Mouse	42	1	4	6	14%
Gene #2	Mouse	30	0	2	4	13%
Gene #3	Rat	31	3	6	1	3%
Gene #4	Mouse	29	3	3	1	3%
Gene #5	Mouse	46	4	8	4	9%

ssODN= single stranded oligodeoxynucleotide

PHENOMIN-ICS unpublished results



MODEL RELEVANCY GENE EDITING EFFICIENCY

ES cell vs CRISPR/Cas9 in embryos





MODEL TYPES GENE EDITING EFFICIENCY



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MULTIPLE TRANSGENE INSERTION AT TARGET SITE

PROPOSED MECHANISM

Integration of the transgene by homologous recombination (HR) followed by multiple integration of the vector by one crossing over





CASE STUDY: HUMANIZATION OF LARGE LOCUS IN MICE

RISKY INHERITANCE

People who carry the gene variant APOE4 tend to develop Alzheimer's at a younger age than those with two copies of APOE3.



Replacement of ApoE mouse gene by:

ApoE2, ApoE3 and ApoE4 human alleles including neighbour orthology



UNDERSTANDING HUMAN STRUCTURAL VARIATIONS LEADING TO DISEASES

- ✓ >60 000 SVs were discovered in human (Huddleston and Eichler, 2016)
 - pathological SVs are mostly not known
- ✓ One of the most common cause in **morbidity and mortality** in human population
- ✓ SVs likely play a major role in very various diseases not only restricted to neuronal disorders (Conrad et al., 2010; Fanciulli et al., 2007; McCarroll and Altshuler, 2007; Wu and Hurst, 2016) but also including cancers (Taki & Taniwaki, 2006)



MOSAICISM & SERIES OF ALLELIC VARIANTS

Droplet digital genotyping (quantitative) of Sprague Dawley point mutants F0 founders



