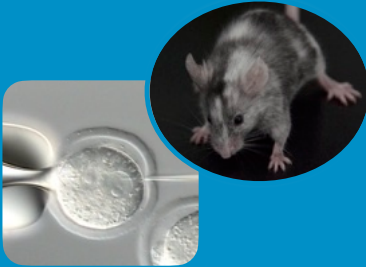


Mouse Genetics (2) GSK Experimental Biology Course 2025-09-12



Yasuhide Furuta
Developmental Biology Program
Mouse Genetics Core Facility (MGCF)
@ SKI, MSKCC

1

Genetically Engineered Mice: “GEM” of Mammalian Genetics

MGCF, MSKCC



Our (Core) Perspective of GEM (vs. genetically altered or mutant)

Mice that carry designed genome alterations introduced into the germ line or germ line-competent lineages.

- **Transgenic** - exogenously introduced genetic elements, typically non-targeted manners
- **Knock-out** - targeted on a specific gene, locus or genomic region, loss-of function
- **Knock-in** - targeted, specific genetic alteration (point mutation, exogenous gene, reporter etc.

This lecture focuses on discussing:

- technical and procedural aspects of the GEM generation processes
- practical considerations of the generation and development of GEM models
- current trends and prospects of complex GEM models

2

Genetically Engineered Mice: “GEM” of Mammalian Genetics

MGCF, MSKCC



Strategies and Approaches : different tools and flavors

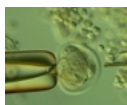
Embryo Manipulation & Transgenesis

- **Zygotes**
transgenesis and genome editing
- **Embryonic Stem Cells (ESC)**
gene targeting (KO/KI) and chimera (ESC) mice



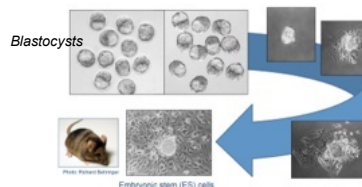
ZYGOTES

One step



ES CELLS

Single cell
= Individual animal



3

Genetically Engineered Mice: “GEM” of Mammalian Genetics

MGCF, MSKCC



Strategies and Approaches : different tools and flavors



4



Strategies and Approaches : different tools and flavors



ZYGOTES

REQUIRE:

- Production Colony**
- embryo donor mice
 - vas males & surrogate females

- Reproductive Biology**
- embryo collection, manipulation
 - reproductive surgery

- Infrastructure**
- embryo collection, manipulation
 - microscope, manipulator

Timeline

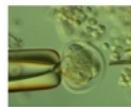
GEM: 3 mo - 2 yr's

Experiments: mo's - yr's

Paper: ∞ yr's

one gene at a time

multiple genes
simultaneously



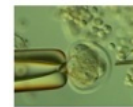
ES CELLS



Strategies and Approaches : different tools and flavors



ZYGOTES



ES CELLS

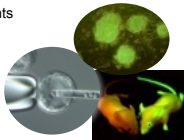
Allele	Time Line Risk	Cost
simple compact	one-step could go fast but <u>unpredictable</u>	may be lower
complex large	through germ line could take longer <u>more QC-able</u>	tend to be higher



Expediting Genetically Engineered Mouse Studies

Molecular Biology & Embryonic Stem Cells

- Genome modification donors: design and construction
- Consolidating genome editing components
- Assistance in genotyping
- ES cell culture and ES cell derivation
- Gene targeting in ES cells

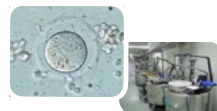


Embryo Manipulation & Transgenesis

- Zygote micromanipulation
transgenics and genome editing
- ES cell injection
"chimera" mice

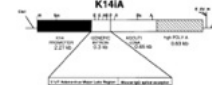
Reproductive Biology: Facilitating the Use of GEM Lines

- Germ line transmission of genetic modifications
- Strain archiving by cryopreservation
- Re-establishment and expansion of mouse lines
 - cryo-recovery and assisted reproduction (IVF)



Transgenic Mice (classical random transgenesis)

(Can be via PN injection, viral, ESC.)



(Kucera et al., 1996)

- Copy number ≠ expression level
- Some integrations do not express
- Ectopic expression
- Novel expression patterns
 - Position effects (variegation)
- Variation within a mouse line

Generation and Establishment of GEM models

MGCF, MSKCC



Expediting Genetically Engineered Mouse Studies Beyond Conventional Mouse Genetics

- One target gene at a time → *in vivo manipulation of multiple targets* simultaneously
- Genome editing technologies**: improving the CRISPR/Cas system for efficient generation of large genetic modifications in mouse zygotes
- ES cell technologies**: application of ES cell technology to generate complex genotype animal models without genetic crosses

Timeline

GEM: 3 mo - 2 yrs

Experiments: mo's - yr's

Paper: ∞ yrs

9

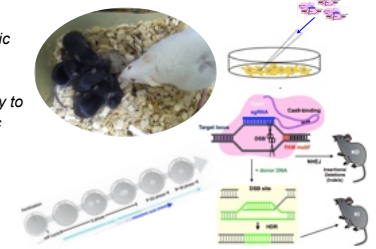
Generation and Establishment of GEM models

MGCF, MSKCC



Expediting Genetically Engineered Mouse Studies Beyond Conventional Mouse Genetics

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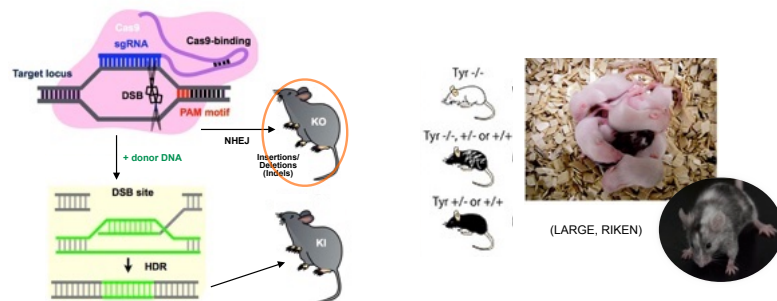
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Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes



11

Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Improving the base-line genome editing efficiency by CRISPR/Cas in zygotes

Cas9 activity comparison on the Tyr locus

Cas9	# embryos transferred	# founders	# albinos	% albino founders
E	18	0	n/a	n/a
P	72	23	1	4.3
I	83	24	2	8.3
D	52	7	6	85.7



(MGCF, MSKCC)

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Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Improving the base-line genome editing efficiency by CRISPR/Cas in zygotes

gRNA comparison on the ROSA26 locus

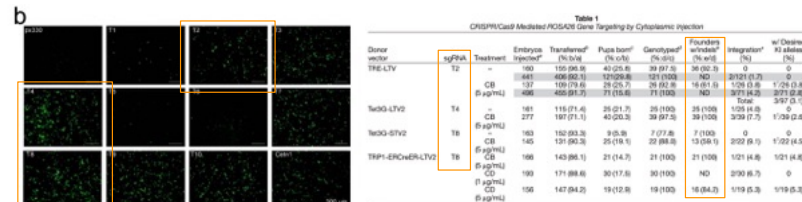


FIG. 1. Validation of gRNA efficiency for Rosa26 locus in cultured cells. (a) Ten gRNAs targeting ROSA26 locus 1 (21-712) were designed.

cell lines ≠ zygotes

(Nakao et al., genesis 2016)

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Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

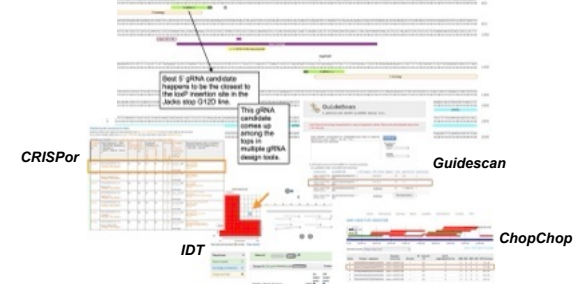
MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Improving the base-line genome editing efficiency by CRISPR/Cas in zygotes

gRNA selection (CRISPR design tools)



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On-Going Efforts

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Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Zygote electroporation



Tyr editing on C57BL/6	# embryos manipulated	# embryos transferred	# pups (# born)	# 100% albino pups
Injection Cas9	120	84	16 (20)	11 (68.8%)
Electroporation Cas9	187	79	27 (28)	27 (100%)
Cas9n	146	69	11 (11)	9 (81.8%)



(MGCF, MSKCC)

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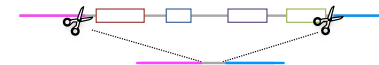
Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Large Deletions



Gene/Locus	Deletion Size	# Embryos Transferred	# F0 Pups	# Desired Allele
A	300 bp	219	41	7 (17%)
B	2.2 kb	255	44	7 (16%)
C	740 bp	395	49	27 (55%)
C	561 bp	251	47	16 (34%)
D	340 kb	387	48	14 (29%)
M	> 1.5 mb	198	26	2 (7.7%)

(MGCF, MSKCC)

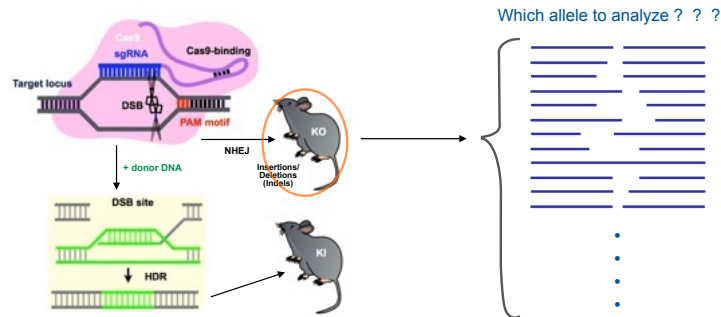
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Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes



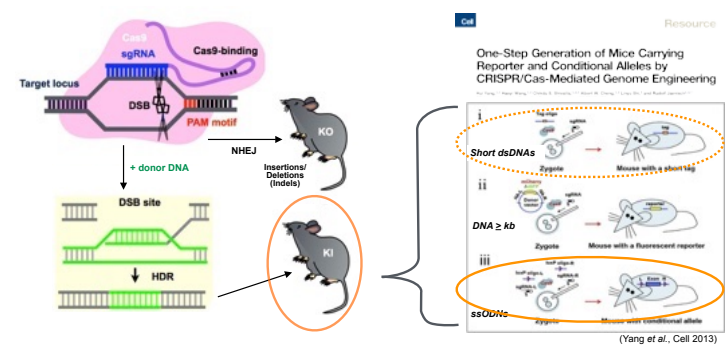
17

Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes



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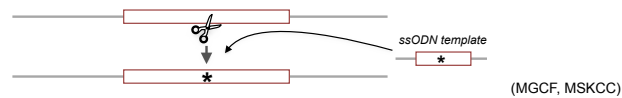
Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Small Targeted Insertions



Gene/Locus	Editing Type	# Embryos Transferred	# F0 Pups	# Desired Allele
<i>E</i> (Ex.28)	2-base sub.	66	22	4 (18%)
<i>E</i> (Ex.28)	2-base sub.	83	29	1 (3%)
<i>F</i> (Ex.2/3)	1 aa sub. / 1 aa sub.	461	16	1 (6.3%)
<i>G</i>	<i>loxP</i> <12 kb> <i>loxP</i>	482	102	4 (3.6%)
<i>H</i>	<i>loxP</i> <340 kb> <i>loxP</i>	387	48	1 (2%)
<i>H</i>	<i>loxP</i> <1 kb> <i>loxP</i>	334	24	3 (12.5%)

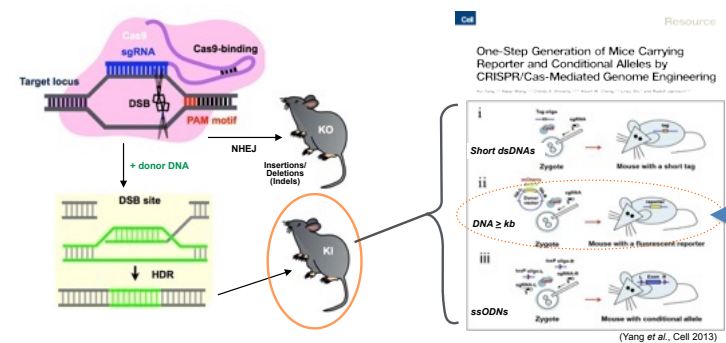
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Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes



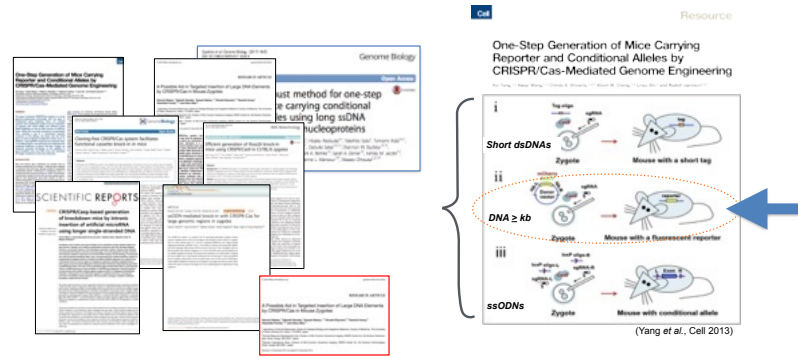
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Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Targeted insertion of large DNA elements by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes



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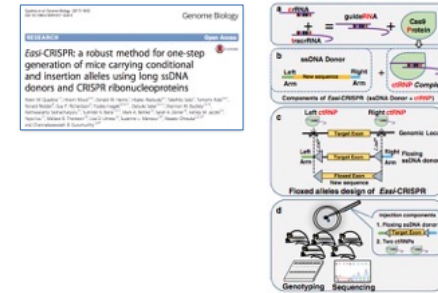
Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Targeted insertion of large DNA elements by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Large Targeted Insertions (long single strand (lss) DNA donors (cargo $\leq$ 1.5 kb))



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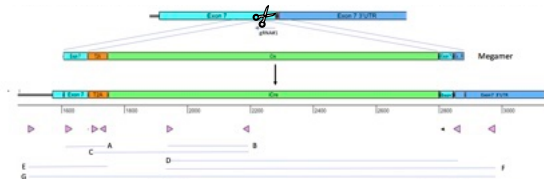
Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Targeted insertion of large DNA elements by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Large Targeted Insertions (lssDNA donors)



Locus	KI Cargo Size	# Embryos Transferred	# F0 Pups	# Desired Allele
L	1.1 kb	411	54	3 (5.6%)

(MGCF, MSKCC)

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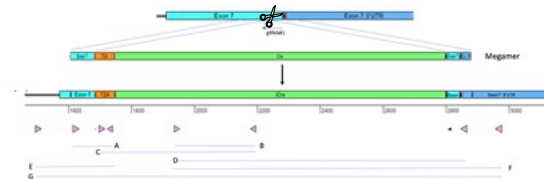
Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Targeted insertion of large DNA elements by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Large Targeted Insertions (lssDNA donors)



Candidate Founder	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
#26	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
#30	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
#31	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
#32	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
#34	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

(MGCF, MSKCC)

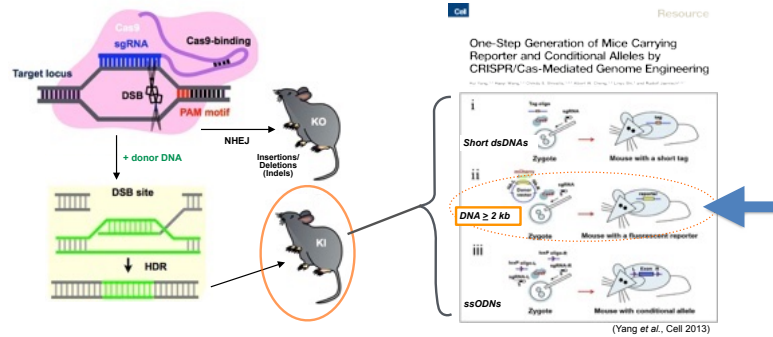
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Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes



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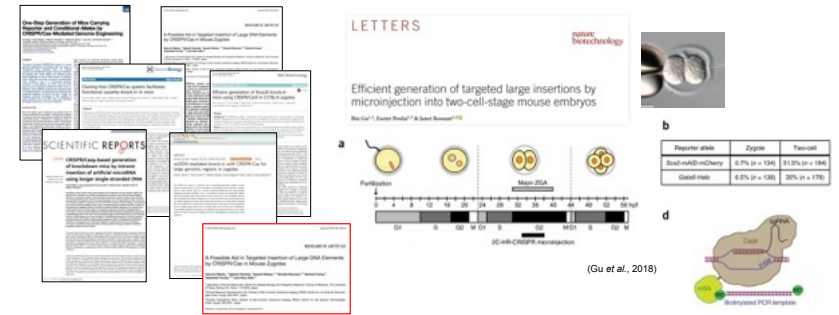
Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Large Targeted Insertions (dsDNA donors (cargo ≥ 1.5 kb))



26

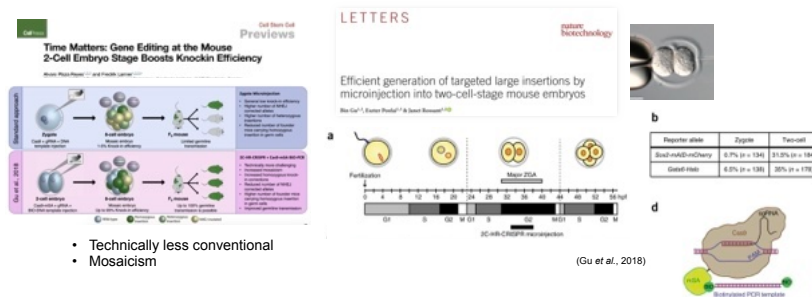
Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Large Targeted Insertions (dsDNA donors (cargo ≥ 1.5 kb))



- Technically less conventional
- Mosaicism

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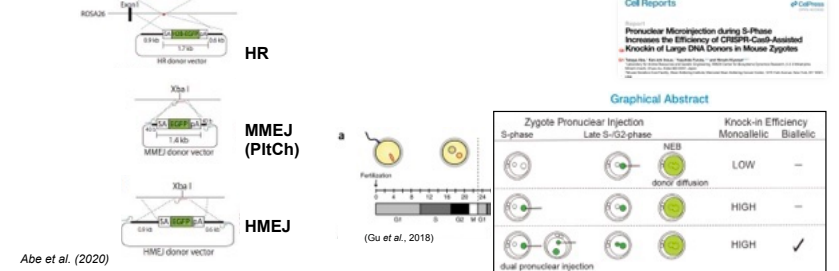
Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Large Targeted Insertions (dsDNA donors (cargo ≥ 1.5 kb))



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Moving Forward

MGCF, MSKCC

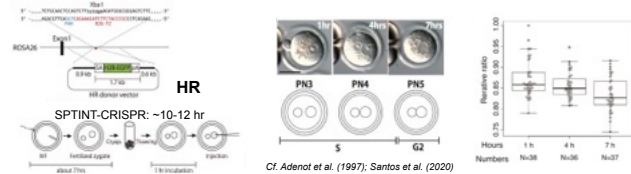


Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Large Targeted Insertions

(dsDNA donors (cargo ≥ 1.5 kb))

Abe et al. (2020)



Cf. Adenot et al. (1997); Santos et al. (2020)

Conventional
Zygote Injection
Schedule



Gu et al. (2018)

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Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC

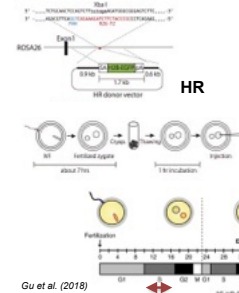


Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

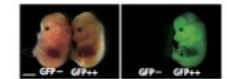
Large Targeted Insertions

(dsDNA donors (cargo ≥ 1.5 kb))

Abe et al. (2020)



Gu et al. (2018)



Ex.	Time	Injected	Transferred	E14.5 emb. (%)	GFP	KI (%)	KI/Emb.
#1	1h	232	227	50 (21.6%)	29	27 (93.1%)	54%
	1h	117	116	30 (25.6%)	17	17 (100%)	56.7%
#2	4h	116	116	40 (34.4%)	29	28 (96.6%)	70%
	7h	106	106	23 (21.7%)	0	0	0
	1h	110	110	39 (35.5%)	25	24 (96.0%)	61.5%
#3	4h	115	115	31 (27.0%)	17	17 (100%)	54.8%
	7h	103	103	38 (36.9%)	3	1 (33%)	2.6%

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Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC

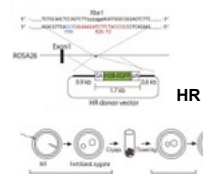


Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes

Large Targeted Insertions

(dsDNA donors (cargo ≥ 1.5 kb))

Abe et al. (2020)



S-Phase Pronuclear Injection
for Targeting with Large DNA
by CRISPR
(SPTINT-CRISPR: 14 independent loci)
Efficiency range: 2.7%-89.3%



Ex.	Chromosome	Genetic Modification	Time	No. of Zygotes Injected	No. of Zygotes Transferred	No. of E14.5 Embryos Recovered	KI	KI/emb.	KI/zyg.
#4	Chr5 (Actb)	COB0093E	1	114	114	23	4	17.4	3.5
			7	103	103	16	0	0	0
#5	Chr2	COB0164E	1	116	116	41	17	26.8	9.5
			7	117	117	24	4	16.7	3.4
#6	Chr17	COB0121E	1	115	112	26	23	88.5	20.0
			7	111	111	18	7	38.9	6.3
#7	Chr12	COB0123E	1	117	117	16	12	75.0	10.3
			7	115	115	18	6	33.3	5.2
#8	Chr9 (Clorf)	Gu et al., 2018	1	118	117	42	32	76.2	27.1
			7	115	115	42	16	38.1	13.9
#9	Chr2 (Cdk8)	Gu et al., 2018	1	119	117	28	25	89.3	21.0
			7	117	117	19	12	63.2	10.3

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Generation and Establishment of GEM models

MGCF, MSKCC

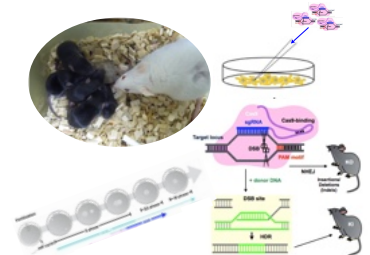


Expediting Genetically Engineered Mouse Studies Beyond Conventional Mouse Genetics

- One target gene at a time
- One-step genome engineering in zygotes:
"We can do everything we want quickly and cost-effectively."
- ES cell technologies:

	mES cells	conventional gene targeting	CRISPR (in zygotes)	precise editing (SNP)	conditional KO (loxP, FRT)	KI (reporter)
% cost savings	baseline	81%	68%	59%	38%	41%
avg. timelines	12 months	6.5 months	7 months	7 months	8 months	8 months

Lui et al., EMBO Rep 2017



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Generation and Establishment of GEM models

MGCF, MSKCC



Expediting Genetically Engineered Mouse Studies Beyond Conventional Mouse Genetics

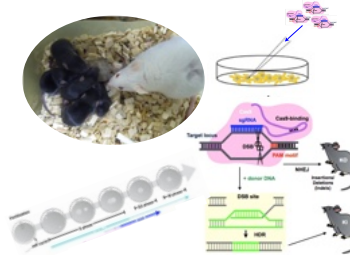
- One target gene at a time
- One-step genome engineering in zygotes:

**“Is the ESC platform
obsolete?”**

- ES cell technologies:

	mES cells	conventional genome targeting	CRISPR (in zygotes)			
			indel (small deletion/ins ertion)	deletion	precise editing (SNP)	conditional KO (LoxP, FRT)
% cost savings		baseline	81%	68%	59%	38%
avg. timelines		12 months	6.5 months	7 months	7 months	8 months

Lui et al., EMBO Rep 2017



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Generation and Establishment of GEM models

MGCF, MSKCC

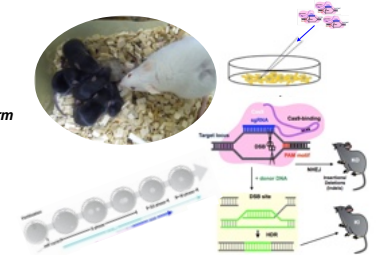


Expediting Genetically Engineered Mouse Studies Beyond Conventional Mouse Genetics

- One target gene at a time → **in vivo simultaneous manipulation of multiple targets**
- One-step genome engineering in zygotes:

**“Is the ESC platform
obsolete?”**

- ES cell technologies: application of the ES cell platform to generate complex-genotype animal models without extensive genetic crosses



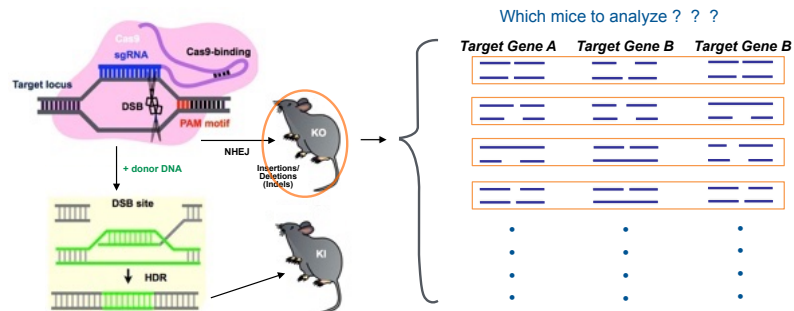
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Genome Editing in Zygotes - One-Step GEM

MGCF, MSKCC



Towards efficient genome modification by CRISPR/Cas in mouse zygotes



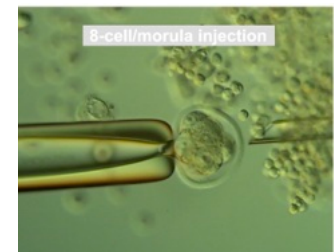
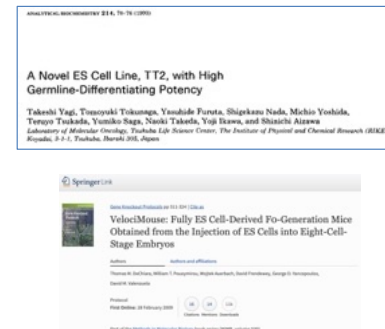
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Generation and Establishment of Complex GEMs

MGCF, MSKCC



Improving the efficiency of ES cell-derived genetically modified mice



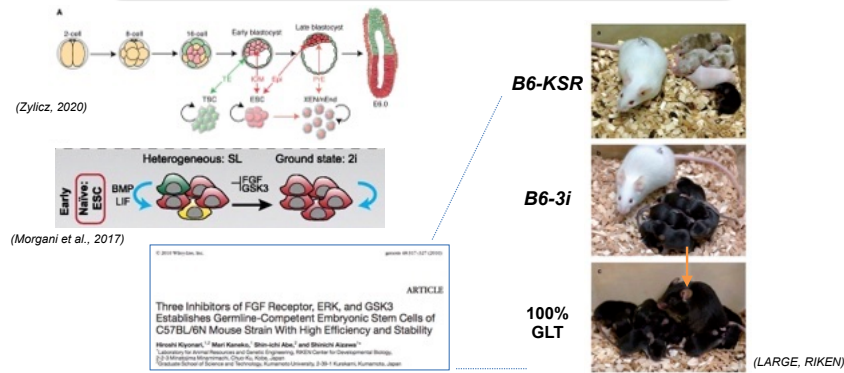
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Generation and Establishment of Complex GEMMs

MGCF, MSKCC



Improving the efficiency of ES cell-derived genetically modified mice



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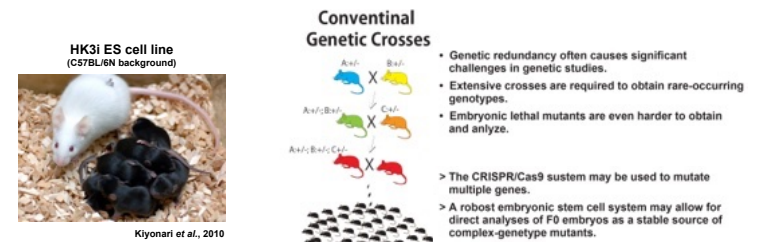
Generation and Establishment of Complex GEMMs

MGCF, MSKCC



Generation of mice carrying complex genetic alleles and genotypes

CRISPR/Cas-mediated multi-gene locus targeting : cheating genetics



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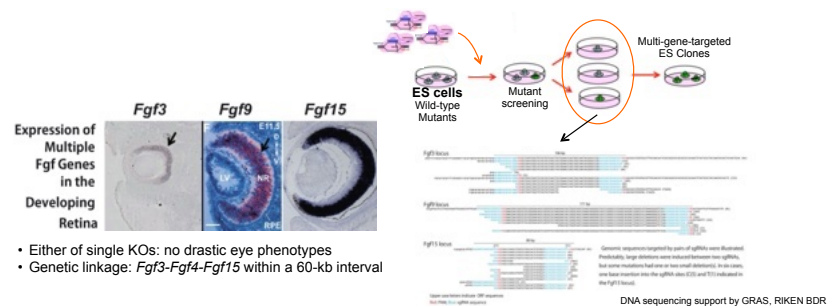
Generation and Establishment of Complex GEMMs

MGCF, MSKCC



Generation of mice carrying complex genetic alleles and genotypes

CRISPR/Cas-mediated multi-gene locus targeting : cheating genetics



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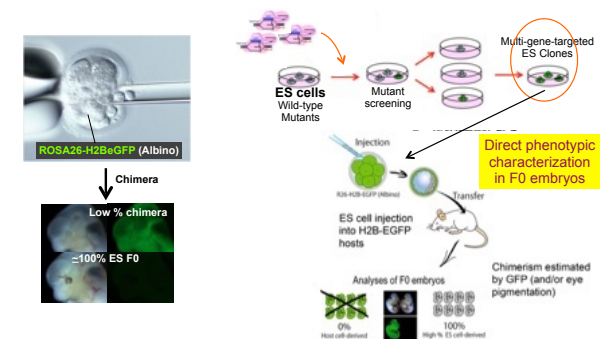
Generation and Establishment of Complex GEMMs

MGCF, MSKCC



Generation of mice carrying complex genetic alleles and genotypes

CRISPR/Cas-mediated multi-gene locus targeting : cheating genetics



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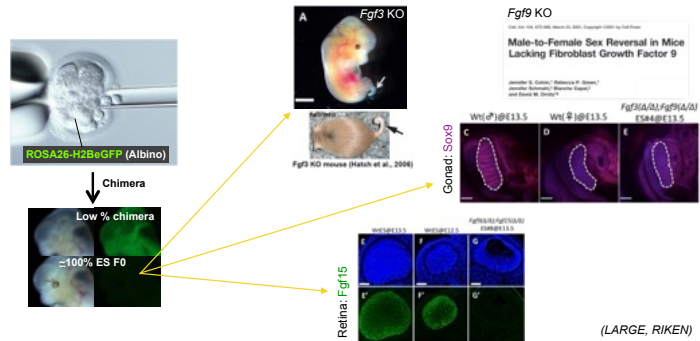
Generation and Establishment of Complex GEMMs

MGCF, MSKCC



Generation of mice carrying complex genetic alleles and genotypes

CRISPR/Cas-mediated multi-gene locus targeting : *Fgf3;Fgf9;Fgf15* Tri-KO



(LARGE, RIKEN)

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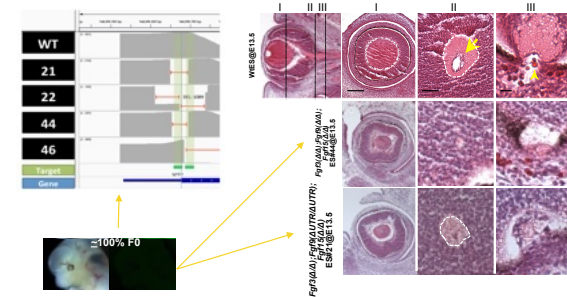
Generation and Establishment of Complex GEMMs

MGCF, MSKCC



Generation of mice carrying complex genetic alleles and genotypes

CRISPR/Cas-mediated multi-gene locus targeting : *Fgf3;Fgf9;Fgf15* Tri-KO



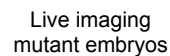
(LARGE, RIKEN)

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Cheating Genetics via ES Cells



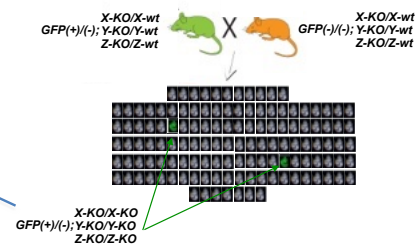
Generation of mice carrying complex genetic alleles and genotypes



R26-PHA7-EGFP
(Shioi et al. 2018)

Direct phenotypic characterization in an F0 embryo?

Conventional Genetic Cosses

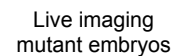


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Cheating Genetics via ES Cells



Generation of mice carrying complex genetic alleles and genotypes



R26-PHA7-EGFP
(Shioi et al. 2018)

(MGCF, MSKCC)

A2-P5 F0 Pups

A3-P5 F0 Pups

B4-P5 F0 Pups

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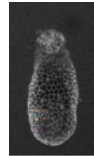
Cheating Genetics via ES Cells

MGCF, MSKCC



Generation of mice carrying complex genetic alleles and genotypes

Live imaging mutant embryos



R26-PHA7-EGFP
(Shioi et al. 2018)

Direct phenotypic characterization in F0 embryos

Targeted Reporter ES cells



Mutagenize GOI



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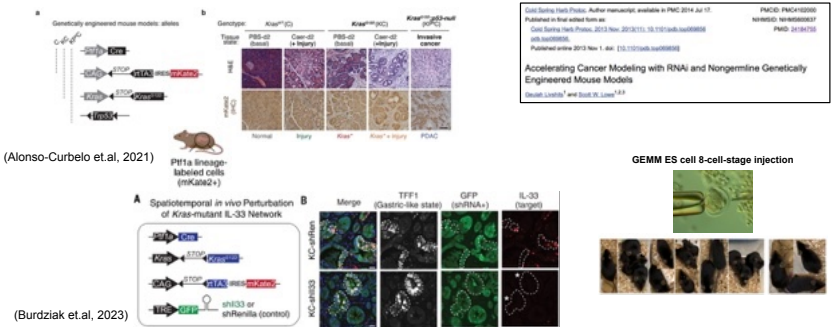
Generation and Establishment of Complex GEMMs

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Generation of mice carrying complex genetic alleles and genotypes

Combining multiple alleles in ES cells : cheating genetics - ESC-GEM Models



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ES Cell Gene Targeting Revisited

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Generation of mice carrying complex genetic alleles and genotypes

CRISPR-assisted targeted KI in ES cells

Locus/allele	Method	# total clones screened	# targeted	# mono-allelic	# bi-allelic
<i>Gxp</i>	HR	198	1 (0.5%)	1	0
<i>R26-Gla</i>	HR	194	6 (3.1%)	6	0
<i>R26-Glb</i>	CR/HR	98	20 (20.4%)	11	9
<i>Ka7-dTag</i>	CR/HR	96	13 (13.5%)	3	10
<i>Iki-FKBP</i>	CR/HR	48	31 (64.6%)	29	2
<i>Vcg</i>	CR/HR	42	40 (95.2%)	30	10
<i>Afc</i>	CR/HR	26	16 (61.5%)	12	4

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ES Cell Gene Targeting Revisited

MGCF, MSKCC



Generation of mice carrying complex genetic alleles and genotypes

CRISPR-assisted targeted KI in ES cells

Locus/ allele	Method	# total clones screened	# targeted	# mono- allelic	# bi- allelic	
Gxp	HR	198	1 (0.5%)	1	0	
	mES cells	CRISPR (in zygotes)				
	conventional gene targeting	indel (small deletion/ins ersion)	deletion	precise editing (SNP)	conditional KO (LoxP, FRT)	KI (reporter)
% cost savings	baseline	81%	68%	59%	38%	41%
avg. timelines	12 months	6.5 months	7 months	7 months	8 months	8 months
Afc	CR/HR	26	16 (61.5%)	12	4	

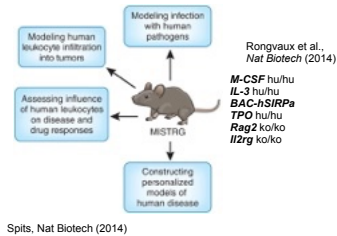
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Where are GEMMs going?

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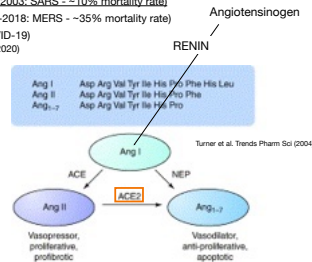
Humanization



Spits, Nat Biotech (2014)

COVID Mouse Models

- SARS-CoV (2002-2003: SARS ~10% mortality rate)
- MERS-CoV (2012-2018: MERS ~35% mortality rate)
- SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) Zhu et al. NEJM (2020)



ACE2: angiotensin converting enzyme 2 as a functional receptor for SARS-CoV (Li et al. Nature 2004; Li et al. EMBO J 2005)

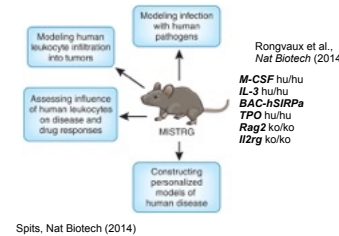
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Where are GEMMs going?

MGCF, MSKCC



Humanization



Spits, Nat Biotech (2014)

COVID Mouse Models

Genetic modification of the host receptor: hACE2 transgenic mice

- CMV enhancer/chick beta-actin promoter (Tseng et al. 2007)
- cytokeratin (K18) promoter (McCray et al. 2007; Netland et al. 2008)
- mAce2 promoter (Yang et al. 2007)

- positive correlations between hACE2 expression and disease severity
- airway epithelial pathologies
- high viral load in the brain
- neurological-related mortality: encephalitis

hACE2
mAce2

GE (humanized)
ACE2 model

ACE2: angiotensin converting enzyme 2 as a functional receptor for SARS-CoV (Li et al. Nature 2004; Li et al. EMBO J 2005)

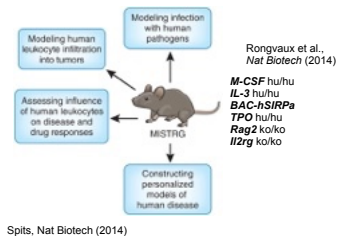
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Where are GEMMs going?

MGCF, MSKCC



Humanization



Spits, Nat Biotech (2014)

COVID Mouse Models

SARS-CoV2



hACE2
mAce2

GE (humanized)
ACE2 model



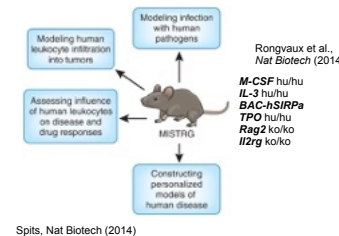
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Where are GEMMs going?

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Humanization



Spits, Nat Biotech (2014)

COVID Mouse Models

A humanized mouse model of chronic COVID-19

Articles: Ewen Sells¹, Benjamin Isenhardt¹, Maria Moras¹, Jun Zhao¹, Rihua Qu¹, Eleanora Kaffel¹, Eric Seung¹, Stephanie Halene¹, Eric Muffin¹, Yusef Kluger¹, Michel Nussenzweig¹, Craig B. Wills¹, Aditya Iwasaki¹ and Richard A. Flavell¹ (2020)

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease that can present as an asymptomatic, asymptomatic disease response, causing severe consequences. Existing rodent models do not recapitulate the sustained immunopathology of patients with severe disease. Here we describe a humanized mouse model of COVID-19 that can recapitulate the sustained immunopathology of patients with severe disease. This model recapitulates immune and adaptive immune responses to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in 30 days after infection, with the features of chronic COVID-19, including weight loss, persistent viral RNA, lung pathology with fibrosis, a human inflammatory monocyte response, hyperinflammation, elevated gene expression and cell death. We used this model to study the therapeutic effects of immunomodulatory and antiviral drugs and found that the same immunomodulatory treatment regimen used to containing early infection later drove immunopathology. This model will enable evaluation of COVID-19 disease progression and treatment.

"Existing rodent models do not recapitulate the sustained immunopathology of patients with severe (COVID)."

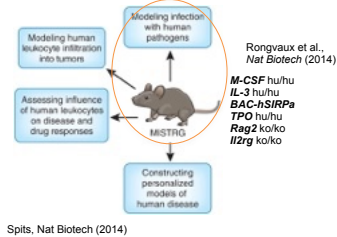
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Where are GEMMs going?

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Humanization



SARS-CoV2



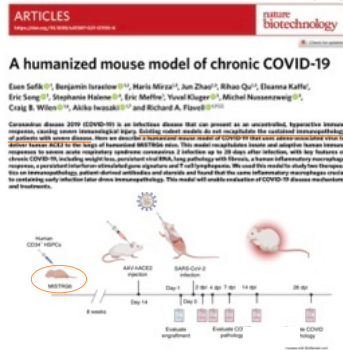
hACE2

mAee2

GE (humanized)
ACE2 model

COVID Mouse Models

(2022)



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Where are GEMMs going?

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Humanization

COVID Mouse Models

MERS-CoV model development: engineering hDPP4 mice - KI approaches

- mDpp4 (~72 kb)
 - hDPP4 (~82 kb)
 - hDPP4 CDS KI (Coleman et al. 2017; Pascal et al. 2015)
 - hDPP4 partial KI (Li et al., 2017)
 - hDPP4 partial KI (Cockrell et al., 2016) <— CRISPR/Cas9
- high viral replication, but no clinical signs of disease
 - Adoptive evolution (15 passages) required: maMERS-CoV to achieve lethality
 - no detectable virus in the brain
 - maMERS-CoV respiratory disease and lethality prevented by spike-directed vaccine and antibody

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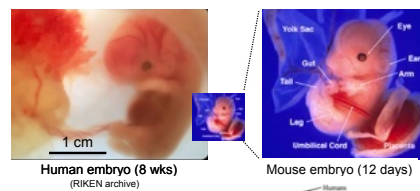
Where are GEMMs going?

MGCF, MSKCC



Eutherian mammal – close similarity to humans

Physiology, development, cell biology,



Human embryo (8 wks)
(RIKEN archive)

Mouse embryo (12 days)

In vivo. vs. In Vitro



Mice, hamsters, ferrets, monkeys. Which lab animals can help defeat the new coronavirus?

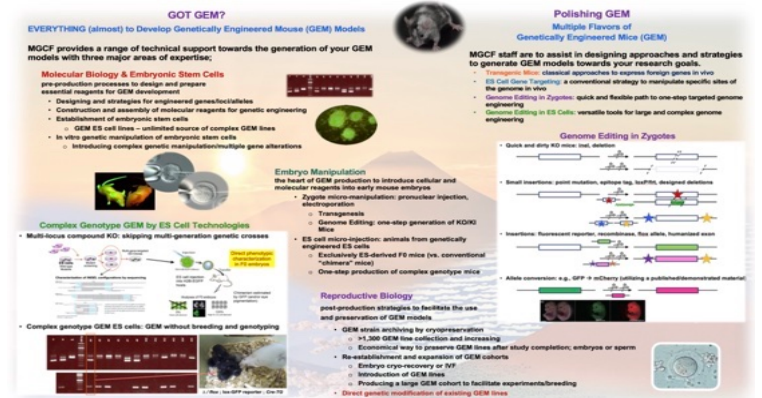
By Jan Sabat / Apr 15, 2020, 4:10 PM

Mice $\approx$ Humans

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Got GEMMs? < furutay@mskcc.org / TRANSGENICS@mskcc.org >

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