

Overview of the Computational Tools Available to Help in Designing Artificial Tales

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Editorial

Artificial TALE and CRISPR–Cas systems (TALE for transcription activator-like effector, CRISPR for clustered regularly interspersed short palindromic repeats) are the focus of this special issue. With the advent of artificial TALE and CRISPR–Cas9 technologies, targeted genome engineering employing programmable DNA-binding proteins has made incredible progress in the previous three years. Pioneering experiments with zinc-finger nucleases paved the way, establishing the feasibility of high-throughput genome editing in cell cultures and animal models. Custom-made nucleases have become straightforward to construct and frequently demonstrate great efficiency, indicating a breakthrough in genetics, thanks to the discoveries of TALE and CRISPR–Cas9 nucleases. The number of animals whose genomes have been successfully changed using synthetic nucleases is rapidly increasing, including a nonhuman primate. The "combined" issue contains numerous key examples demonstrating that most, if not all, live species are now susceptible to reverse genetic analysis [1].

The issue focuses on knock-in techniques that can be based on homology-directed repair, which allows for precise sequence change, as well as homology-independent mechanisms that can overcome the former's low efficiency in some cells. It also covers uses other than genome editing, such as employing sequence-specific DNA-binding proteins linked to functional domains other than nucleases. Only a few examples are now available, but they appear to be quite appealing, making TALE and CRISPR–Cas9 systems unique and strong tools for studying and controlling DNA processes. We give an excellent summary of the computational techniques that may be used to create artificial TALEs and forecast off-target binding locations. Off target prediction robustness can still be enhanced, but it will take a deeper understanding of DNA binding features such as quantitative variance in nucleotide preferences of individual TALE repeats. Such bioinformatics approaches have also been created for CRISPR–Cas RNA-guided nucleases, and they suffer from the same off-target prediction problems [2].

These tools, on the other hand, are useful for evaluating and controlling off-target consequences. The use of high resolution melts analysis (HRMA) to allow for the quick and accurate detection of index mutations and the creation of stable mutants. Different techniques to permitting nuclease expression in *Drosophila* have recently been described, with one particularly interesting example being the adoption of transgenic strains that allow germ line-specific Cas9 expression. When using nucleases to change the genome. The significance of better understanding the underlying mechanisms of DNA repair and recombination at work. Their early and pioneering work with nucleases provides a nice overview of these elements, as well as some criteria for donor design in homology-directed research, as demonstrated by *Drosophila*

experiments. In *Drosophila*, nuclease technologies have dramatically improved targeted genomic modification, including homologous recombination. Artificial nucleases have revolutionised reverse genetics procedures in zebra fish and give an effective means to insert transgenes at precise genomic sites, such as allowing the control of a reporter gene by an endogenous promoter. If plasmid donor DNA with no similarity to the target sequence is linearized by nucleases after introduction into cells, it can be integrated at the chromosomal target position. Because it involves the non-homologous end joining DNA repair pathway, which is particularly active in zebra fish embryos, integration efficiency is high in this situation. However, imprecise end-joining occurs frequently at the junction of donor and chromosomal sequences, and screening of the correct integration event may be required, for example, if in-frame joining is required [3-5].

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Conflict of Interest

The Author declares there is no conflict of interest associated with this manuscript.

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