Identify guideRNA (gRNA)

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Using CRISPick (<u>https://portals.broadinstitute.org/gppx/crispick/public</u>) to select candidate gRNA sequences with great on-target and limited off-target activities. Select the following setting as shown below (e.g. mouse sgANKRD1) and hit submit. We can select top 10 gRNA candidates in stead of 5 shown in the picture.

Reference Genome	Mechanism	Enzyme	
Human GRCh38 (NCBI RefSeq v.109.20210514) Human GRCh38 (Ensembl v.104) Human GRCh37 (NCBI RefSeq v.105.20201022) Mouse GRCm38 (NCBI RefSeq v.108) Mouse GRCm38 (Ensembl v.102) Rat Rnor_6.0 (NCBI RefSeq v.106)	 CRISPRko CRISPRa CRISPRi 	 SpyoCas9 (NGG) SaurCas9 (NNGRR) AsCas12a (TTTV) enAsCas12a 	
Target(s)			
• Quick lookup 🔿 Bulk 🔿 Upload file			
Ankrd1			~
Ankrd1 107765 - ankyrin repeat domain 1 (cardi Ankrd13a 68420 - ankyrin repeat domain 13a Ankrd16 320816 - ankyrin repeat domain 16 Ankrd17 81702 - ankyrin repeat domain 17 Ankrd11 77087 - ankyrin repeat domain 11 Ankrd13c 433667 - ankyrin repeat domain 13c Ankrd10 102334 - ankyrin repeat domain 10 Ankrd13d 68423 - ankyrin repeat domain 13 far Ankrd12 106585 - ankyrin repeat domain 12			
5 This tool will recommend the top N • Raw ranking • Cut position Report unpicked sequences?		g to:	
Clear All			Submit

Once the searching job is complete, download the "Picking Resµlts" file and open with the Excel. The gRNAs will be ranked based on the On-Target Efficacy Score. The gRNA in the sense strand or in the exons near the start position are preferred than those in the antisense strand or exons near the end position. Once we select the candidate gRNAs, we coµld go ahead with the prediction step.

Predict the gRNA efficiency online: Assess the on- and off-targeting scores on the IDT website

(<u>https://www.idtdna.com/site/order/designtool/index/CRISPR_SEQUENCE</u>). Better to select the gRNA sequences with good scores regarding on-target and off-target effects (If the gRNA sequences have good prediction, the website will show green light to them).

CRISPR-Cas9 guide RNA design checker

Assess on- and off-targeting potential of protospacer designs of your own or from publications before ordering guide RNAs (gRNAs, such as crRNA and sgRNA) that are synthesized using our Alt-R gRNA modifications. For HDR experiment designs, please see the following HDR design tool.

earch for predesigned gR	NA Design custom gRNA	CRISPR-Cas9 gRNA checker	
Species	Homo sapiens	~	CHECK
Input format	FASTA Sequence 🗸 🕄		CLEAR AND RESET
Paste/Type input Up	load file		
Enter up to 99 FASTA Sec Please enter sequences in sta			
>ExampleFASTA ATGCGCTATGCGACTAGG			
This field is required.			

Design the oligo sequence:

Forward oligo: CACCG+ the sequence we get from the above procedure; (Note: If the first nucleotide is G in the sequence, just add CACC before the sequence)

Reverse oligo: AAAC + reverse complement of the sequence we get + C (Note: If the first nucleotide is G in the sequence, do not add C after the sequence).

Plasmid construction.

1. Digest and dephosphorylate $3\mu g$ of the H138 lentiviral CRISPR plasmid with BsmBI for 1 h at 55 °C (can incubate longer):

3 μg H138 2 μl NEB BsmBl 2 μl NEB buffer 1 μl 20 mM DTT (final concentration: 1 mM) X μl ddH2O 20 μl total

2. Gel purify digested plasmid using Zymo Gel recovery Kit and elute in elution buffer.

If BsmBI digested, a ~13kb filler piece shoµld be present on the gel. Only gel purify the larger band. Leave the 13kb band.

3. Phosphorylate and anneal each pair of oligos:

1 μl Oligo 1 (100 μM)
1 μl Oligo 2 (100 μM)
1 μl 10X T4 Ligation Buffer (NEB)
6.5 μl ddH2O
0.5 μl T4 PNK (NEB M0201S)
10 μl total
Please use the T4 Ligation Buffer since the buffer supplied with the T4 PNK enzyme does not include ATP (or supplement to 1mM ATP).

4. Put the phosphorylation/annealing reaction in a thermocycler using the following parameters:

37°C 30 min

95°C 5 min and then ramp down to 25°C at 5°C /min

5. Dilute annealed oligos from Step 3 at a 1:200 dilution into sterile water or elution buffer.

6. Set up ligation reaction and incubate at room temperature for more than 3 h or overnight if the enzymes expired:

X μI BsmBI digested plasmid from Step 2 (50ng)
1 μI diluted oligo duplex from Step 4
5 μI 2X Quick Ligase Buffer (NEB)
X μI ddH2O
10 μI subtotal
1 μI Quick Ligase
11 μI subtotal

Or

X μl BsmBl digested plasmid from Step 2 (50ng) 2 μl diluted oligo duplex from Step 4 2 μl 10X DNA ligase buffer 1 μl T4 ligase X μl ddH2O 20 μl subtotal

7. Transformation and pick the colonies, then sequencing.

Validate the gRNA efficiency in vitro:

- 1. **Plasmid construction.** Insert the gRNA into the H138 lentivirus plasmid.
- 2. Virus production.

Day 1: Transfection. Transfect the gRNA-lentivirus plasmid together with virus packaging plasmids into HEK293T cells.

Day 2: Harvest of the first batch of virus. Replace the transfection medium with fresh medium in the morning, and collect the first batch of cell supernatant 8 hours later.

Day 3: Harvest of the second and third batches of virus. Collect the cell supernatant in the early morning and late afternoon, respectively. Filter the lentiviral supernatant using a 45 µm pore filter to remove any remaining cellµlar debris. Use it immediately or aliquot virus to store at -80°C.

3. Virus infection.

Day 1: Cell preparation. Seed the murine cells in 6-well plate, and cµlture in incubator overnight.

Day 2: Infection. Combine 8 mg/mL polybrene reagent with virus medium at 1:1000. Infect the cells with virus medium containing polybrene in the early morning and late afternoon, respectively.

Day 3: Repeat Infection. Infect the cells with virus medium containing polybrene in the early morning and then change the medium with cell cµlture medium in the late afternoon to let the cells recover overnight.

Day 4: Puromycin selection. Replace with selection medium in the morning.

Change and replace the selection medium every 2 days for a week.

4. **Validation of editing efficiency.** After one week selection, validate the knockout efficiency by western blot.

If the knockout efficiency is high, then the gRNA will be inserted into px330 plasmid for *in vivo* experiments. The px330 plasmid together with oncogenes will be injected into mice to establish HCC model. The knockout efficiency coµld be checked in tumor nodµles with the following method.

Validate the gRNA efficiency in vivo:

- 1. Isolate the tumor nodµles, snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and then store the samples at –80°C.
- 2. Extract the genome DNA with DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (Qiagen).
- 3. Design a pair of PCR primers to amplify the target sequence. The amplicon size is between 300~500 bp, and the gRNA targeting site should be at the center of the amplicon.
- 4. Gel purify the amplicon and sanger sequence the purified PCR product by using either forward or reverse primer.
- 5. Analyze the sequencing results with TIDE. The gRNA total efficiency should be higher than 30%.

