



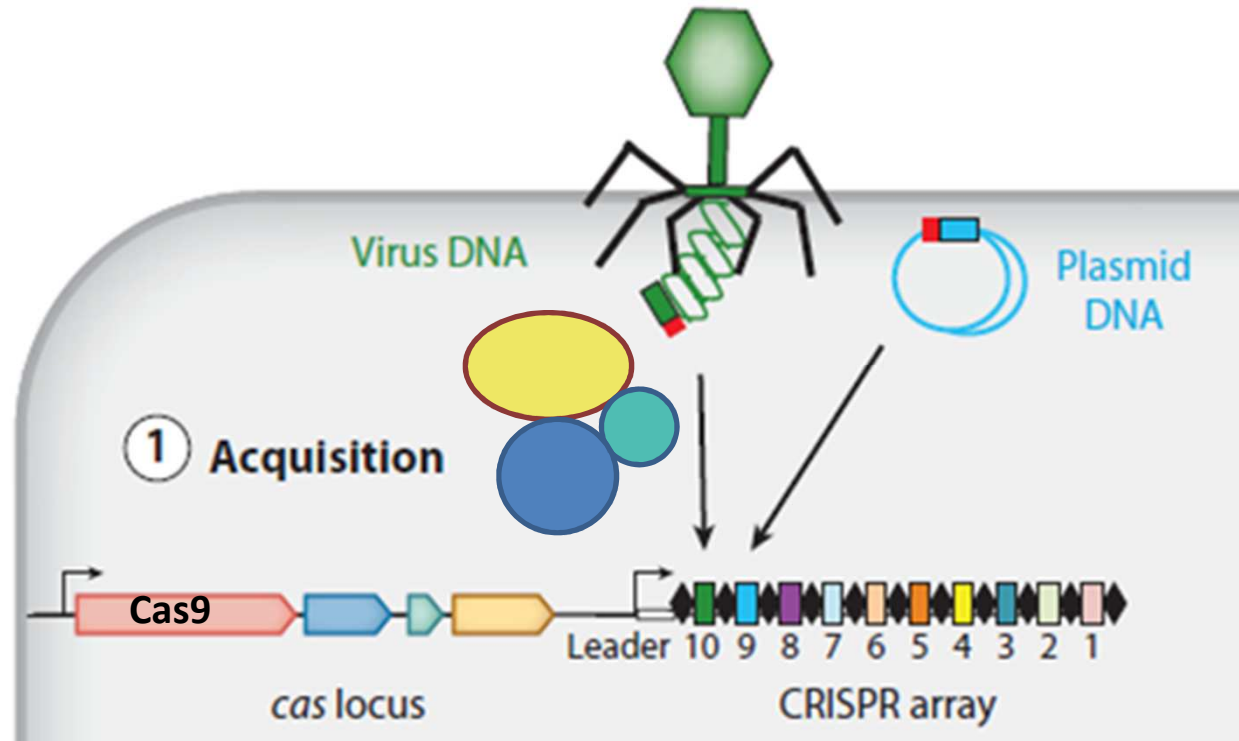
*Genome engineering:
CRISPR/Cas9*

Clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats

Laurea Magistrale Scienze Biomolecolari
dell'Evoluzione

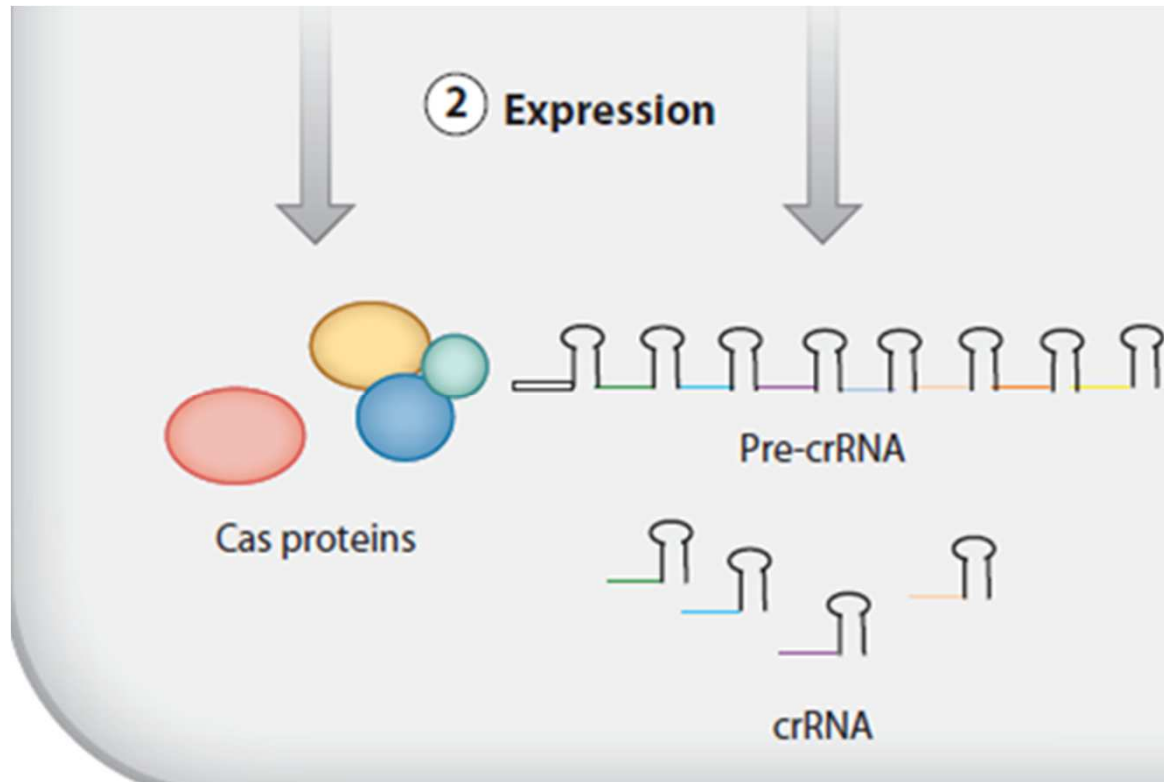
Corso di Macromolecole Biologiche

Immune Adaptative System



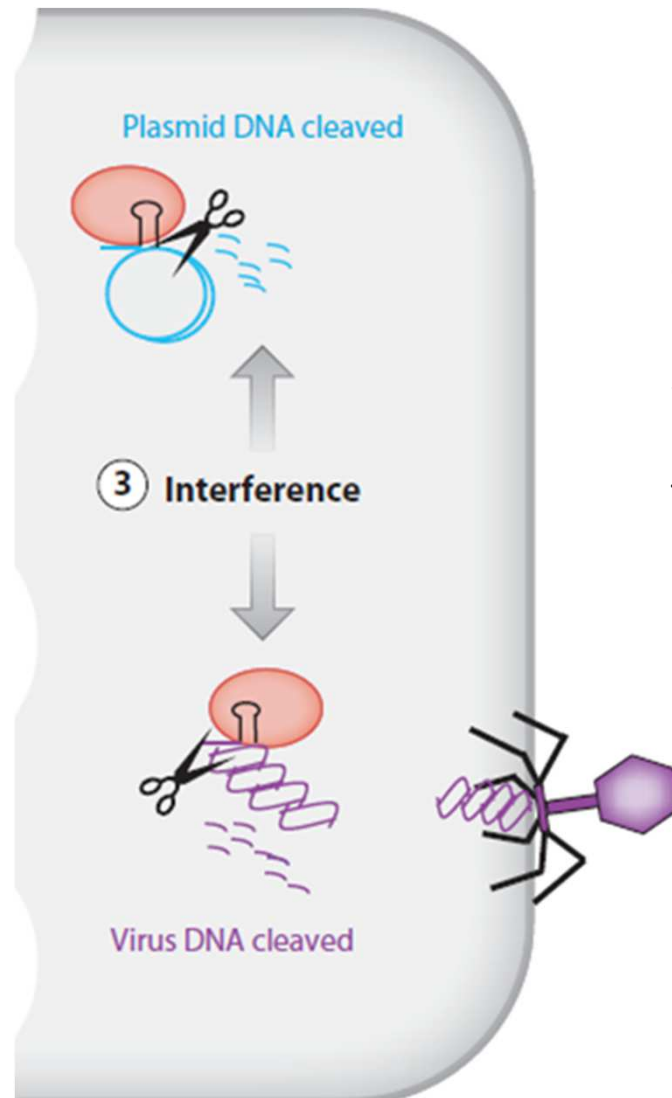
1. **Acquisition:** Invasive **Virus** or **Plasmid** DNA is cleaved by Cas proteins and it is inserted in the CRISPR array between crisper **repeats**. This cut is made before a sequence named **PAM** that is naturally present Viral or Plasmid DNA.

Immune Adaptative System



- 2. Expression:** CRISPR array is transcribed and the single molecule of RNA (Pre-crRNA) matured in different crRNA that are specific for target sequences present in Virus or Plasmidic DNA from the first contact.

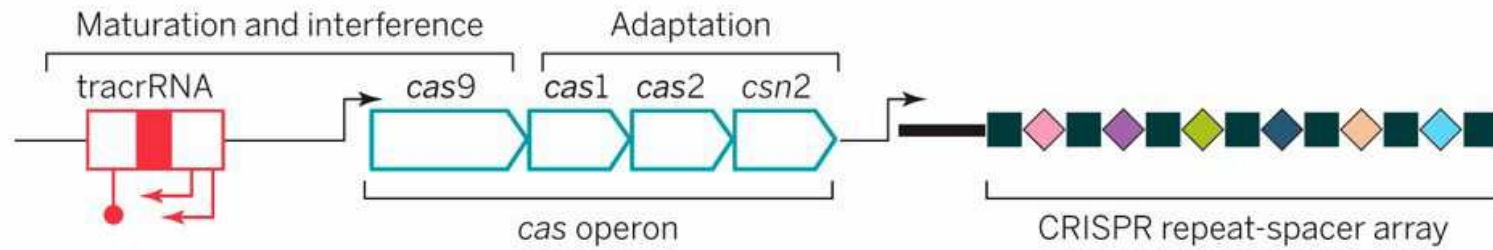
Immune Adaptative System



3) Interference: The crRNA recognizes the target of a second infection of the pathogen and Cas9 degrades the Viral or Plasmidic DNA after recognition

Inside the mechanism:

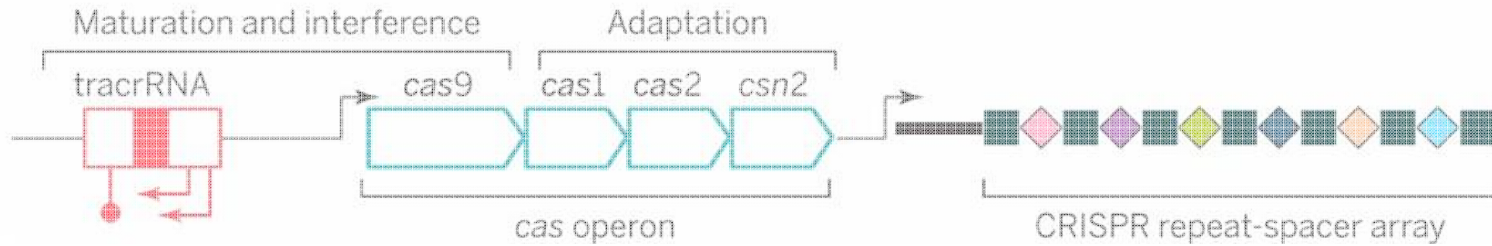
Genomic CRISPR locus



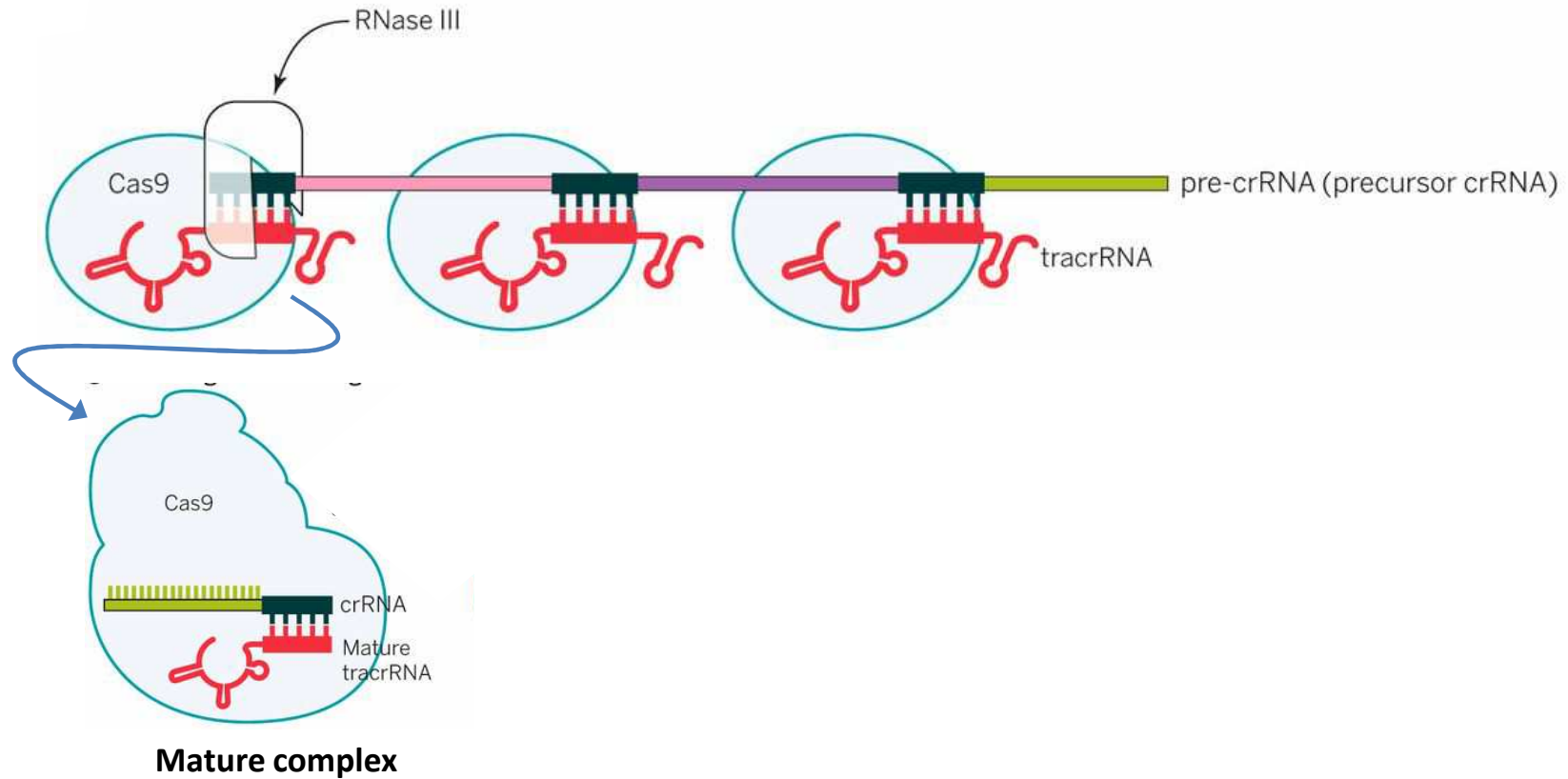
Viral DNA from previous infections

Inside the mechanism:

Genomic CRISPR locus

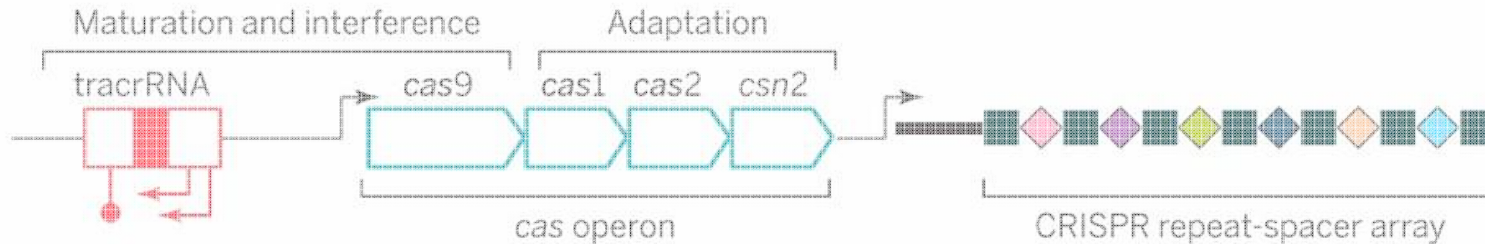


tracrRNA:crRNA co-maturation and Cas9 co-complex formation

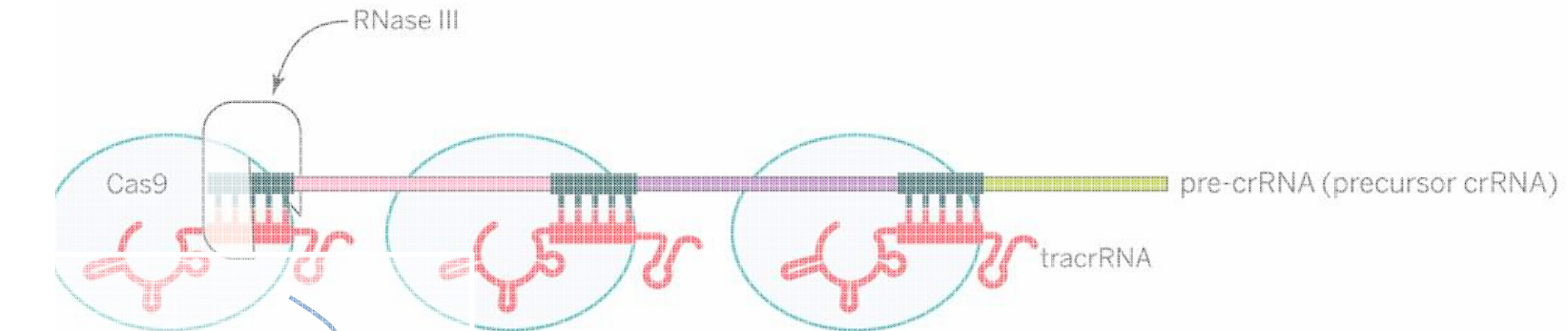


Inside the mechanism:

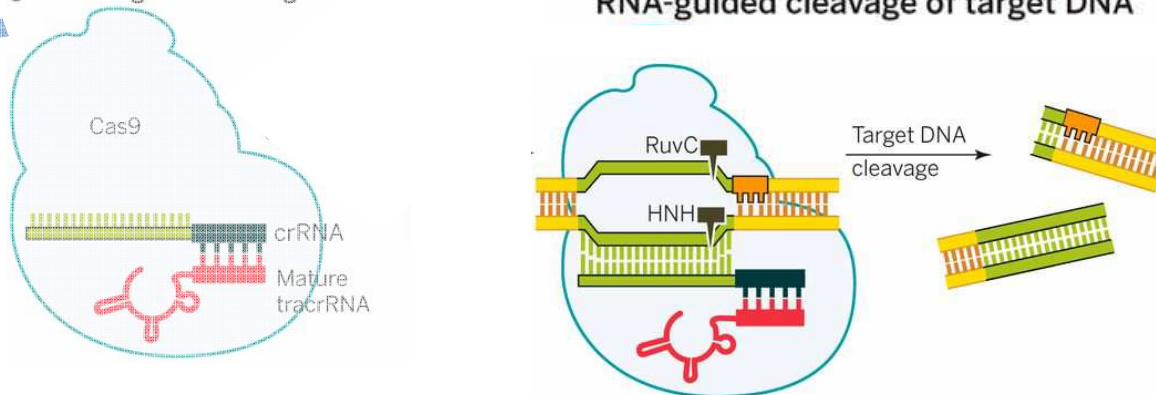
Genomic CRISPR locus



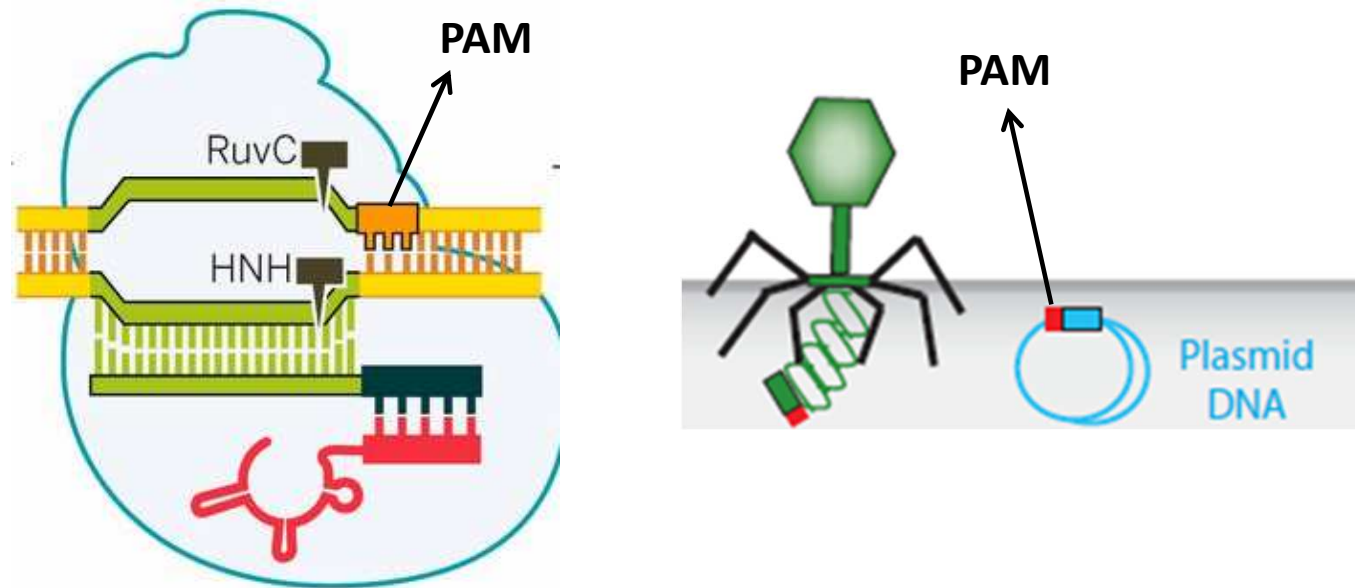
tracrRNA:crRNA co-maturation and Cas9 co-complex formation



RNA-guided cleavage of target DNA



Protospacer Adjacent Motif



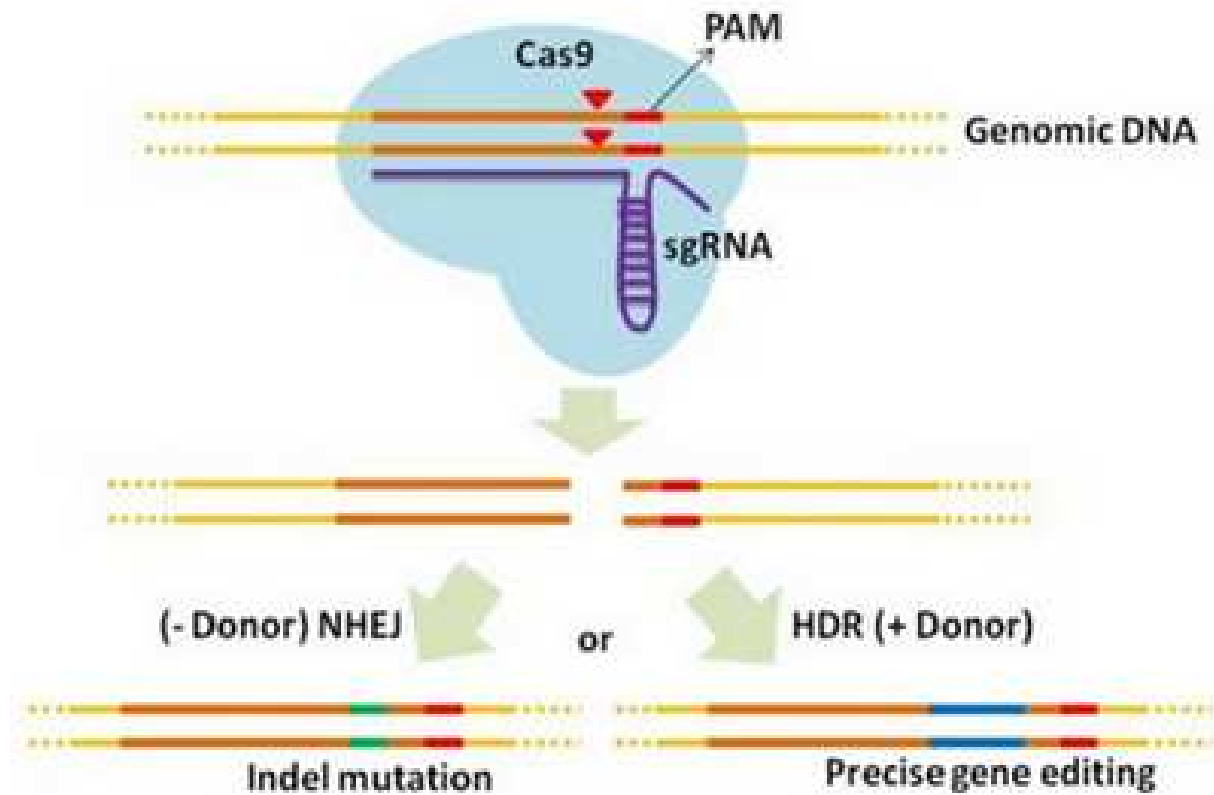
Protospacer adjacent motif (PAM)

PAM is a component of the invading virus or plasmid, but is not a component of the bacterial CRISPR locus.

Is an essential targeting component which distinguishes bacterial *self* from *non-self DNA*, thereby preventing the CRISPR locus from being targeted and destroyed by nuclease.

The canonical PAM of *S. Pyogenes* is the sequence **5'-NGG-3'**.

Engineered system

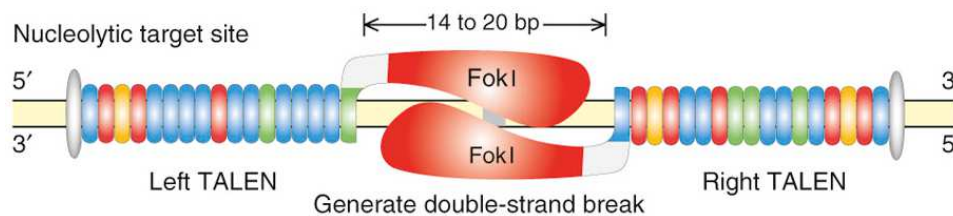


Genome Engineering and Disease

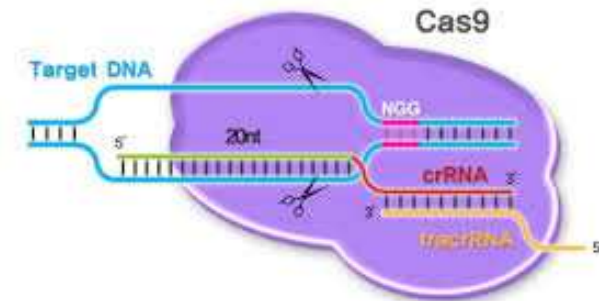
Disease type	Nuclease platform	Therapeutic strategy
Hemophilia B	ZFN	HDR-mediated insertion of correct gene sequence
HIV	ZFN and CRISPR	NHEJ-mediated inactivation of CCR5
Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)	CRISPR and TALEN	NHEJ-mediated removal of stop codon, and HDR-mediated gene correction
Hepatitis B virus (HBV)	TALEN and CRISPR	NHEJ-mediated depletion of viral DNA
SCID	ZFN	HDR-mediated insertion of correct gene sequence
Cataracts	CRISPR	HDR-mediated correction of mutation in mouse zygote
Cystic fibrosis	CRISPR	HDR-mediated correction of CFTR in intestinal stem cell organoid
Hereditary tyrosinemia	CRISPR	HDR-mediated correction of mutation in liver

Genome Editing

Transcription Activator Like Effector Nucleases (TALEN)



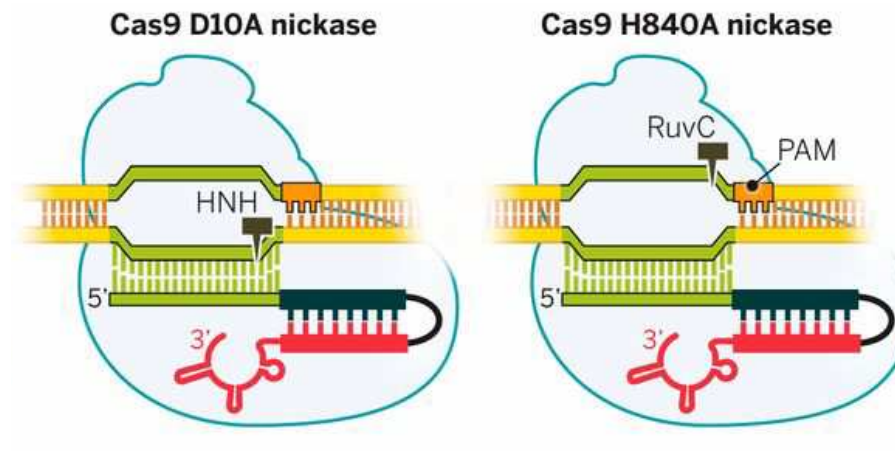
CRISPR/Cas9 system



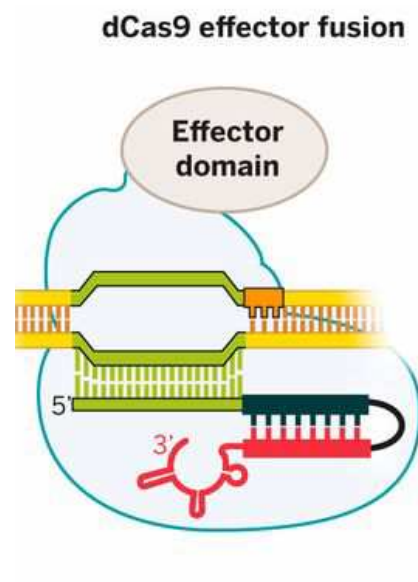
Name	Components	Mechanism	Specificity	Rapidly generation
TALEN	Non specific DNA cleaving nuclease fused to a DNA specific genome binding domain.	Induces double strand breaks in target DNA	Highly specific	Feasible but technically challenging
CRISPR/Cas9	20nt crRNA fused to tracrRNA and Cas9 endonuclease	Induce double strand breaks in target DNA (wt Cas9)	Some off target effect can be reduced by selection of unique crRNA sequences	Yes – requires simple 20nt sequence targeting a gene

Cas9 can be engineered:

To be able to create nicks in a single strand



Can be fused to a Transcriptional Activator Domain





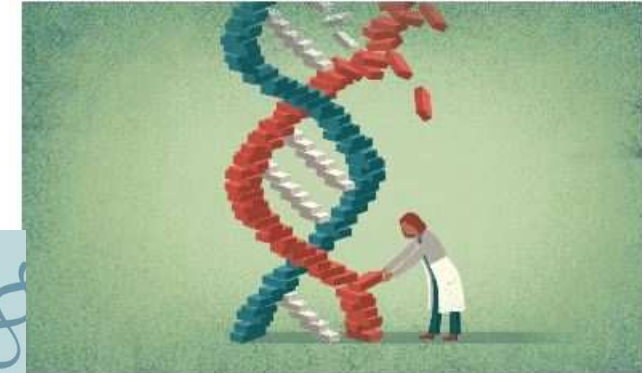
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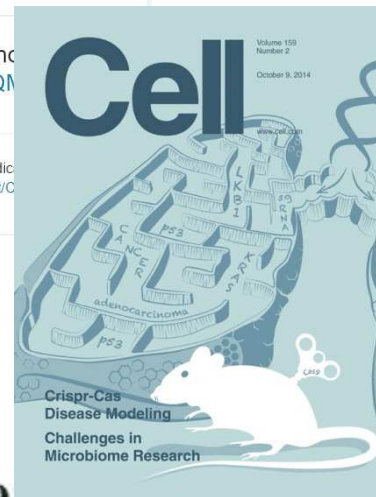


REVIEW SUMMARY

GENOME EDITING

The new frontier of genome engineering with CRISPR-Cas9

Jennifer A. Doudna* and Emmanuelle Charpentier*



10/20/2015
THE PROMISING AND PERILOUS SCIENCE OF GENE EDITING

Dan Keckinny

REVIEW

nature biotechnology

CRISPR-Cas systems for editing, regulating and targeting genomes

Jeffrey D Sander^{1,2} & J Keith Joung^{1,3}

Targeted genome editing using engineered nucleases has rapidly gone from being a niche technology to a mainstream method used by many biological researchers. This widespread adoption has been largely fueled by the emergence of the clustered, regularly interspaced, short palindromic repeat (CRISPR) technology, an important new approach for generating RNA-guided nucleases, such as Cas9, with customizable specificities. Genome editing mediated by these nucleases has been used to rapidly, easily and efficiently modify endogenous genes in a wide variety of biomedically important cell types and in organisms that have traditionally been challenging to manipulate genetically. Furthermore, a modified version of the CRISPR-Cas9 system has been developed to recruit heterologous domains that can regulate endogenous gene expression or label specific genomic loci in living cells. Although the genome-wide specificities of CRISPR-Cas9 systems remain to be fully defined, the power of these systems to perform targeted, highly efficient alterations of genome sequence and gene expression will undoubtedly transform biological research and spur the development of novel molecular therapeutics for human disease.



Ethics?

CRISPR/Cas9-mediated gene editing in human tripronuclear zygotes

Puping Liang, Yanwen Xu, Xiya Zhang, Chenhui Ding, Rui Huang, Zhen Zhang, Jie Lv, Xiaowei Xie, Yuxi Chen and 7 more

The image is a screenshot of a news article on the Nature website. The page has a dark red header with the 'nature' logo and navigation links. The main content area is white with a dark red sidebar on the right. The article title is 'Chinese scientists genetically modify human embryos' and the date is '22 April 2015'. The sidebar contains a section titled 'Quantum weirdness' with a sub-headline 'The quantum source of space-time' and a short paragraph of text.

nature International weekly journal of science

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Chinese scientists genetically modify human embryos

Rumours of germline modification prove true — and look set to reignite an ethical debate.

David Cyranoski & Sara Reardon

22 April 2015

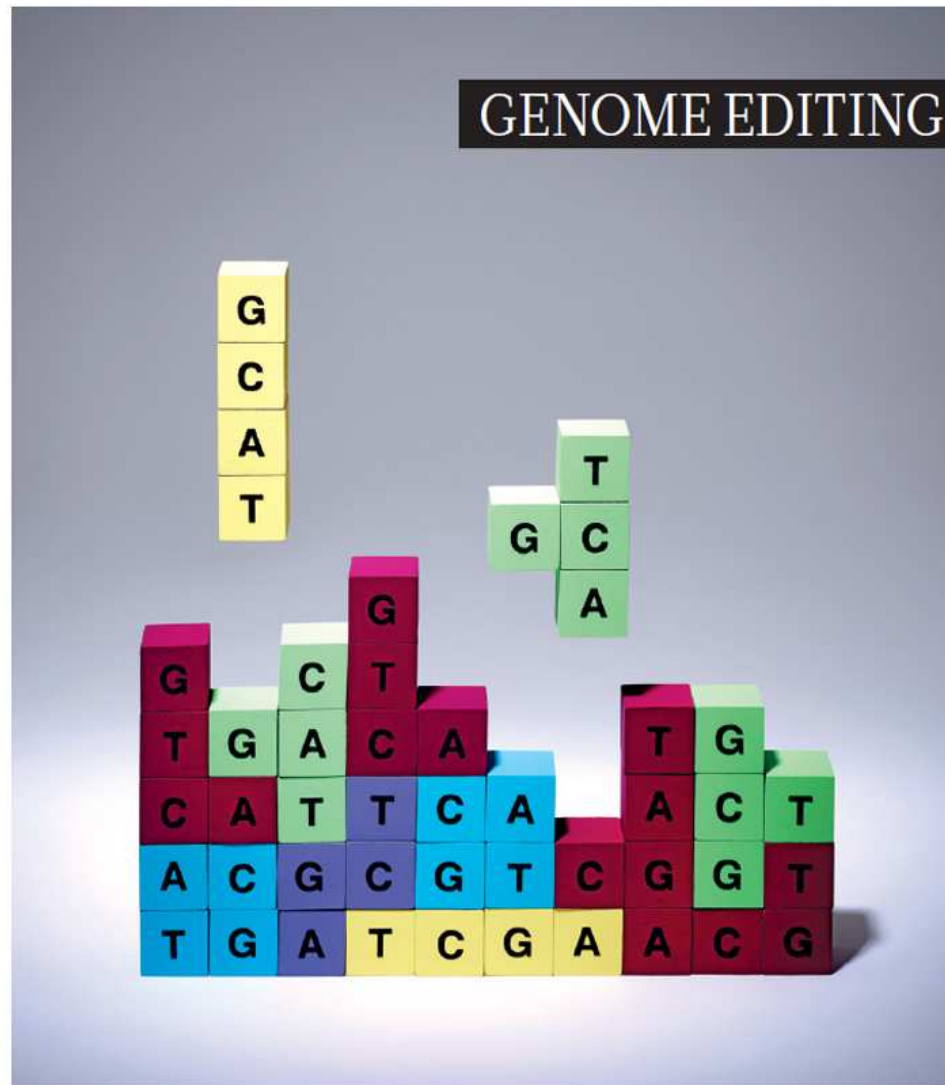
Quantum weirdness



The quantum source of space-time

Many physicists believe that entanglement is the essence of quantum weirdness — and some now suspect that it may also be the essence of space-time geometry.

GENOME EDITING



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