

# GFP tagging in *Drosophila* cultured cells

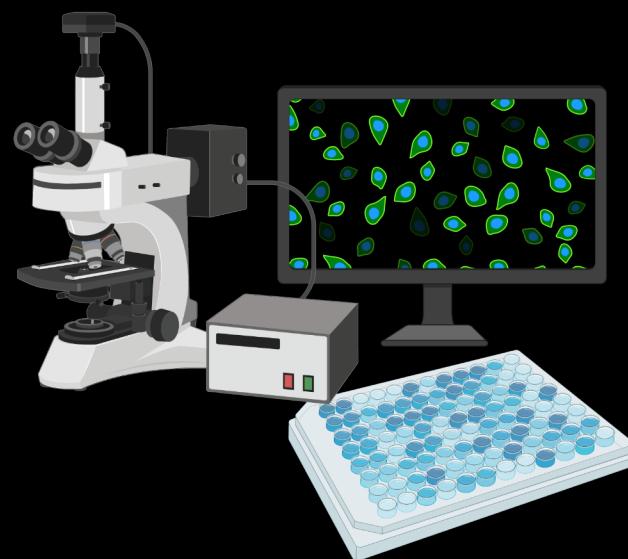
Stephanie Mohr, PhD

Director of DRSC/TRIP Functional Genomics Resources

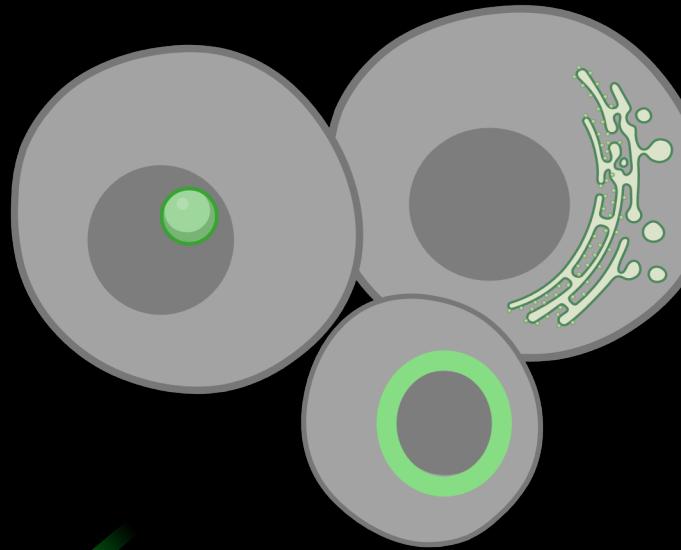
Laboratory of Prof. Norbert Perrimon

Harvard Medical School

# Why fluorescent protein tags?

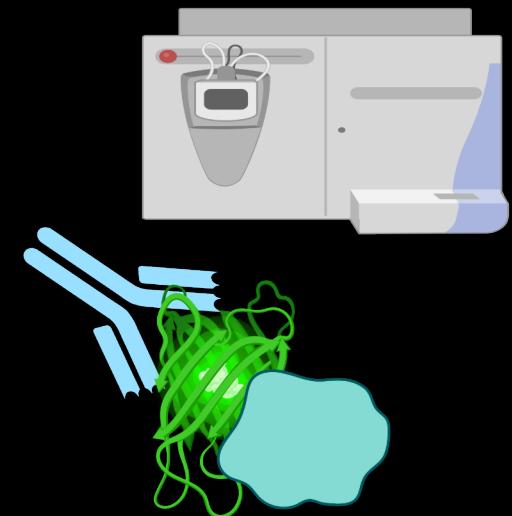


High-Content Image-based Screens  
(no antibodies, live cell)



Detailed Cell Biological Studies  
(live cell, time lapse)

- Sub-cellular distribution
- Endogenous levels



Proteomics Assays  
(anti-GFP reagents)

# CRISPR knock-in approaches

- plasmid-based donors, long homology arms
- single-stranded DNA donors, short homology arms
- ‘armless’ donors (CRISPaint method)

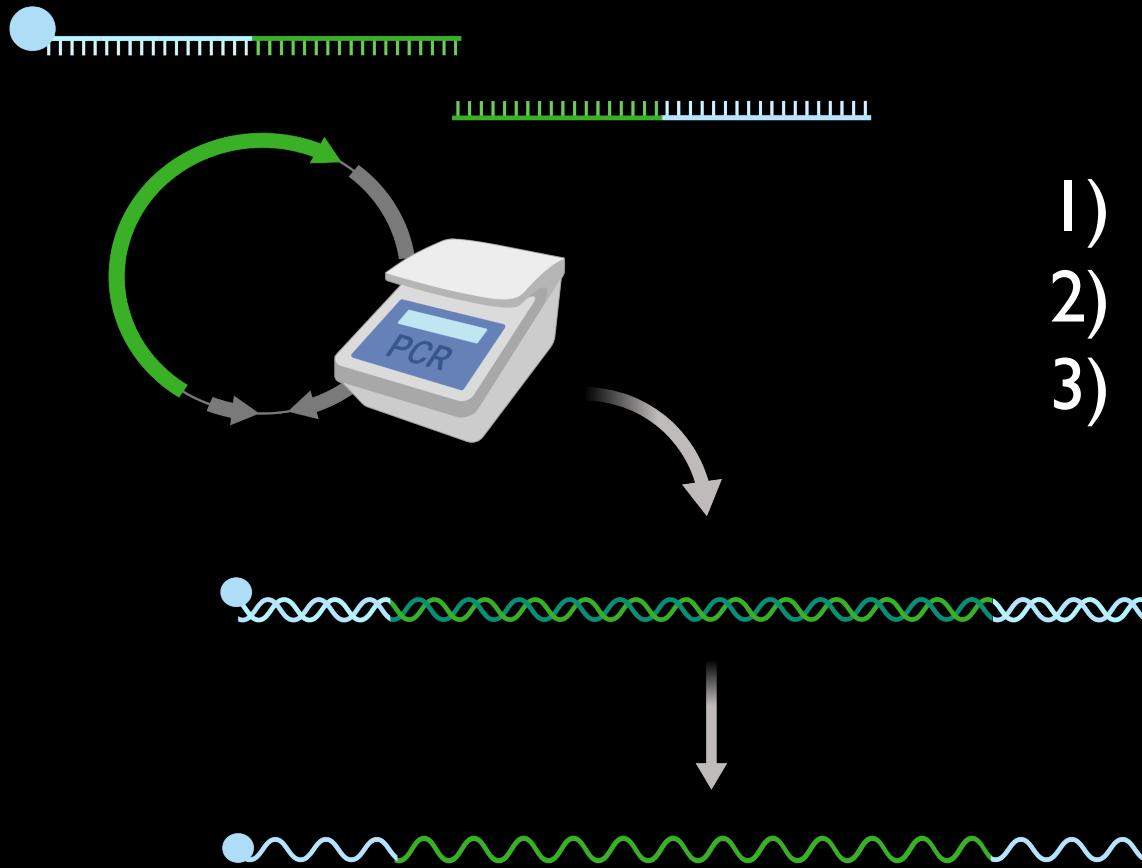
- *Efficient*
- *Easy to build the donor*
- *Artificial exon-based approach*



## ssDNA artificial exon

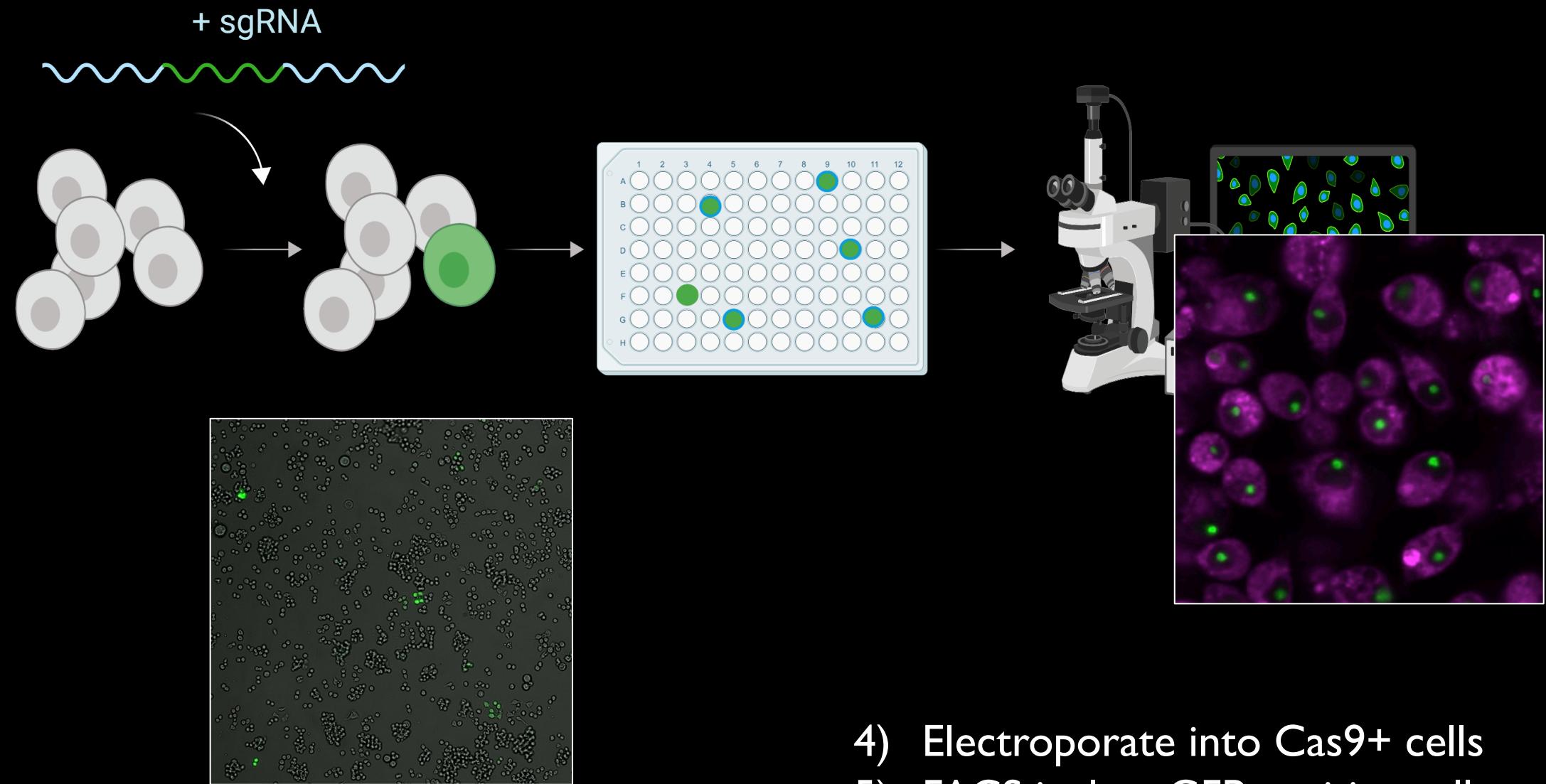


# ssDNA synthesis

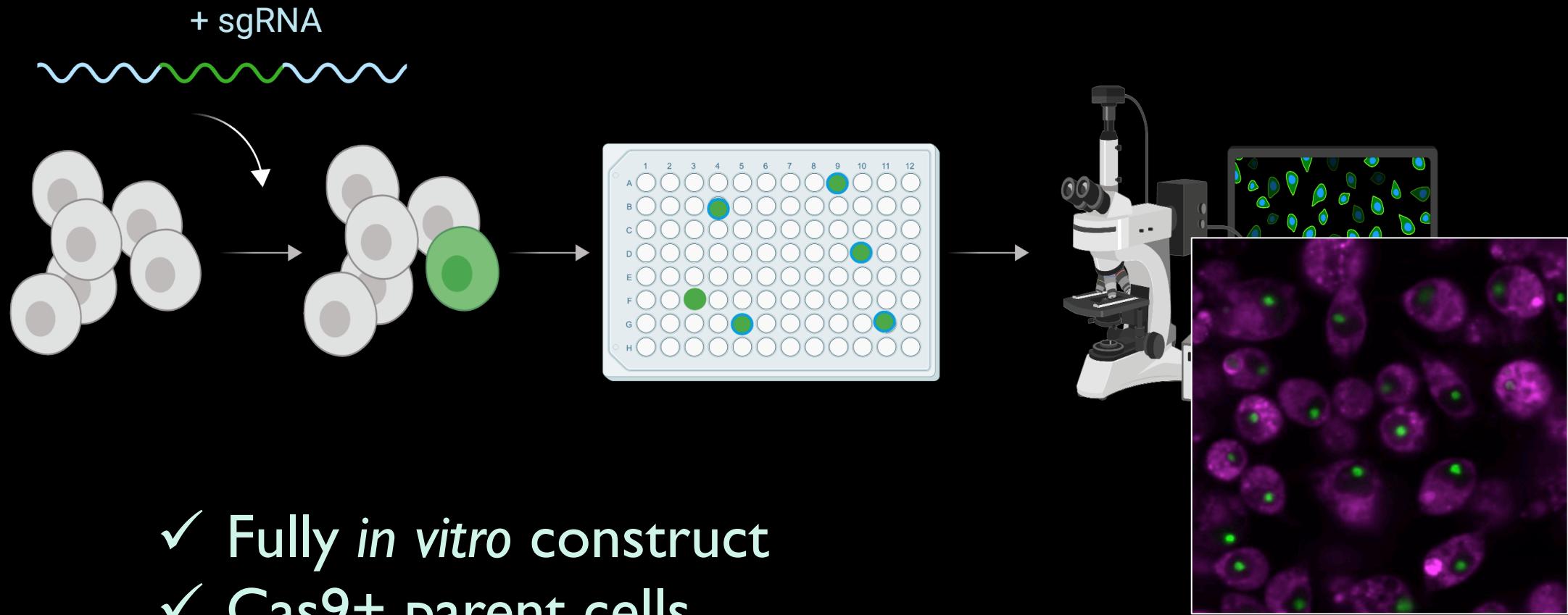


- 1) Oligos with short homology arms
- 2) PCR amplify GFP template
- 3) Digest to make ssDNA

Collaborators: O. Kanca & H. Bellen



- 4) Electroporate into Cas9+ cells
- 5) FACS isolate GFP positive cells
- 6) Imaging and molecular analysis



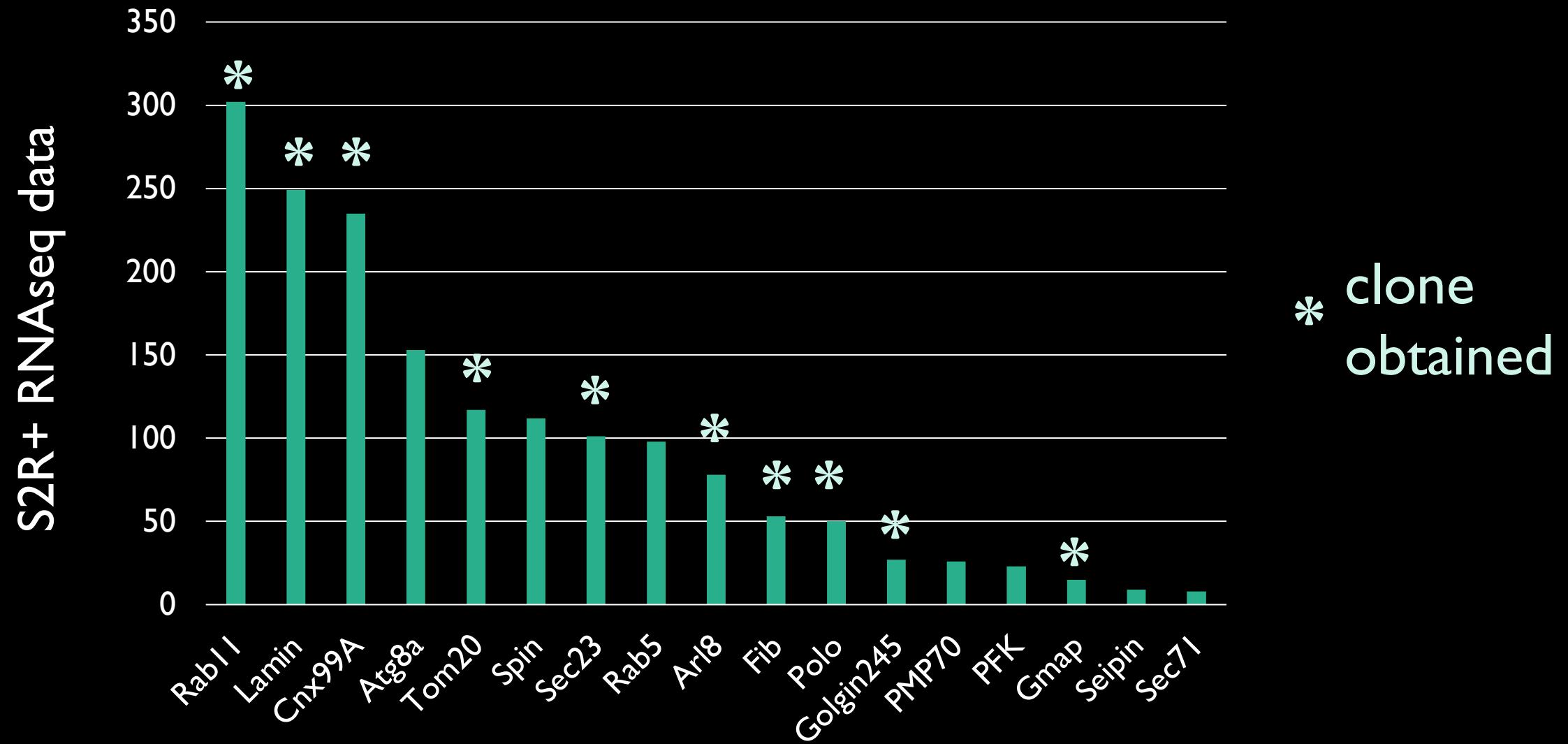
- ✓ Fully *in vitro* construct
- ✓ Cas9+ parent cells
- ✓ Electroporation
- ✓ Conditioned Media

# Successfully tagged organelles

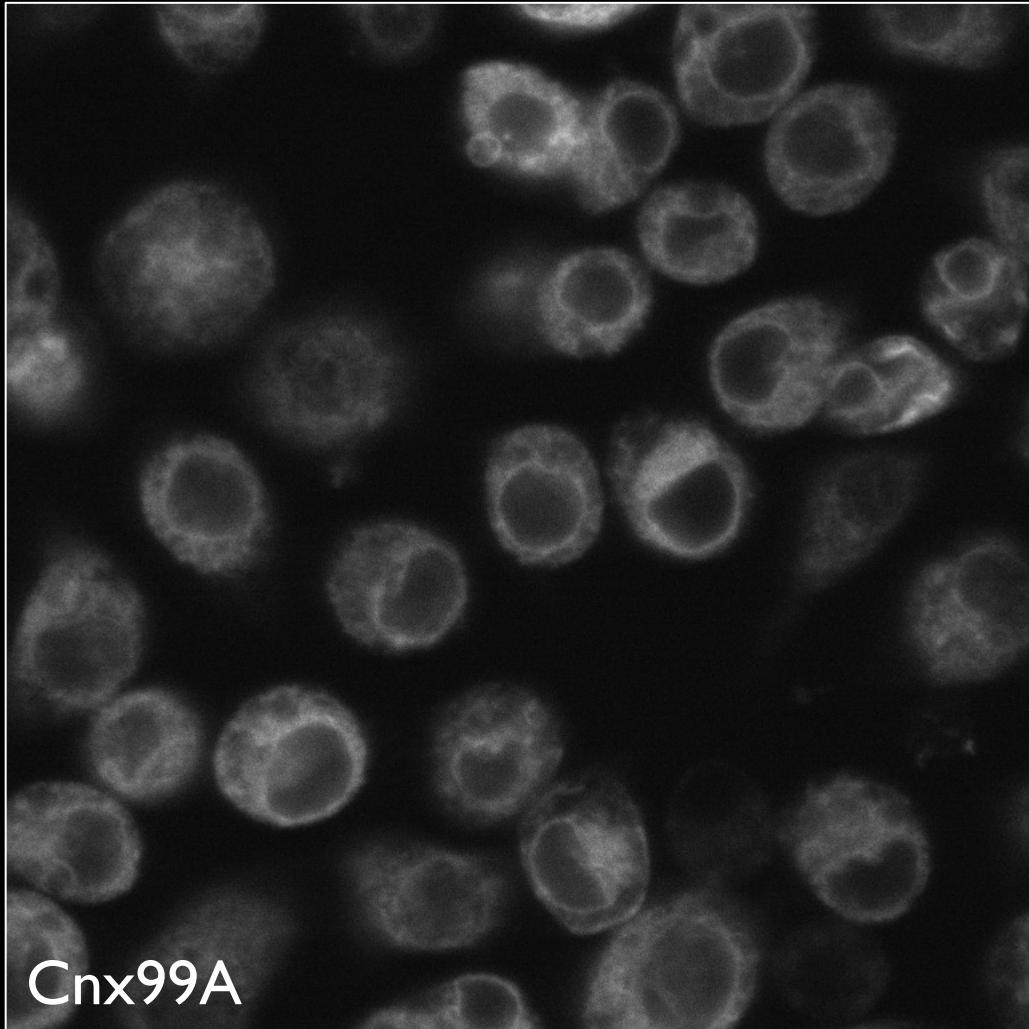
Organelle/Compartment	Protein targeted	Confirmed by Ab co-stain
Endoplasmic reticulum	Cnx99A	Yes
Endoplasmic reticulum (transitional)	Sec23	
Endosomes, recycling	Rab11	
Golgi (cis-Golgi)	Gmap	Yes
Golgi (trans-Golgi)	Golgin245	Yes
Kinetochore	Polo	
Lysosomes	Arl8	Yes
Mitochondria	Tom20	Yes
Nuclear membrane (inner)	Lamin	Yes
Nucleolus	Fibrillarin	Yes

Community Access:  
Drosophila Genome  
Resource Center (DGRC)  
cell line repository in  
Bloomington, IN

# Expression vs. clone obtained

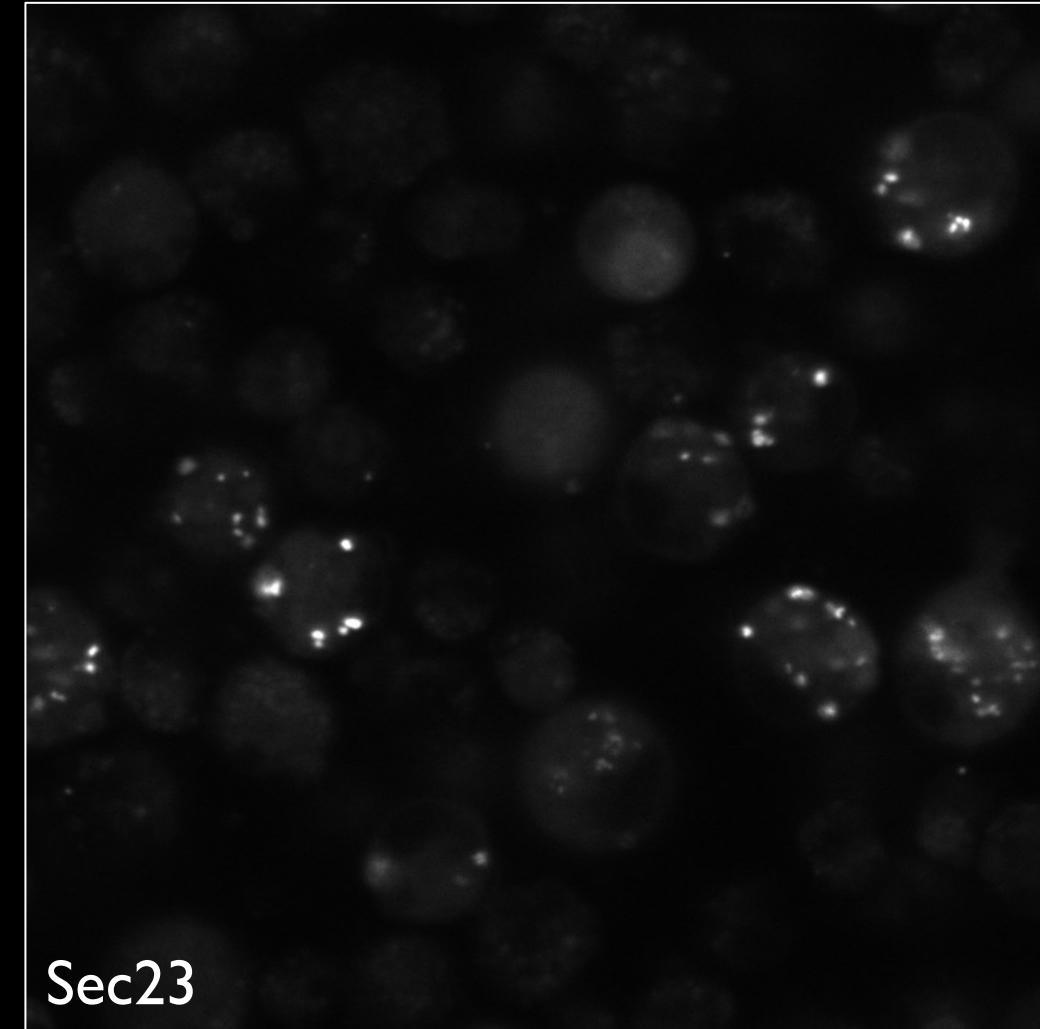


## GFP live images



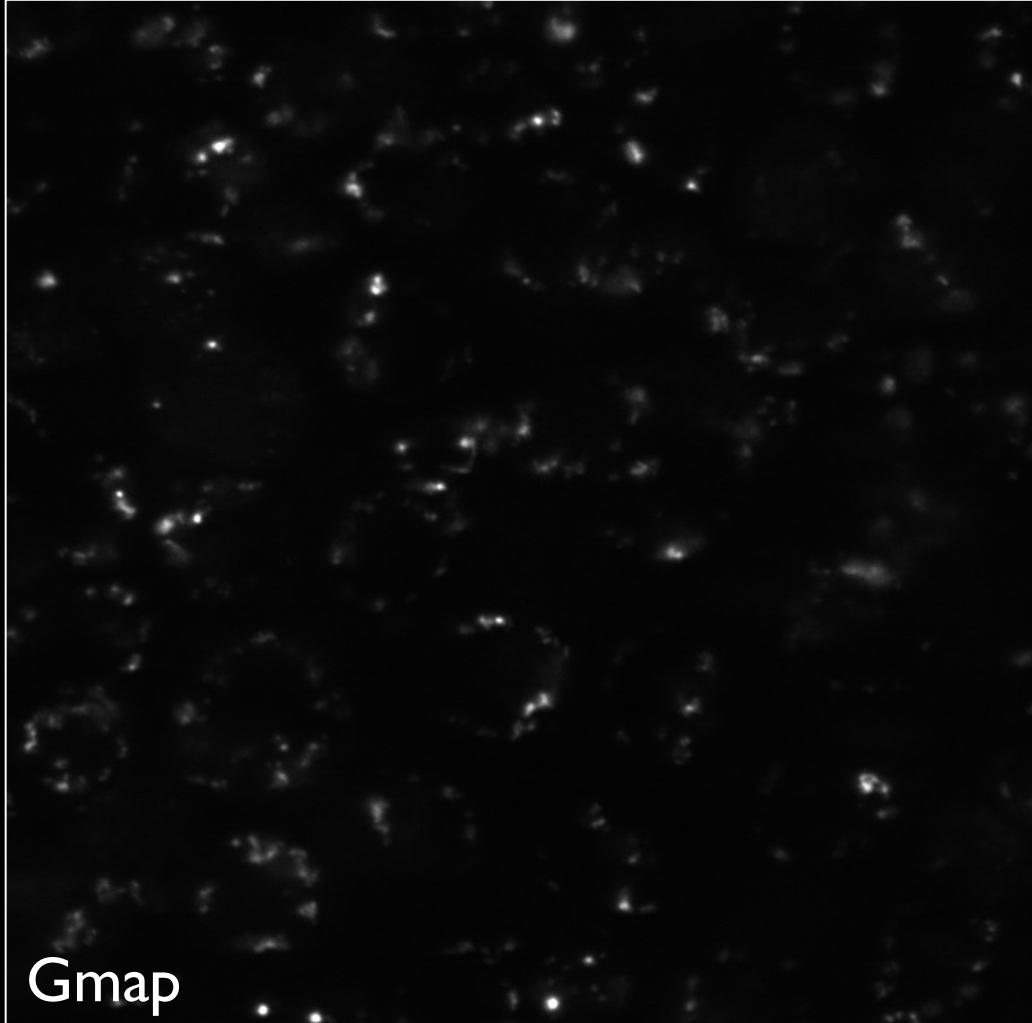
Cnx99A

## Endoplasmic Reticulum



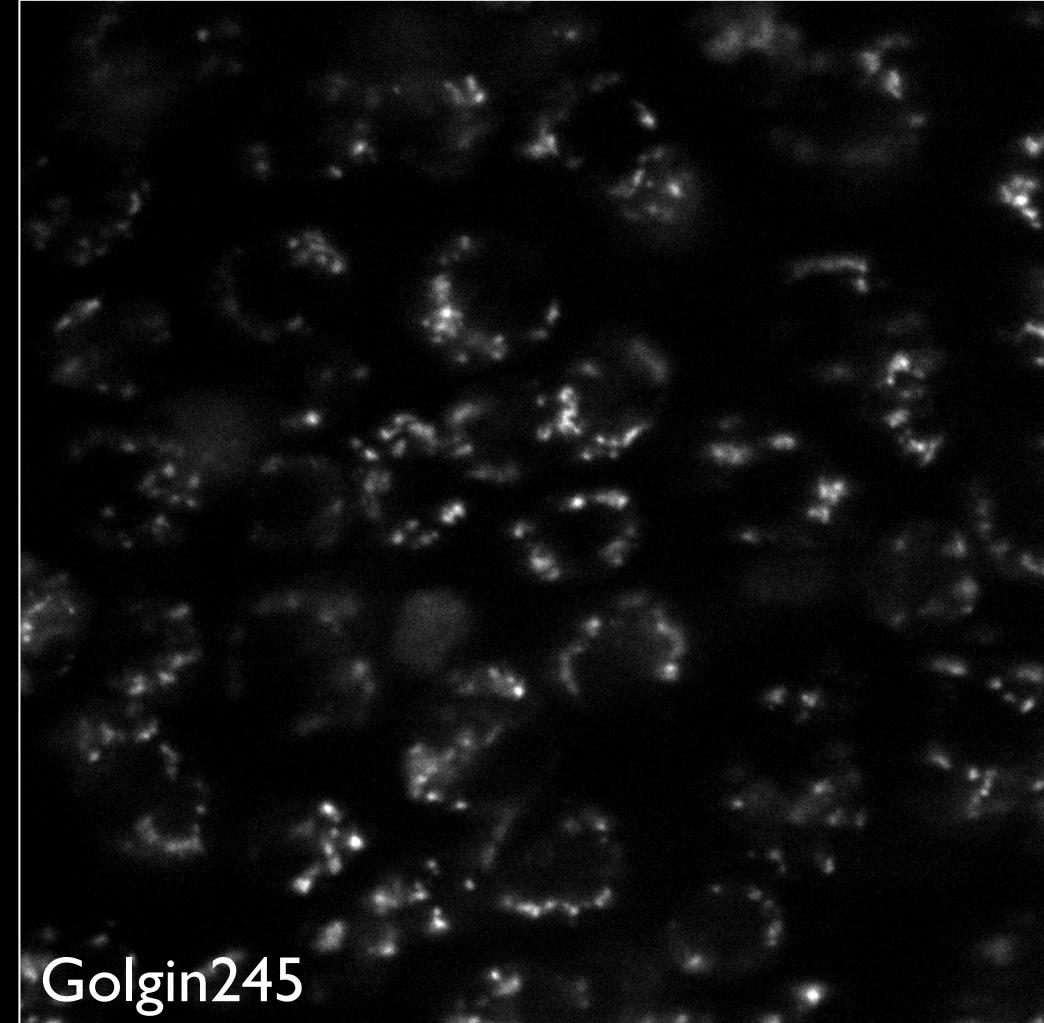
Sec23

GFP live images



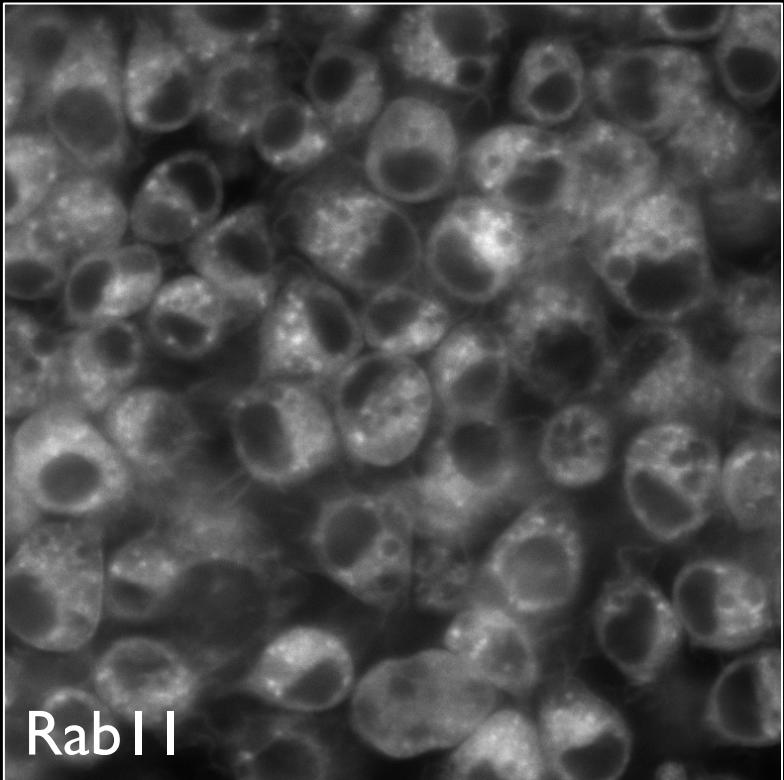
Gmap

Golgi

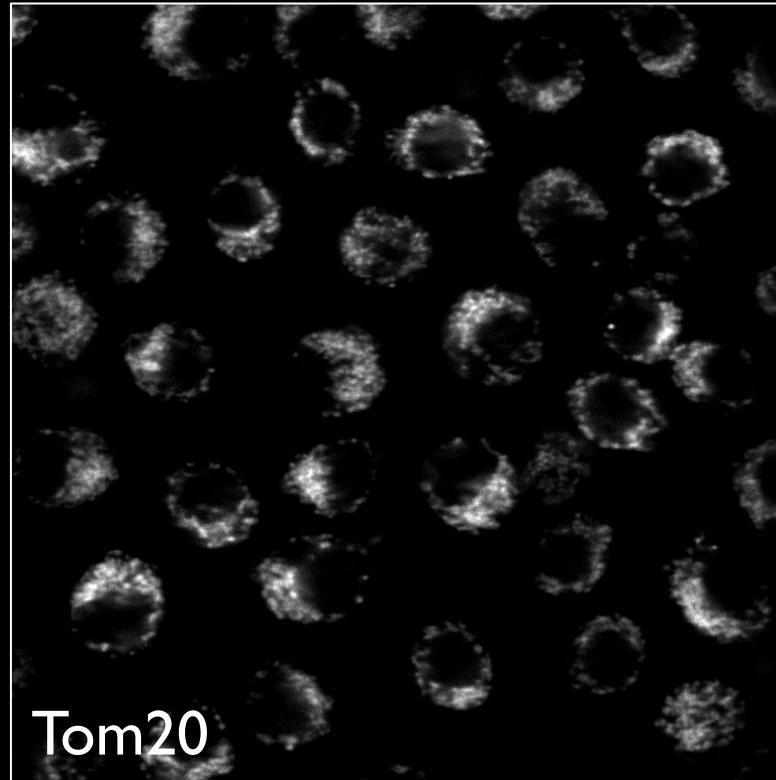


Golgin245

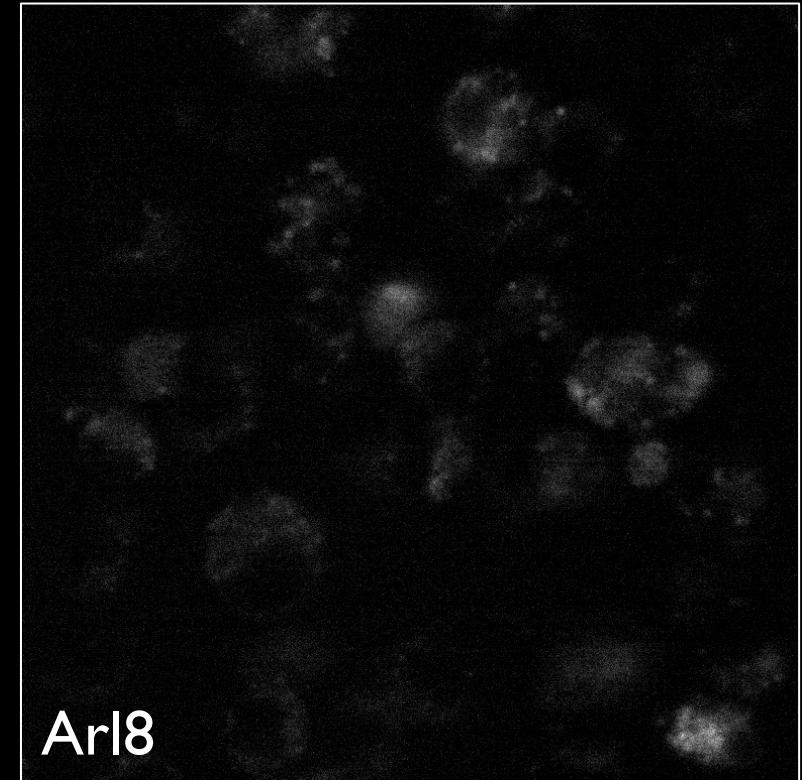
# GFP live images



Rab11



Tom20



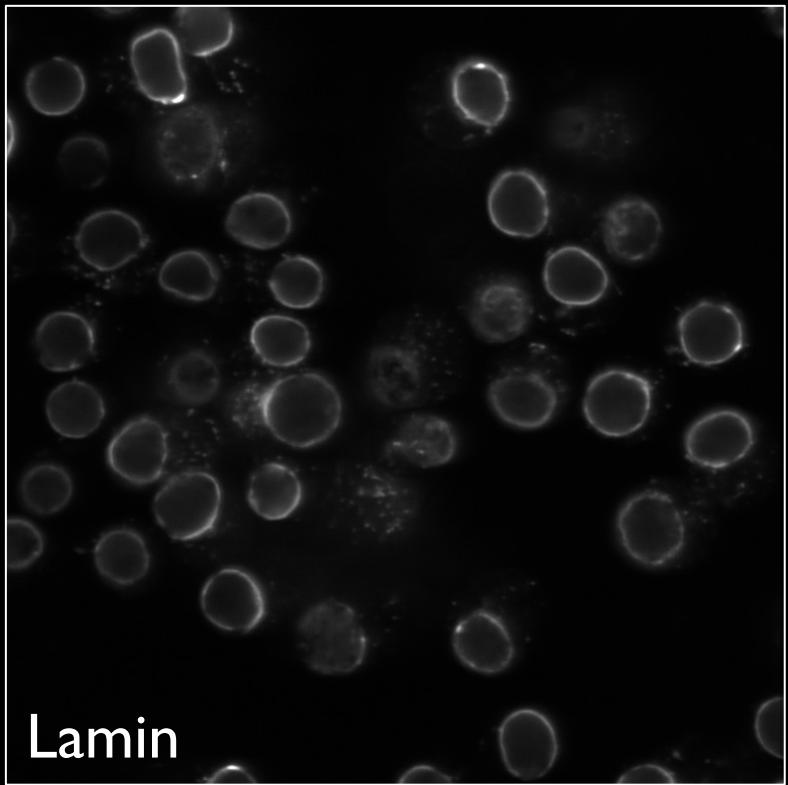
Arl8

Endosomes

Mitochondria

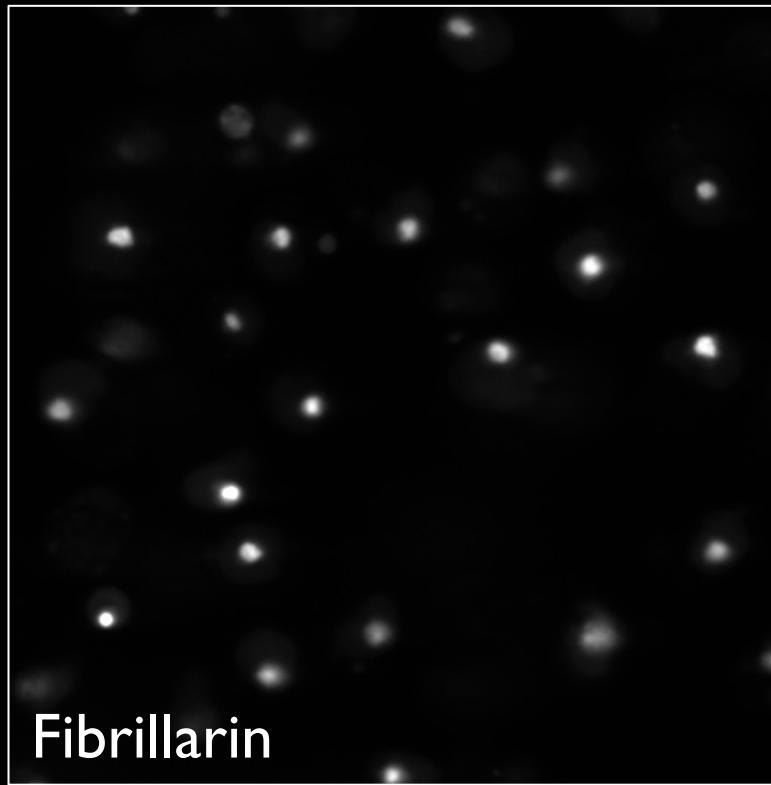
Lysosomes

# GFP live images



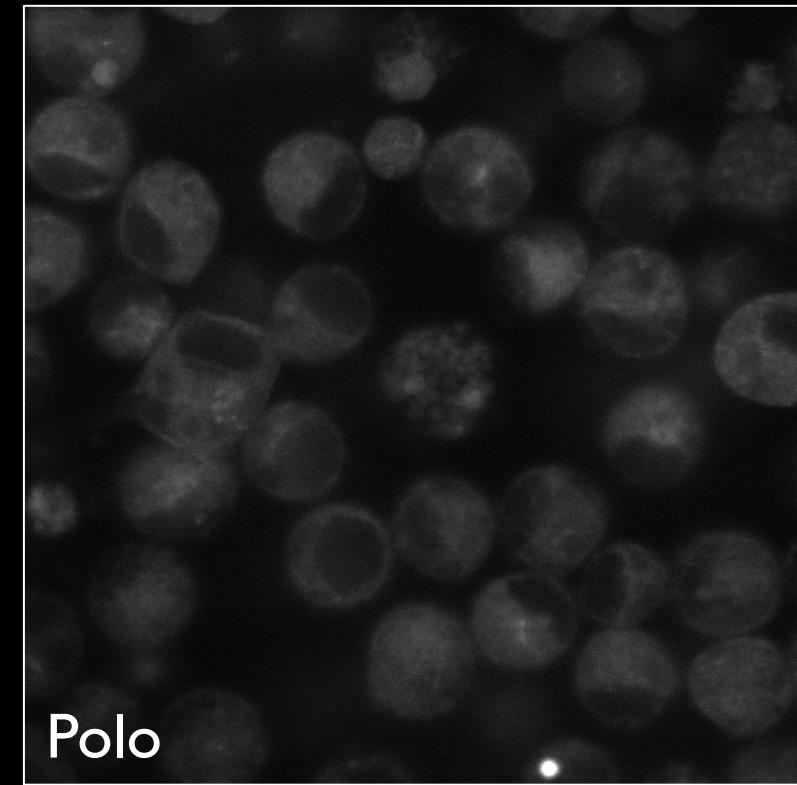
Lamin

Nuclear Envelope



Fibrillarin

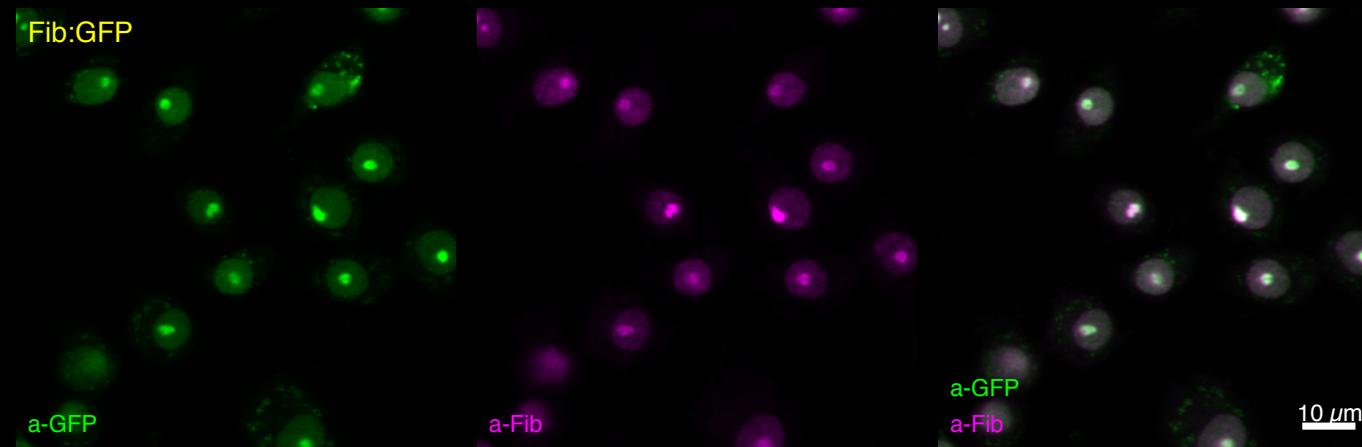
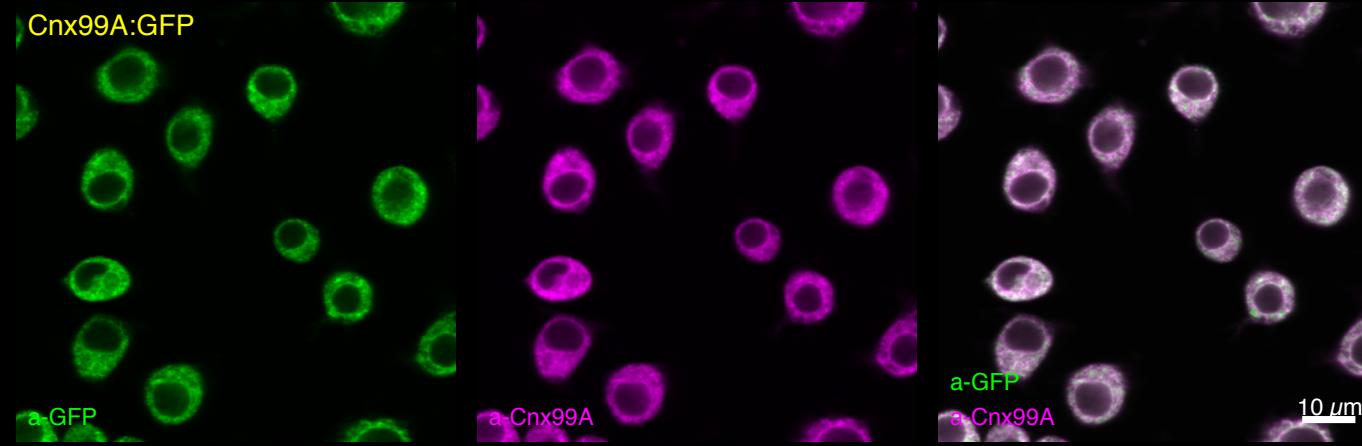
Nucleolus

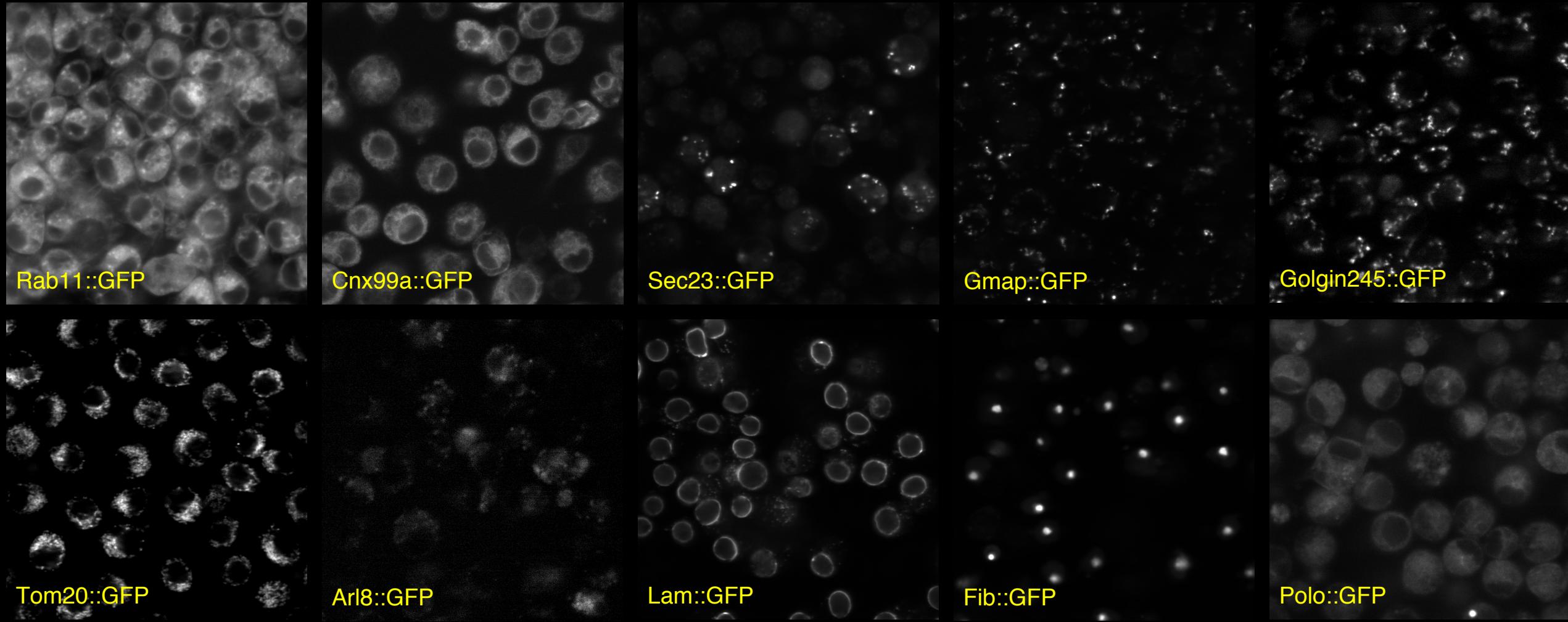


Polo

Kinetochore

# Fixed & Co-Stained





# CRISPaint ‘armless’ donor knock-in

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THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR BIOLOGY

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**Gene knock-ins in *Drosophila* using homology-independent insertion of universal donor plasmids**

Justin A. Bosch, Ryan Colbeth, Jonathan Zirin, Norbert Perrimon  
**doi:** <https://doi.org/10.1101/639484>

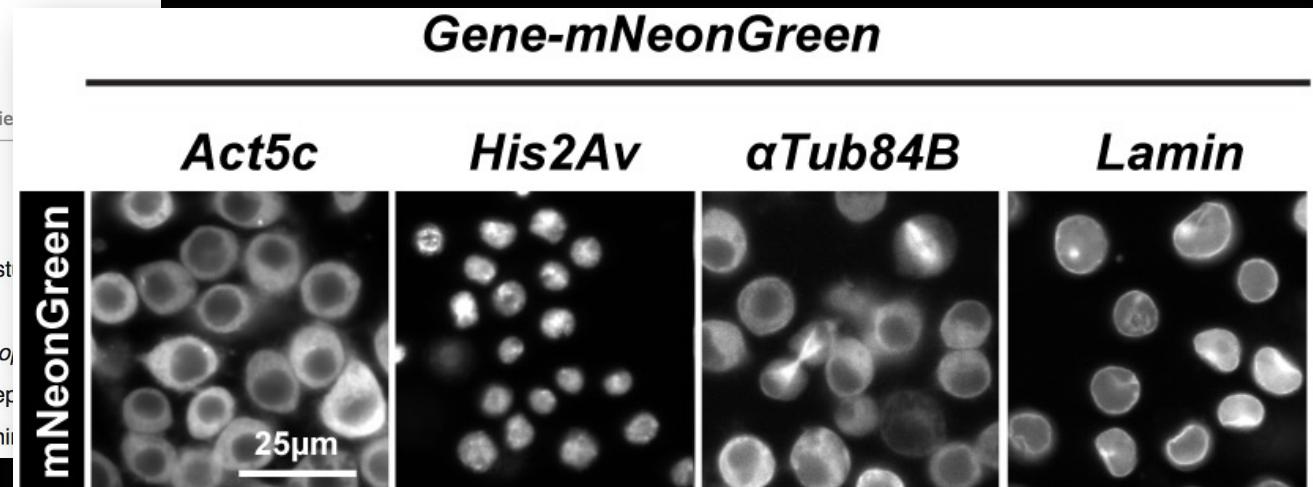
This article is a preprint and has not been peer-reviewed [what does this mean?].

**Abstract** Full Text Info/History Metrics Preview

**Abstract**

Site-specific insertion of DNA into endogenous genes (knock-in) is a powerful method to study gene function. However, traditional methods for knock-in require laborious cloning of long homology arms for homology-directed repair. Here, we report a simplified method in *Drosophila melanogaster* to insert large DNA elements into any gene using homology-independent repair. This method, known as CRISPaint, employs CRISPR-Cas9 and non-homologous end joining.

- C-terminal fusions
- Universal donor
- Antibiotic selection
- mNeonGreen



Bosch et al. 2019

Based on Schmid-Burgk et al. 2016 *Nature Communications*



ssDNA artificial exon



CRISPaint



## Plasmid-based donor

- Insert anywhere

Limitation:  
Difficult to build

## ssDNA, artificial exon

- Easy to build
- Efficient

Limitation:  
Gene has an intron

## CRISPaint

- Pre-Made  
Donors
- Antibiotic  
selection

Limitation:  
C-terminal tag only

# Also at the DRSC/TRiP-FGR

- RNAi arrayed-format screens
- CRISPR pooled-format screens
- *in vivo* CRISPR
- TRiP-KO sgRNA fly stocks
- TRiP-OE sgRNA fly stocks
- *nominate!*
- New online tools
  - iProteinDB—phosphorylation
  - BioLitMine—literature mining tool

The image displays a collection of online tools for Drosophila research, categorized into several groups:

- Multi-Species:** DIOPT ortholog search (10 species, 18 algorithms), Gene2Function (orthologs & gene info summaries), BioLitMine (literature mining tool), MIST (protein-protein & genetic interactions), MARRVEL (connect human gene variants to ortholog info).
- Fly CRISPR:** fly sgRNA database/LIMS, Find CRISPRs, CRIMIC CRISPR/MiMIC Gene Trap, RSVB Plus, iProteinDB.
- Fly RNAi:** TRIP sgRNA LIMS (nominate or track TRIP-KO & -OE fly stock production), Fly RNAi (fly sgRNA design with genome view), UP-TORR (cell and in vivo RNAi reagent search), SnapDragon (design dsRNAs for fly cell RNAi), SVP Plus, Screen Summary.
- More fly resources:** DGET (Drosophila Gene Expression Tool), GLAD (Gene List Annotation for Drosophila), FlyPrimerBank, More fly resource and utility tools, CapN.
- Fly PTMs:** Fly PTMs (for GDP gene to fly stocks), in vivo CRISPR & RNAi phenotype data, fly post-translational modifications (multi-source), GeneLookup (search DRSC & TRIP reagents by gene), TRIP Batch Query (make a TRIP fly stock list from a gene list).

A large teal box highlights the Fly CRISPR section, containing the following tools:

- DIOPT ortholog search (10 species, 18 algorithms)
- Gene2Function (orthologs & gene info summaries)
- BioLitMine (literature mining tool)
- MIST (protein-protein & genetic interactions)
- Fly PTMs (for GDP gene to fly stocks)
- in vivo CRISPR & RNAi phenotype data
- fly post-translational modifications (multi-source)

# Acknowledgements

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Norbert Perrimon

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**Oguz Kanca**

**Hugo Bellen**

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NIH NIGMS R01 GM067761

*See next page for info on  
requesting cells and protocols*

 @DRSC\_TRiP

<https://fgr.hms.harvard.edu>



**hhmi**  
Howard Hughes  
Medical Institute



Dana-Farber/Harvard  
Cancer Center



A Cancer Center Designated by the  
National Cancer Institute

# Cell Line Requests & Relevant Publications

- **How to request cells:** the DRSC (Harvard Med School) shared the cell lines with the DGRC (Bloomington) for distribution to the community. See this URL on our DRSC site to get started requesting the cells from the DGRC. <https://fgr.hms.harvard.edu/crispr-modified-cell-lines>
- **Research publication:** Kanca O, Zirin J, Garcia-Marques J, Knight SM, Yang-Zhou D, Amador G, Chung H, Zuo Z, Ma L, He Y, Lin WW, Fang Y, Ge M, Yamamoto S, Schulze KL, Hu Y, Spradling AC, Mohr SE, Perrimon N, Bellen HJ. An efficient CRISPR-based strategy to insert small and large fragments of DNA using short homology arms. *Elife*. 2019 Nov 1;8:e51539. doi: 10.7554/elife.51539. PMID: 31674908; PMCID: [PMC6855806](#).
- **Protocol publication:** Bosch JA, Knight S, Kanca O, Zirin J, Yang-Zhou D, Hu Y, Rodiger J, Amador G, Bellen HJ, Perrimon N, Mohr SE. Use of the CRISPR-Cas9 System in Drosophila Cultured Cells to Introduce Fluorescent Tags into Endogenous Genes. *Curr Protoc Mol Biol*. 2020 Mar;130(1):e1112. doi: 10.1002/cpmb.1112. PMID: 31869524; PMCID: [PMC7213786](#).