



Module 2: Manipulating Metabolism

CRISPR: adaptive immunity

10/20/15

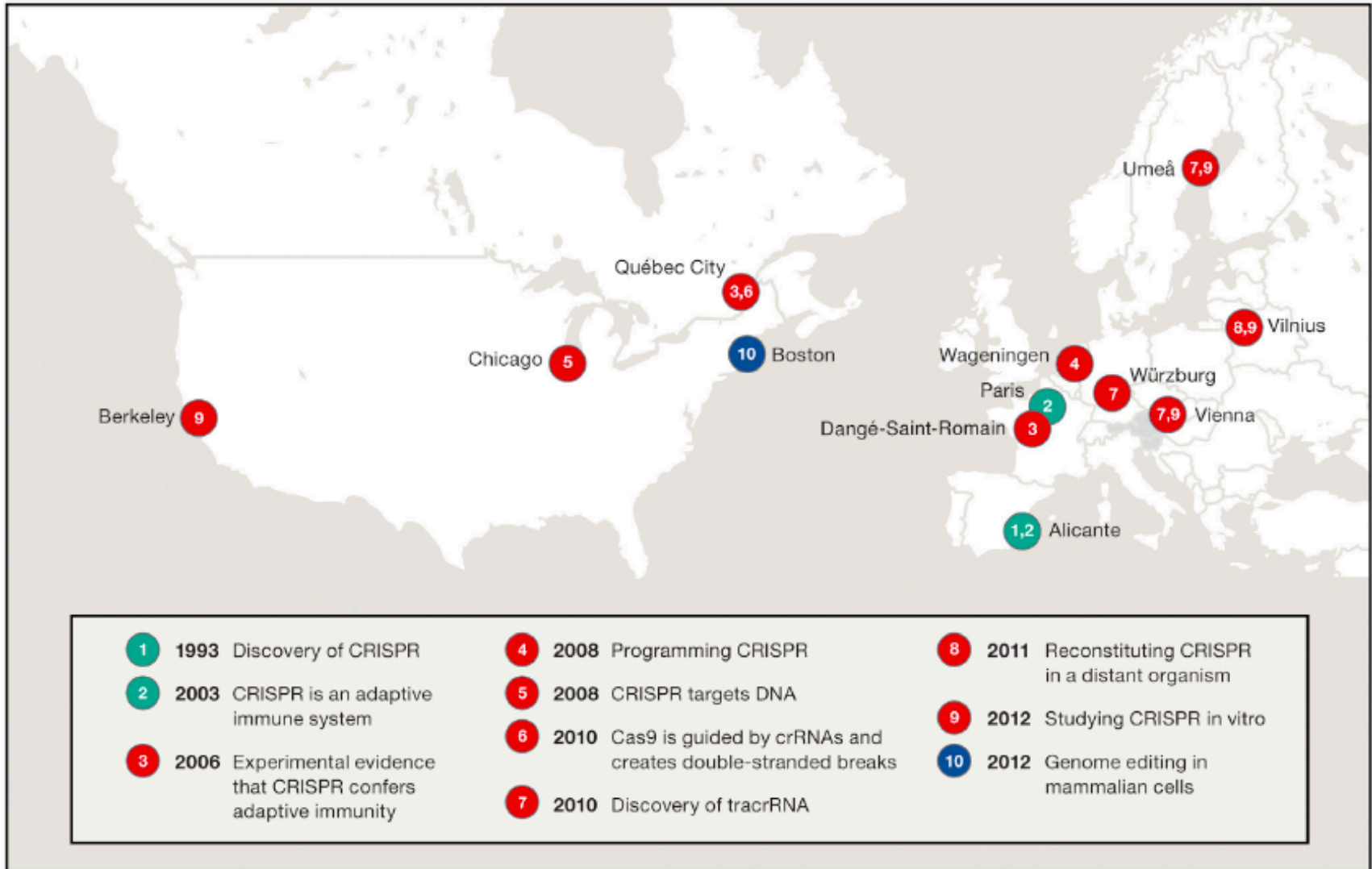
Thoughts on mini-presentations

- Be sure to define your jargon
 - What is a comet tail? What does it represent?
 - Explain how the data / damage is visualized
- Avoid over-reaching your data
 - How will the CometChip assay assist with personalized cancer treatment?
 - Only extend your results by a 'single' step

Why communicate your science?

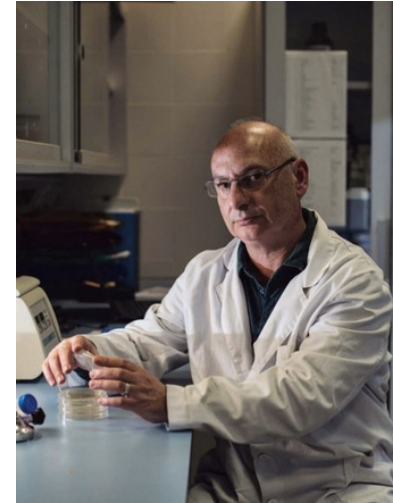


Why communicate your science?



Discovery of repeat sequences in archaea

- 1993 • While studying non-related anomaly in DNA fragments, identified multiple copies of 30 base repeats separated by 36 base spacers
- 1995 • Found similar repeats in related organisms
– Other work reported repeat sequences in *E. coli*
- 2000 • Repeat loci identified in 20 microbes
- 2003 • Spacer sequence from *E. coli* matched to P1 phage



Francis Mojica

Proposed role for repeat sequences

- 2003 • 88/4500 spacer sequences similar to phage
– 2/3 matched phage known to infect host microbe
- 2005 • *Y. pestis* spacer sequences similar to prophage present with genome of strains
– New spacers present at the ‘front’ end of loci
- 2005 • Speculated that transcripts from spacers worked via anti-sense RNA inhibition

MICROBIOLOGY

Publishing high-quality research since 1947

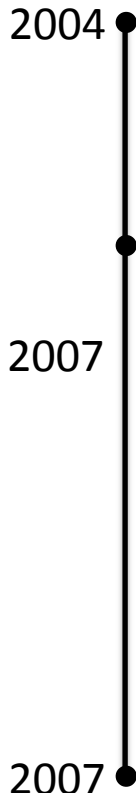
C. Pourcel,¹ G. Salvignol¹ and G. Vergnaud^{1,2}

MICROBIOLOGY

Publishing high-quality research since 1947

Alexander Bolotin, Benoit Quinquis, Alexei Sorokin and S. Dusko Ehrlich

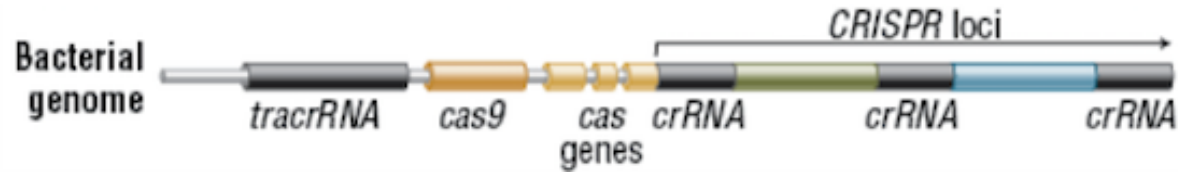
Evidence of adaptive immunity

- 
- 2004 • Correlation between spacers and phage resistance in *Streptococcus thermophilus*
- 2007 • Genetic selections used to isolate phage-resistant *S. thermophilus*
- Strains carried phage sequences at repeat loci
 - Insertion of multiple spacers correlated with increased resistance
- 2007 • Phage with mutations in corresponding spacer sequence able to infect microbial host

Discovery of genes associated with repeats

- 2000 • Genes identified in the immediate vicinity of repeat sequences
- Assumed to be related to spacer function
 - Hypothesized roles: gene regulation, replicon partitioning, DNA repair, etc.
- 2007 • Cas7 required in acquisition of resistance, but not in resisting phage attack
- 2007 • Cas9 required for resistance
- Contains two nuclease motifs

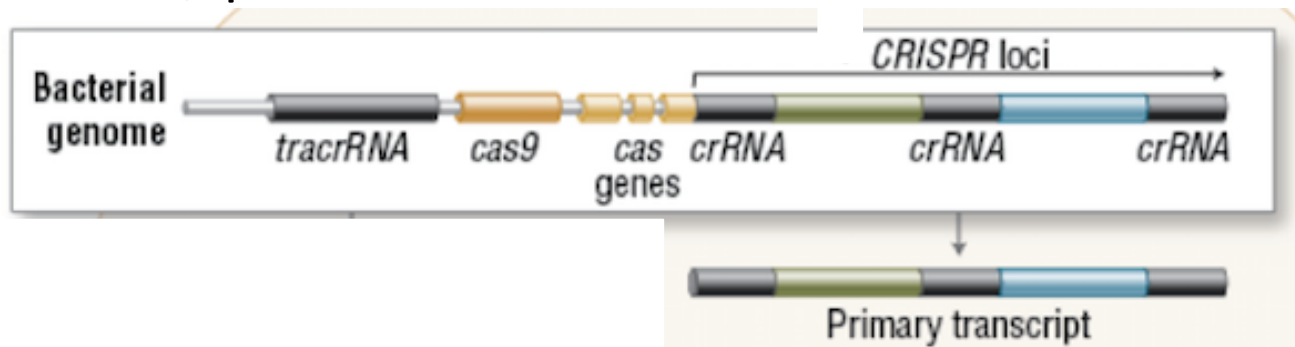
CRISPR loci components



- Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR)
 - Repeats are roughly perfect, palindromic sequences
 - Spacers correspond to phage sequences
- CRISPR-associated (Cas) genes

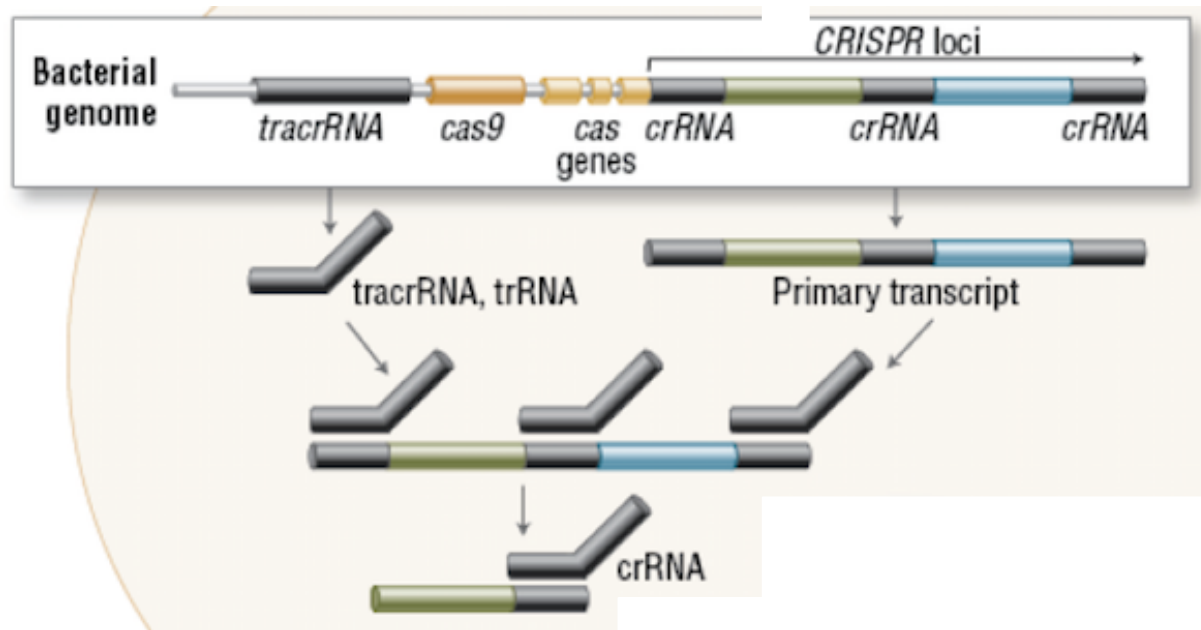
Function of CRISPR RNA (crRNA)

- Precursor RNA transcribed from CRISPR loci is cleaved into crRNAs by RNase III
 - Cleaved sequences start with last 8 bp of repeat (5' handle), followed by complete spacer, end with first bp of repeat (3' handle that forms hairpin)
 - Cas9 required for primary processing
 - Binds / positions molecules



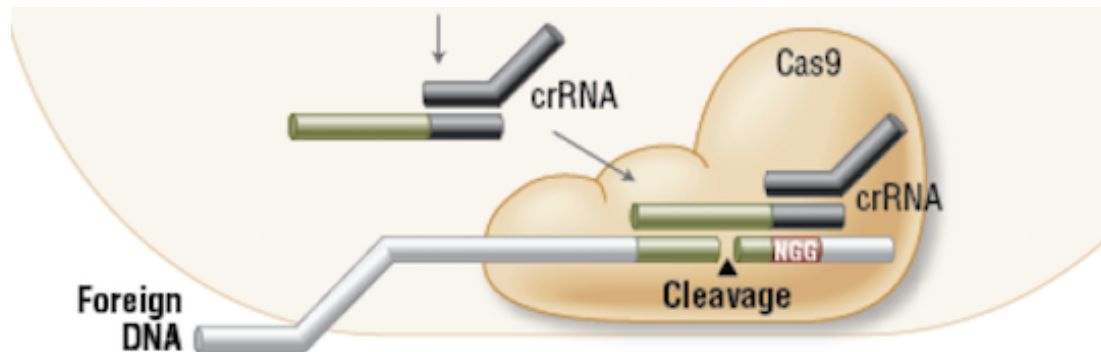
Function of *trans*-activating CRISPR RNA (tracrRNA)

- Third most abundant type of transcript
- Encoded by sequence immediately adjacent to CRISPR loci
 - 25 bp of near-perfect complementarity to repeats



DNA cleavage mediated by Cas9 with crRNA and tracrRNA

- crRNA / tracrRNA complex promotes structural change in Cas9
 - Formation of central channel that binds DNA
- Cas9 / RNA scan DNA for crRNA target (PAM)
 - Bind target sequence to enable strand displacement
- Cas9 cleaves DNA via single blunt cut

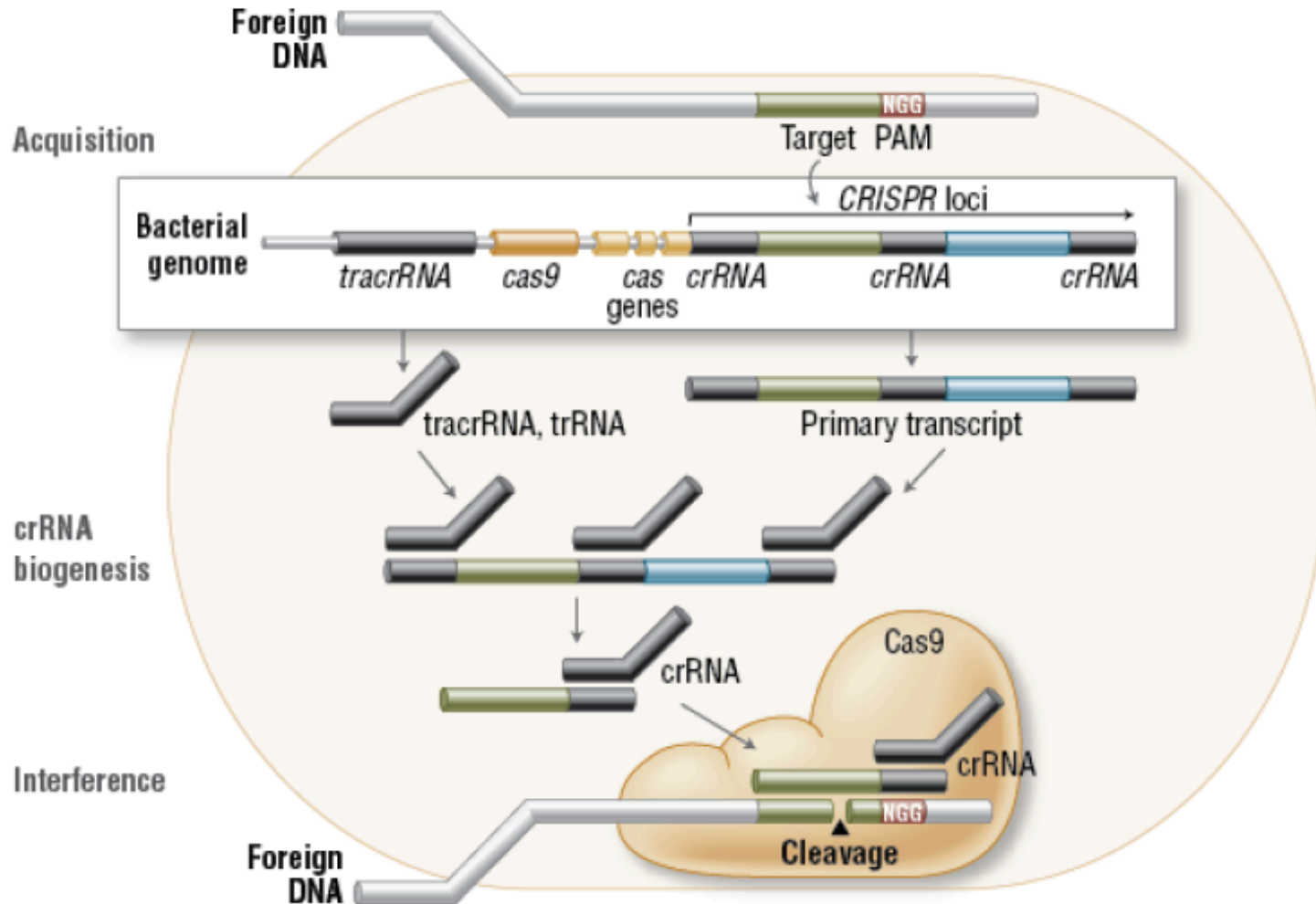


Acquisition of immunity

- Phage DNA recognized and fragmented
 - Possible synergy with restriction enzyme system
- Suitable spacers selected by detection of protospacer adjacent motif (PAM)
- Spacer inserted into CRISPR loci by Cas1/Cas2
 - Leader end nicked for insertion
 - PAM-dependent orientation



Taken together, ...



Other roles for CRISPR system

- Group behavior in *Myxococcus xanthus*
 - Disruption of *cas7*, *cas5* decreases sporulation
- Virulence in *Campylobacter jejuni*
 - Expression of *cas9* in CRISPR- strain increases virulence
 - Absence of *cas9* in CRISPR+ strain increases swarming, decreases cytotoxicity
- DNA repair in *E. coli*
 - Deletion of *cas1* increases sensitivity to DNA damaging agents

In the laboratory...

1. BE Communication lab workshop
 - Delivering effective presentation
 - Crafting clear slides
2. Prepare oligo for gRNA 'cloning'
3. Complete gRNA insertion / amplification reaction
4. Journal article discussion
 - Contribution is expected!



