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Designing sgRNA Oligos and Inserting Guides into the GEARBOCS Vector



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We use this protocol and it's working

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Abstract

This protocol describes designing sgRNAs for genes of interest using the GEARBOCS vector backbone. This method allows researchers to utilize the GEARBOCS system for astrocyte-specific genetic manipulation in CRISPR/Cas9 mice for in vivo assays



Designing sgRNA oligos

- 1 Use **UCSC** to get gene's exons and introns. Make sure the area you are targeting is in all isoforms.
- 2 Before designing your own guides, check the literature for guides that you can use.
- 3 Second, try **CRISPick** with the exon you want to target.
 - Reference Genome: Mouse GRCm38 (NCBI RefSeq v.108.20200622)
 - Mechanism: CRISPRko
 - Enzyme: SpyoCas9(NGG) and **Hsu (2013)** tracrRNA
 - Target(s): Bulk/Advanced targets – enter up to 2000 bp
 - CRISPick Quota: 10
- 4 Make sure these aren't targeting helical structures or motifs by searching uniprot (<https://www.uniprot.org/uniprotkb/P55088/entry>).
- 5 **Ordering oligos for sgRNA annealing:**
- 6 Add the following bolded sequences to 20bp sgRNAs to add restriction enzyme recognition sites. We have written a script to add the overhangs for you [here](#). It requires you to enter your gRNA names and sequences and click run on that website.
- 7 Example:
- 8 Aqp4 gRNA FW: **CACCG** ATTGTCTTCCGTATGACTAGAGG
- 9 Aqp4 gRNA RV: **AAAC** CCTCTAGTCATACGGAAGACAAT **C**
- 10 ^non-bolded sequence to add the SapI restriction enzyme recognition sites

Insert guides into GEARBOCS vector

- 11 **GEARBOCS Vector digestion:**



- 12 Set up the digestion reaction with the following components in a 0.6µL tube
 1. GEARBOCS Vector -> 2ug
 2. SapI Enzyme -> 1uL
 3. NEB rCutSmart buffer -> 5uL
 4. UltraPure H2O -> XuL (Volume will vary based on volume of vector)
 5. Total Volume = 50uL
- 13 Incubate @37°C for 1 hour and run the sample in 1% agarose gel.
- 14 Elute the linearized vector in 25µL water using Qiagen Gel purification kit.
- 15 Use the eluted sample for ligation or preserve in -20°C
- 16 **sgRNA Oligo Annealing:**
- 17 Set up the annealing reaction with the following components in a 0.2µL tube.
 1. UltraPure Water -> 7µl
 2. Forward Primer, 100uM -> 1µl
 3. Forward Primer, 100uM -> 1µl
 4. NEB Buffer 2.1 -> 1µl
 5. Total = 10µL
- 18 Heat to 95°C for 5 min (use heat block). Cool to room temp over 1-2 hours
- 19 Once the annealing is completed, add 90µL water to the tube and mix well
- 20 Use the annealed sample for ligation or preserve the rest in -20°C
- 21 **Ligation:**
- 22 Take 6µL of annealed sample for the ligation into pUGC Vector and keep the reaction as below



1. Insert- Annealed Oligo -> 6uL
2. GEARBOCS-SapI digested -> 2µl
3. T4 Ligase Buffer -> 1µl
4. T4 Ligase -> 1µl
5. Total -> 10uL

- 23 Incubate at 4°C overnight and transform 4 µL into Stbl3 cells the next day. Plate 50 uL of S.O.C. medium + cells.
- 24 Pick clones for minicultures.
- 25 Save 0.5-1 mL for glycerol stock and mini-prep the rest for sequencing with the U6 primer.