Controlled Somatic and Germline Copy Number Variation in the Mouse Model

Yann Hérault^{*,1,2}, Arnaud Duchon¹, Damien Maréchal¹, Matthieu Raveau¹, Patricia L. Pereira¹, Emilie Dalloneau¹ and Véronique Brault¹

¹Institut de Génétique et de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire (IGBMC), INSERM U964, CNRS UMR7104, Université de Strasbourg, Illkirch, France

²Institut Clinique de la Souris (ICS), INSERM U964, CNRS UMR7104, Université de Strasbourg, Illkirch, France

Abstract: Changes in the number of chromosomes, but also variations in the copy number of chromosomal regions have been described in various pathological conditions, such as cancer and aneuploidy, but also in normal physiological condition. Our classical view of DNA replication and mitotic preservation of the chromosomal integrity is now challenged as new technologies allow us to observe such mosaic somatic changes in copy number affecting regions of chromosomes with various sizes. In order to go further in the understanding of copy number influence in normal condition we could take advantage of the novel strategy called Targeted Asymmetric Sister Chromatin Event of Recombination (TASCER) to induce recombination during the G2 phase so that we can generate deletions and duplications of regions of interest prior to mitosis. Using this approach in the mouse we could address the effects of copy number variation and segmental ane-uploidy in daughter cells and allow us to explore somatic mosaics for large region of interest in the mouse.

Received on: May 08, 2010 - Revised on: May 24, 2010 - Accepted on: May 27, 2010

Keywords: Chromosomal engineering, Cre/lox P, mosaic genetics, duplication, deletion.

INTRODUCTION

Our knowledge about human genetic variation has considerably evolved in the past few years with the development of genome-wide technologies unrevealing structural variations such as oligonucleotide microarray technologies and the next-generation sequencing with "paired-end" methods [1] that enable to screen the genome at a submicroscopic level. The identification of frequent copy number variants (CNVs) between individuals, including deletions and duplications of DNA sequences has definitely changed our view of genome integrity. Thousands of different CNVs have been identified (http://projects.tcag.ca/variation) overlapping a large number of genes [2, 3] and accounting for about 13% of the human genome. Estimates suggest that CNVs account for up to 24 Mb [3, 4] of the genetic difference between individuals, exceeding single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) (2.5 Mb) [5].

In addition of being a major source of genetic diversity in the human population, CNVs are also responsible for various pathological conditions such as cancer, aneuploidies and contiguous gene syndromes (CGS). The first CNVs that were recognized were due to large chromosomal rearrangements that were visible under light microscope, causing well known genomic disorders such as Down (trisomy 21), Turner (monosomy X), Fragile X (Xq27.3) or Cri du Chat (del 5p-) syndromes [6]. These genomic disorders are often sporadic as they are de novo mutations leading to severe developmental deficits not compatible with the individual having offsprings. However, some CNVs can be inherited in a Mendelian way: Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease type 1A is a dominant neuropathy associated to a duplication of the gene for peripheral myelin protein 22 (PMP22) [7], whereas a deletion of the b-globin gene cluster is responsible for the recessive anemia-thalassemia [8]. The number of recognized genomic disorder has been drastically increasing since the 1980s by the constant discovery of submicroscopic (<5 Mb) genomic deletions and duplications associated with pathological phenotypes [9, 10]. Microdeletion 15q11.2q12 was associated with Prader-Willi syndrome in 1981 [11], a 17p13.3 deletion was found in Miller-Dieker lissencephaly syndrome [12], a 1.5 to 3.0-Mb hemizygous deletion of chromosome 22q11.2 causing haploinsufficiency of the TBX1 gene was discovered in DiGeorge syndrome [13], whereas the first recurrent microduplication was identified in 1991 in patients with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease type 1A (CMT1A) [7]. In particular, the discovery of new CNVs has increased the diagnostic of mental retardation symptoms that affect 2-3% of the population as define new recognized syndromes by 15-20%. Moreover, CNVs are increasingly associated with complex traits such as autism [14, 15], schizophrenia [16] or epilepsy [17, 18] and susceptibility to infectious diseases such as HIV [19], Crohn disease [20, 21], psoriasis [22] or malaria [23].

A major mechanism by which rearrangements can cause a phenotype is by altering the copy number of a gene (or genes) sensitive to a dosage effect and influencing its expression [24]. But deletions and duplications can also cause

^{*}Address correspondence to this author at the Institut de Génétique et de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire (IGBMC), INSERM U964, CNRS UMR7104, Université de Strasbourg, Illkirch, France; Tel: +33 388 65 5657; Fax: +33 388 65 56 90; E-mail: herault@igbmc.fr

gene expression perturbation through positional effect [25]. This position effect can be either the result of the physical dissociation between the transcription unit and its regulatory sequences that can sometimes lie as far as 1 Mb away from it [26, 27], or the result of the alteration of local or global regulation of chromatin structure [28-31]. These effects have been documented by some human disease states. For example, Aniridia (absence of the iris) due to haloinsufficiency of PAX6 at 11q13 has been shown to result from a chromosomal rearrangement that disrupts the region downstream of PAX6 transcription unit [32-35]. Human diseases resulting from aberrant gene expression through altered chromatin structures include FSHD (facioscapulohumeral dystrophy) (MIM 158900), a neuromuscular disorder affecting the facial and shoulder girdle muscles and one case of α -Thalassemia (MIM 141800) in which the HBA2 gene has been silenced by methylation of its promoter region by an antisense RNA derived from the truncated neighboring LUC7L gene on the opposite strand [31]. Genomic rearrangements of the genome can also trigger phenotypes by unmasking of recessive mutations or functional polymorphism of the remaining allele in the case of deletions. Hence, it was shown that, in Sotos syndrome that is due to del 5q35, the severity of the disease depends on the polymorphism of the remaining copy of the coagulation factor 12 gene [36].

CNVs often arise from meiotic recombination between highly similar (<97% sequence identity) duplicated sequences (termed low-copy repeats or LCRs) located less than 10 Mb apart. LCRs represent up to 5% of the haploid human genome [37] and can cause genomic instability as they can be at the origin of misalignment of chromosomes or chromatids and cause nonallelic homologous recombination (NAHR), resulting in unequal crossing-over [38]. But other mechanisms have been also proposed to be responsible for CNVs formation: nonhomologous end joining (NHEJ) is a mechanism that repairs DNA double strand breaks and, when defective, can lead to translocations and telomere fusion, hallmark of tumor cells [39]. Fork stalling and template switching (FoSTeS), a DNA replication error mechanism, has recently been shown to play an important role in the origin of nonrecurrent rearrangements with a complex structure leading to genomic disorders of various size [40-42]. Several studies have predicted that NHEJ or FoSTeS are at the origin of some CNVs observed in some cases of Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Smith-Magenis syndrome and Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease [43, 44]. These mechanisms have the particularity of leading to CNV mosaicism. Occurrence of somatic mosaicism has been reported for chromosomal aberrations connected with diseases and leading to a milder phenotype of the disease [45, 46], arising somatically in cancers [47-49], or in the case the rearrangements of the immunoglobulin and T-cell-receptor genes [50]. In healthy individuals, more and more data have recently accumulated showing inter- and intra- tissues mosaicism for entire chromosome aneuploidies in germ cells, placenta, brain, skin, liver and blood [51, 52], although their occurrence remains unclear, due to the techniques that use pooling of large number of cells to study CNVs. Recent studies have started to point out at the importance of CNVs somatic mosaicism: extensive chromosomal instability and de novo recurrent CNVs have been reported in human cleavage-stage [53] and in mouse embryonic stem cell [54] respectively and somatic CNV mosaicism has been reported in different human tissues and organs [55] with studies on monozygotic twins revealing putative de novo somatic CNV events [56]. In a paper published this year, the group of Anja Weise at the Institute of Human Genetics in Magdeburg (Germany) provided the first evidence of somatic mosaicism for CNV between different cell types of one individual [57]. They used an approach that was defined to determine chromosomal parental origin in single cells based on fluorescent in situ hybridization ('parental-origin-determination fluorescence in situ hybridization' or pod-FISH) [58] to visualize CNVs on homologous chromosomes metaphase spreads from 10 healthy individuals and found CNV variation between different cell types but not within one cell type. They hence propose that there is early embryonic chromosome instability which results in stable mosaic pattern in human tissues.

While CNV is now recognized as a major source of genetic variability between individuals, their biological consequences are largely under investigated. Analysis of their pathological role and molecular mechanism are hard to investigate in human and require an animal model, genetically, morphologically and physiologically closer. The mouse constitutes a model organism of choice with an anatomy, physiology and genetics highly similar to humans. 80% of mouse genes have an orthologous counterpart in the human genome [59] and 99% have a sequence match. Homologous genes are found in the same order and relative orientation in large blocks of conserved syntenic regions. In addition, the ability to manipulate the mouse genome has made the mouse the primary mammalian genetic model organism. CNV can be artificially created using various chromosome engineering techniques that enable to precisely manipulate large genomic regions. Especially, the technology based on the Cre-loxP system is used to generate new chromosomes carrying deletions, duplications, inversions and translocations in targeted regions of interest and to study contiguous gene syndromes as well as normal developmental processes associated with CNV.

I. GERM LINE GENETIC ENGINEERING USING EMBRYONIC STEM (ES) CELLS

Modelling chromosomal rearrangements such as deletions, duplications, inversions or translocations in the mouse genome has been made possible by combining gene targeting in embryonic stem (ES) cells [60-63] with site-specific recombinase (SSR) systems such as the Cre-loxP [64]. Gene targeting enables to introduce small DNA sequences known as loxP sites to predefined loci by homologous recombination. Subsequent expression of the bacteriophage Cre recombinase that catalyses recombination between loxP sites [65-68] and can act in the mammalian genome without any cofactor, allow to generate large chromosomal rearrangements either in ES cells and then transmitted to the mouse by injecting the transformed ES cells to blastocysts, or directly in the mouse. The size of the loxP, small enough to be introduced very easily by genetic engineering and large enough to avoid problems associated with cryptic occurrence in eukaryotic genomes, has made the Cre-loxP system a very simple and powerful tool for mouse genomic engineering.

Cre-loxP recombination in ES cells can be easily generated for deletions of small regions (<100 kb) with insertion of two loxP sites in a direct orientation and cis configuration [69, 70]. However, to obtain larger deletions or duplications with loxP sites on different chromosomes the frequency of the recombination is too low and requires to be selected through the restoration of a positive selection marker [71-75] or by the deletion of a negative selection marker [76-79]. To this end, targeting vectors were designed, containing the 5'or 3' part of the *HPRT* minigene with *loxP* located downstream and upstream respectively [71]. Use of this technique has been largely facilitated by the creation and the allocation of specific targeting vectors [80] that are now mapped on the mouse genome (Mutagenic Insertion and Chromosome Engineering Resource [MICER], http://www.sanger.ac.uk/Post-Genomics/mousegenomics/) [81], avoiding the fastidious and time-consuming task of constructing the targeting vectors. In addition, retroviral vectors can be used to target the second *loxP* site providing new *loxP* sites nested insertions extending from a few kb to several Mb around defined loci [82].

Although Cre-*loxP* recombination is a very powerful and convenient technique, it has to be carefully planned as its efficiency depends on many factors. Obtaining deletion, duplication or inversion depends on the position (cis or trans) of the *loxP* site, the relative orientation of the two *loxP* sites and on the cell cycle stage during which the Cre-mediated recombination occurs [83, 84]. Cre-mediated recombination efficiency depends on the recombinase activity [85], the region targeted that could induced ES cell lethality after deletion [86], the genetic distance between the *loxP* sites in a cis configuration (10%-0.1%) and the configuration of the *loxP* sites [71, 84, 87]. The size of the deletions is limited by haploinsufficiency of genes within the deleted interval that can trigger ES cell lethality and can be circumvented by making balancer deletion/duplication using *trans* recombination.

The possibility of manipulating large chromosomal regions has provided the scientific community with the opportunity to develop mouse models of CGS. Models developed for for del22q11.2 (DiGeorge syndrome) [88, 89] enabled to identify TBX1 as a candidate gene for the pathology [90]. Modeling Down syndrome (DS), the only viable autosomal aneuploidy in human, requires multiple chromosomal rearrangements as the around 300 human chromosome 21 ortologs are found in three syntenic regions on mouse chromosomes (Mmu) 10, 17 and 16. The phenotypic analysis of the Ts65Dn and Ts1Cje models obtained in a random manner and trisomic for part of the MMU16 [91-93], the Ts1Rhr trisomic for a ~5 Mb Down syndrome critical region (DCR) [72, 94] and the Ts1Yah model trisomic for the syntenic region on Mmu17 [95], both generated by chromosomal engineering, start to reveal the complexity of the genetic interactions at the origin of the disease. Mouse models have also been created for the Smith-Magenis [96-99] and Prader Willi [100] CGS, and to study large genes or cluster of genes such as the HoxD genes cluster [70], the Duchenne muscular dystrophy gene [75], the amyloid precursor protein gene [76] or the Nfl gene [77]. Cre/loxP chromosome engineering in mouse ES cells was also developed to generate translocations or deletions similar to those found in cancer [86, 101-105]. Finally, in 2009, a mouse model was created for the first time to model a polygenic disease [106]. Autism, a common heterogeneous psychiatric disorder is a developmental brain disease characterized by deficit in social interaction and communication, and stereotyped repetitive behaviour. Autism has been shown to have a strong genetic basis with chromosomal anomalies accounting for 10 to 20% of the cases [107]. Among these anomalies, chromosome 15q11-13 duplication is the only recurrent cytogenetic aberration that could be associated with autism. Nakatani and collaborators (2009) generated a 6.3 Mb duplication of the conserved linkage group on Mmu7 and showed that the mouse model generated recapitulated aspects of human autism such as social abnormalities and increased anxiety and fear, providing a new tool to decipher the physiological and molecular mechanism underlying this pathology.

II. IN VIVO GERMLINE CRE-LOXP RECOMBINA-TION

Creating chromosomal rearrangements in the whole organism offers an alternative to the *in vitro* protocol that is very labor-intensive and requires many rounds of ES cells genomic manipulations (Fig. 1). It requires that the loxP sites recombination occurs either in germ line cells during meiosis or ubiquitously in all of the tissues or in early embryogenesis. The rearrangements can then be transmitted to the progeny. This can be achieved by using Cre transgenic lines such as Sycp1-Cre [108], Zp3-Cre [109, 110], Protamine-Cre [111], CMV-Cre [112], R26Cre [113] or Hprt-Cre [114]. Most of the large in vivo rearrangements are deletions that are obtained from two loxP sites in the same relative orientation inserted in cis in ES cells [70, 115-117]. The frequency of recombination in cis decreases with the increasing distance between the *loxP* sites (0.3%-1%), but still remains high enough to be workable up to distances reaching 28 Mb [118]. For loxP sites that are originating from different mouse founder lines and hence are not in cis, deletion can still be obtained by mating the two founder lines and selecting for recombination after classical crossing-over, a technique called STRING for Sequential Targeted Recombination INduced Genomic rearrangement [118]. Similarly, inversions have been obtained in vivo with two loxP sites located in the same chromosome but with a reverse orientation [115, 119]. The different ubiquitously expressed Cre transgenic lines are not all similarly efficient in making the recombination and can lead to mosaic individuals in the first generation [73, 120, 121]. An alternative to the ubiquitous Cre transgenic lines is the Zp3-Cre in which cre expression is controlled by regulatory sequences from the mouse zona pellucida gene, expressing exclusively in the growing oocyte prior to the completion of the first meiotic division. But this transgenic Cre line was also shown to produce some mosaicism in a mouse model for DiGeorge del22q1 syndrome [122].

Creating chromosomal duplications requires that the two loxP sites are on homologous chromosomes (trans) and is only possible when the two homologous chromosomes becomes physically close together. A strategy called TAMERE for TArgeting MEiotic Recombination was designed by Herault *et al.* (1998) [108] that makes use of a Cre under the control of the Synaptonemal Complex 1 promoter that is expressed during prophase of meiosis in male spermatocytes when chromatid pairs are closely aligned [123], enabling trans recombination [115, 124, 125]. However, for larger genomic rearrangements, while *in vivo* recombination is still effective for cis configurations up to 28 Mb [118], no rearrangement was obtained for a distance of 3.9 Mb [126] and hence seems to be limited to short-distance recombination. The TAMERE strategy has been used extensively to rearrange and study the *HoxD* complex region [108, 119, 127, 128] and has also been used to address the functional relationship between PrPc and Dpl, two genes involved in Prion disease, by making a double deletion of these two genes that are separated by 16 kb [125].

Beside the Cre-*lox*P system described here, the Flp-*FRT* system is another tyrosine site-specific recombinase (SSR)

system that has been used as tool for DNA and genome engineering. However, FLP recombinase was found to be less efficient than Cre, partly due to an unsuitable optimum temperature for mammalian cells [129]. Recently, a new Crelike recombinase, called Dre, was identified from P1-related phage D6 by Sauer and McDermott (2004) [130]. Dre recombinase has DNA specificity for a 32 bp DNA site (rox) distinct from the *loxP* and shows no cross-recombination with the Cre-*loxP* system. Like the Cre, it catalyzes both integrative and excisive recombination and requires no cofactor. The Dre-*rox* system was validated in the mouse by Anastassiadis and collaborators (2009) [131] who tested the efficiency of Dre-rox recombination *in vivo* by developing ubiquitous mouse lines based on the CAGGs promoter [132] and the ROSA26 locus. This new SSR provides a new useful



Fig. (1). Schematic representation of the different *in vivo* strategies developed to model CNV in the mouse. (A) In the TAMERE strategy, *lox*P sites are inserted in a trans configuration and expression of the Cre recombinase during meiosis enables to generate cells containing a duplication with the reciprocal deletion. (B) The STRING approach takes advantage of the classical crossing-over to bring the two *lox*P sites into a *cis* configuration to generate a deletion. (C) Inter-chromosomal recombinations are obtained by introducing *lox*P sites at the site of the desired rearrangement and expressing the Cre recombinase. (D) The MADM strategy base on Cre-mediated inter-chromosomal recombination and G2-X segregation during mitosis, offers the possibility to introduce mosaicism *in vivo*. (E) The TASCER strategy takes advantages of the G2 stage of the S phase to recombine *lox*P sites in cis, leading to the deletion and the duplication of the sequence surrounded with the *lox*P.

toolkit for mouse genome engineering. Finally, recent applications for large serine SRRs such as phiC31 and phiBT1 [133] in eukaryotic genome engineering have emerged as new additional tools.

Association of the Cre-loxP system with transposonbased approaches should considerably speed up the generation of large-scale rearrangements in vivo. Transposons are mobile genetic elements that function as a bipartite system with a transposase to move around to different positions within the genome, potentially perturbating gene function. They have been extensively used for random mutagenesis and have been shown to be efficient both in vitro in ES cells and *in vivo* in the germline or somatically [134-141]. The most widely studied transposon/transposase system for mammalian mutagenesis is the Sleeping Beauty transposon of the Tc1-like mariner family [142]. Transposons have the advantage that they are active in vivo and only require breeding of transgenic mice, their insertion sites can be defined thanks to the transposon serving as a tag. More recently, an alternative transposon called Piggybac, derived from the cabbage looper moth (trichoplusia ni) has been developed, that can carry larger payloads between its transposon repeats [138]. PiggyBac transposons offer the possibility to easily distribute loxP sites throughout the mouse genome and, associated with the Cre-loxP technology, permit to generate rapidly and easily genome-wide chromosome rearrangements [121].

III. SOMATIC GENETIC ENGINEERING

Mosaicism in copy number variation has been observed in human [143]. It is a direct consequence of the missegregation of a chromosome during mitosis: while the two copies of one homologous chromosome migrate in one daughter cell that will be trisomic, the second will have only one copy being now monosomic.

The percentage of an uploid mosaicism depends on the developmental stage, the lineage of the cell that is affected and its viability, and the type of chromosomal rearrangement produced. If the rearrangement occurs early during embryogenesis, the mosaicism can be generalized to all cell lineages and can result in major phenotypic changes that are often lethal. For example, in Turner syndrome more than 98% of conceptuses that are 45, X do not survive to term and only mosaic are thought to be compatible with life [144].

Mosaic aneuploidy can be registered in all somatic cell populations contributing to normal inter individual variability, with a frequency of 1.25–1.45% per chromosome and a percentage of aneuploid cells above 30% reported in blood cells [145] and brain [146-148]. Reasons for the presence of such aneuploid cells and its consequence remain for the moment speculative.

Consequences of somatic aneuploid mosaicism can be analysed in the mouse by generating segmental aneuploid mosaicism in mouse tissues using the Cre-*loxP* system during the G2 phase of mitosis. Two different strategies were developed using this system. Zong *et al.* (2005) [149] developed a technique utilizing Cre-mediated inter-chromosomal recombination prior to cell division (mitotic recombination) and took advantage of the G2-X segregation during mitosis to induce recombination events between homologous chromosomes in somatic cells and to mark the resulting daughter cells with different genotypes. They called this technique Mosaic Analysis with Double Markers (MADM). In addition to create and study sporadic loss of heterozygosity, this technique can also be used with a pre-introduced deletion or duplication on one chromosome to create CNV mosaics composed of wild-type daughter cells bearing the normal allele or mutant cells containing the allele with the deletion or the duplication. Another strategy takes advantages of the property of the Cre recombinase to react on G2 phase of mitosis to directly generate different types of cells with either the duplication or the deletion of one chromosomal region targeted with the loxP sites [150]. The TASCER (Targeted Asymmetric Sister Chromatid Recombination) takes advantage of the presence of *loxP* sites on sister chromatids after replication of DNA in G2 phase during mitosis in order to generate in vivo cells harbouring microdeletions and microduplications. LoxP sites were inserted on the same chromosome in a cis configuration separated by up to 2.2 Mb. Upon mating Cis/+ mice with a general Cre deleter line, mosaic animals were obtained with cells containing either the deletion or the duplication. Indeed, if loxP recombination occurs after DNA replication, in addition to the expected deletion, the corresponding duplication was also obtained corresponding to the intermediate reaction product containing three loxP sites. The duplication with presence of three *loxP* sites represents the intermediate product between the double cis configuration with four loxP sites of the G2 stage cells and the deletion end product. This is the first report of an in vivo generated duplication coming from a cis configuration, presumably because, in most reports, loxP sites were not as distant, resulting in a better efficiency avoiding the presence of the intermediate genomic duplication configuration. Hence, the increased distance tends to decrease the Cre-mediated recombination frequency [87] somehow preserving the chromosome with a large duplication. Using TASCER on two chromosomal regions homologous to the telomeric part of human chromosome 21, cells with partial monosomy and trisomy were efficiently recovered at a relatively constant level in numerous different tissues. The TASCER mechanism necessitates that the Cre is particularly active during the G2 phase during cell proliferation. This phenomenon has been described in vitro in embryonic stem cells [84, 151] but with much less efficiency than in vivo. The reason for this discrepancy might be that expression of the Cre is more stable in vivo and that the in vivo environment is more favourable to the viability of the aneuploid cells. Change in the chromatin structure, with complexes such as the cohexin one inducing physical connection of sister chromatids, can also facilitate the mitotic recombination [152, 153].

Efficiency of the TASCER is also depending of the type of Cre transgenic line used, as these do not express the Cre recombinase with the same efficacy. Hence, Duchon *et al.* (2008) [150] were able to induce up to 2.2 Mb deletions and duplications with a set of three different Cre lines, but could not obtain a larger modification of 9.2 Mb that might require a Cre line with a stronger promoter such as the CAG promoter inserted in the *Hprt* locus of the *Hprt1*^{tml(Cre)Mnn} mouse line, which has been used successfully in a recent study [114]. The fact that cells bearing the duplication was found

Cre-Induced Segmental Copy Number Variation

in many different organs despite the less stable presence of three loxP sites [154] indicates that the trisomic state might be beneficial in some tissues and point out at the necessity to be very careful when using the Cre-loxP system *in vivo* to generate deletions.

Whereas chromosomal mosaicism has been observed in pathological conditions, such as Turner syndrome [155] or in cancer [156], the TASCER publication did not report any dramatic changes in the survival of trisomic and monosomic cells produced. In some tissues such as the muscle, this can be explained by compensatory effects due to their organization in a plurinuclear syncitia. However, in other non syncitial tissues, other mechanisms such as non-cell autonomous effect should be proposed to explain this phenomenon.

Although mosaic aneuploidy and CNVs have been reported in nonpathological conditions in different cell populations such as neurons [51, 52, 146-148, 157-159], their role and biological consequence to the organ structure and function in health and disease remains under explored. In the brain, mosaic DNA rearrangements have been suggested to contribute to the mechanism for neuronal cell diversification [160]. However, these are only suppositions and there is to date little evidence supporting a functional consequence for mosaic CNV in nonpathological conditions. To answer those questions, future studies need to examine the effect of somatic CNV on cell physiology. TASCER that results into substantial segmental aneuploid mosaicism, offers the possibility to explore consequences of such a phenomenon in a model organism. It further can be used to to induce partial aneuploid conditions such as those detected in cancer cells and to study further the consequence of loss or gain of copy number for chromosomal regions during tumorigenesis [156], avoiding the fastidious need of gene-by-gene inactivation or ES-cell MICER recombination system to study such phenomenon. TASCER hence offers new perspective for the generation and analysis of CNV variation in health and disease.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank members of the laboratory for helpful discussion, and members of the AnEUploidy consortium (www.aneuploidy.org). This work was funded by grants from the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the Fondation Jerome Lejeune, and the AnEUploidy project (LSHG-CT-2006-037627) supported by the European commission under FP6.

REFERENCES

- Tuzun, E.; Sharp, A. J.; Bailey, J. A.; Kaul, R.; Morrison, V. A.; Pertz, L. M.; Haugen, E.; Hayden, H.; Albertson, D.; Pinkel, D.; Olson, M. V.; Eichler, E. E. Fine-scale structural variation of the human genome. *Nat. Genet.*, 2005, *37*, 727-732.
- [2] Redon, R.; Ishikawa, S.; Fitch, K. R.; Feuk, L.; Perry, G. H.; Andrews, T. D.; Fiegler, H.; Shapero, M. H.; Carson, A. R.; Chen, W. W.; Cho, E. K.; Dallaire, S.; Freeman, J. L.; Gonzalez, J. R.; Gratacos, M.; Huang, J.; Kalaitzopoulos, D.; Komura, D.; MacDonald, J. R.; Marshall, C. R.; Mei, R.; Montgomery, L.; Nishimura, K.; Okamura, K.; Shen, F.; Somerville, M. J.; Tchinda, J.; Valsesia, A.; Woodwark, C.; Yang, F. T.; Zhang, J. J.; Zerjal, T.; Zhang, J.; Armengol, L.; Conrad, D. F.; Estivill, X.; Tyler-Smith, C.; Carter, N. P.; Aburatani, H.; Lee, C.; Jones, K. W.; Scherer, S. W.; Hurles, M. E. Global variation in copy number in the human genome. *Nature*, 2006, 444, 444-454.

- [3] Conrad, D. F.; Pinto, D.; Redon, R.; Feuk, L.; Gokcumen, O.; Zhang, Y. J.; Aerts, J.; Andrews, T. D.; Barnes, C.; Campbell, P.; Fitzgerald, T.; Hu, M.; Ihm, C. H.; Kristiansson, K.; MacArthur, D. G.; MacDonald, J. R.; Onyiah, I.; Pang, A. W. C.; Robson, S.; Stirrups, K.; Valsesia, A.; Walter, K.; Wei, J.; Tyler-Smith, C.; Carter, N. P.; Lee, C.; Scherer, S. W.; Hurles, M. E. Origins and functional impact of copy number variation in the human genome. *Nature*, 2010, 464, 704-712.
- [4] Human Genome Structural Variation Working Group. Eichler, E. E.; Nickerson, D. A.; Altshuler, D.; Bowcock, A. M.; Brooks, L. D.; Carter, N. P.; Church, D. M.; Felsenfeld, A.; Guyer, M.; Lee, C.; Lupski, J. R.; Mullikin, J. C.; Pritchard, J. K.; Sebat, J.; Sherry, S. T.; Smith, D.; Valle, D.; Waterston, R. H. Completing the map of human genetic variation. *Nature*, **2007**, *447*, 161-165.
- [5] Altshuler, D.; Pollara, V. J.; Cowles, C. R.; Van Etten, W. J.; Baldwin, J.; Linton, L.; Lander, E. S. An SNP map of the human genome generated by reduced representation shotgun sequencing. *Nature*, 2000, 407, 513-516.
- [6] Lupski, J. R. Genomic disorders: structural features of the genome can lead to DNA rearrangements and human disease traits. *Trends Genet.*, **1998**, *14*, 417-422.
- [7] Lupski, J.; de Oca-Luna, R.; Slaugenhaupt, S.; Pentao, L.; Guzzetta, V.; Trask, B.; Saucedo-Cardenas, O.; Barker, D.; Killian, J.; Garcia, C.; Chakravarti, A.; Patel, P. DNA duplication associated with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease type 1A. *Cell*, **1991**, *66*, 219-32.
- [8] Higgs, D. R.; Vickers, M. A.; Wilkie, A. O. M.; Pretorius, I. M.; Jarman, A. P.; Weatherall, D. J. A review of the molecular genetics of the human alpha-globine gene cluster. *Blood*, **1989**, *73*, 1081-1104.
- [9] Schmickel, R. D. Contiguous gene syndromes a component of recognizable syndromes. J. Pediatr., 1986, 109, 231-241.
- [10] Schluth-Bolard, C.; Till, M.; Edery, P.; Sanlaville, D. New chromosomal syndromes. *Pathol. Biol.*, 2008, 56, 380-387.
- [11] Ledbetter, D. H.; Riccardi, V. M.; Airhart, S. D.; Strobel, R. J.; Keenan, B. S.; Crawford, J. D. Deletions of chromosome -15 as a cause of the Prader-Willi Syndrome. *N. Engl. J. Med.*, **1981**, 304, 325-329.
- [12] Dobyns, W. B.; Reiner, O.; Carrozzo, R.; Ledbetter, D. H. A Human brain malformation associated with the deletion of the Lis1 gene located at chromosome -17P13. *JAMA*, **1993**, *270*, 2838-2842.
- [13] Edelmann, L.; Pandita, R. K.; Spiteri, E.; Funke, B.; Goldberg, R.; Palanisamy, N.; Chaganti, R. S. K.; Magenis, E.; Shprintzen, R. J.; Morrow, B. E. A common molecular basis for rearrangement disorders on chromosome 22q11. *Human Mol. Genet.*, **1999**, *8*, 1157-1167.
- [14] Sebat, J.; Lakshmi, B.; Malhotra, D.; Troge, J.; Lese-Martin, C.; Walsh, T.; Yamrom, B.; Yoon, S.; Krasnitz, A.; Kendall, J.; Leotta, A.; Pai, D.; Zhang, R.; Lee, Y. H.; Hicks, J.; Spence, S. J.; Lee, A. T.; Puura, K.; Lehtimaki, T.; Ledbetter, D.; Gregersen, P. K.; Bregman, J.; Sutcliffe, J. S.; Jobanputra, V.; Chung, W.; Warburton, D.; King, M. C.; Skuse, D.; Geschwind, D. H.; Gilliam, T. C.; Ye, K.; Wigler, M. Strong association of de novo copy number mutations with autism. *Science*, **2007**, *316*, 445-449.
- [15] Abrahams, B. S.; Geschwind, D. H. Advances in autism genetics: on the threshold of a new neurobiology. *Nature Rev. Genet.*, 2008, 9, 341-355.
- [16] Stefansson, H.; Rujescu, D.; Cichon, S.; Pietilainen, O. P. H.; Ingason, A.; Steinberg, S.; Fossdal, R.; Sigurdsson, E.; Sigmundsson, T.; Buizer-Voskamp, J. E.; Hansen, T.; Jakobsen, K. D.; Muglia, P.; Francks, C.; Matthews, P. M.; Gylfason, A.; Halldorsson, B. V.; Gudbjartsson, D.; Thorgeirsson, T. E.; Sigurdsson, A.; Jonasdottir, A.; Bjornsson, A.; Mattiasdottir, S.; Blondal, T.; Haraldsson, M.; Magnusdottir, B. B.; Giegling, I.; Moller, H. J.; Hartmann, A.; Shianna, K. V.; Ge, D. L.; Need, A. C.; Crombie, C.; Fraser, G.; Walker, N.; Lonnqvist, J.; Suvisaari, J.; Tuulio-Henriksson, A.; Paunio, T.; Toulopoulou, T.; Bramon, E.; Di Forti, M.; Murray, R.; Ruggeri, M.; Vassos, E.; Tosato, S.; Walshe, M.; Li, T.; Vasilescu, C.; Muhleisen, T. W.; Wang, A. G.; Ullum, H.; Djurovic, S.; Melle, I.; Olesen, J.; Kiemeney, L. A.; Franke, B.; Sabatti, C.; Freimer, N. B.; Gulcher, J. R.; Thorsteinsdottir, U.; Kong, A.; Andreassen, O. A.; Ophoff, R. A.; Georgi, A.; Rietschel, M.; Werge, T.; Petursson, H.; Goldstein, D. B.; Nothen, M. M.; Peltonen, L.; Collier, D. A.; St Clair, D.; Stefansson, K. Large recurrent microdeletions associated with schizophrenia. Nature, 2008, 455, 232-U61.

- [17] Suls, A.; Claeys, K. G.; Goossens, D.; Harding, B.; Van Luijk, R.; Scheers, S.; Deprez, L.; Audenaert, D.; Van Dyck, T.; Beeckmans, S.; Smouts, I.; Ceulemans, B.; Lagae, L.; Buyse, G.; Barisic, N.; Misson, J. P.; Wauters, J.; Del-Favero, J.; De Jonghe, P.; Claes, L. R. E. Microdeletions involving the SCN1A gene may be common in SCN1A-mutation-negative SMEI patients. *Hum. Mutat.*, 2006, 27, 914-920.
- [18] Erez, A.; Patel, A. J.; Wang, X. Q.; Xia, Z. L.; Bhatt, S. S.; Craigen, W.; Cheung, S. W.; Lewis, R. A.; Fang, P.; Davenport, S. L. H.; Stankiewicz, P.; Lalani, S. R. Alu-specific microhomologymediated deletions in CDKL5 in females with early-onset seizure disorder. *Neurogenetics*, **2009**, *10*, 363-369.
- [19] Gonzalez, E.; Kulkarni, H.; Bolivar, H.; Mangano, A.; Sanchez, R.; Catano, G.; Nibbs, R. J.; Freedman, B. I.; Quinones, M. P.; Bamshad, M. J.; Murthy, K. K.; Rovin, B. H.; Bradley, W.; Clark, R. A.; Anderson, S. A.; O'Connell, R. J.; Agan, B. K.; Ahuja, S. S.; Bologna, R.; Sen, L.; Dolan, M. J.; Ahuja, S. K. The influence of CCL3L1 gene-containing segmental duplications on HIV-1/AIDS susceptibility. *Science*, **2005**, *307*, 1434-1440.
- [20] Fellermann, K.; Stange, D. E.; Schaeffeler, E.; Schmalzl, H.; Wehkamp, J.; Bevins, C. L.; Reinisch, W.; Teml, A.; Schwab, M.; Lichter, P.; Radlwimmer, B.; Stange, E. F. A chromosome 8 genecluster polymorphism with low human beta-defensin 2 gene copy number predisposes to Crohn disease of the colon. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.*, 2006, 79, 439-448.
- [21] McCarroll, S. A.; Huett, A.; Kuballa, P.; Chilewski, S. D.; Landry, A.; Goyette, P.; Zody, M. C.; Hall, J. L.; Brant, S. R.; Cho, J. H.; Duerr, R. H.; Silverberg, M. S.; Taylor, K. D.; Rioux, J. D.; Altshuler, D.; Daly, M. J.; Xavier, R. J. Deletion polymorphism upstream of IRGM associated with altered IRGM expression and Crohn's disease. *Nat. Genet.*, **2008**, *40*, 1107-1112.
- [22] Hollox, E. J.; Huffmeier, U.; Zeeuwen, P.; Palla, R.; Lascorz, J.; Rodijk-Olthuis, D.; van de Kerkhof, P. C. M.; Traupe, H.; de Jongh, G.; den Heijer, M.; Reis, A.; Armour, J. A. L.; Schalkwijk, J. Psoriasis is associated with increased beta-defensin genomic copy number. *Nat. Genet.*, **2008**, *40*, 23-25.
- [23] Flint, J.; Hill, A. V. S.; Bowden, D. K.; Oppenheimer, S. J.; Sill, P. R.; Serjeantson, S. W.; Banakoiri, J.; Bhatia, K.; Alpers, M. P.; Boyce, A. J.; Weatherall, D. J.; Clegg, J. B. High-frequencies of al-pha-thalassemia are the result of natural-selection by malaria. *Nature*, **1986**, *321*, 744-750.
- [24] Lupski, J. R.; Wise, C. A.; Kuwano, A.; Pentao, L.; Parke, J. T.; Glaze, D. G.; Ledbetter, D. H.; Greenberg, F.; Patel, P. I. Gene dosage is a mechanism for Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease type 1A. *Nat. Genet.*, **1992**, *1*, 29-33.
- [25] Kleinjan, D. A.; van Heyningen, V. Long-range control of gene expression: Emerging mechanisms and disruption in disease. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.*, 2005, 76, 8-32.
- [26] Pfeifer, D.; Kist, R.; Dewar, K.; Devon, K.; Lander, E. S.; Birren, B.; Korniszewski, L.; Back, E.; Scherer, G. Campomelic dysplasia translocation breakpoints are scattered over 1 Mb proximal to SOX9: Evidence for an extended control region. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.*, **1999**, 65, 111-124.
- [27] Kimura-Yoshida, C.; Kitajima, K.; Oda-Ishii, I.; Tian, E.; Suzuki, M.; Yamamoto, M.; Suzuki, T.; Kobayashi, M.; Aizawa, S.; Matsuo, I. Characterization of the pufferfish Otx2 cis-regulators reveals evolutionarily conserved genetic mechanisms for vertebrate head specification. *Development*, **2004**, *131*, 57-71.
- [28] Kleinjan, D. J.; van Heyningen, V. Position effect in human genetic disease. *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, **1998**, 7, 1611-1618.
- [29] Jiang, G. C.; Yang, F.; van Overveld, P. G. M.; Vedanarayanan, V.; van der Maarel, S.; Ehrlich, M. Testing the position-effect variegation hypothesis for facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy by analysis of histone modification and gene expression in subtelomeric 4q. *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, 2003, *12*, 2909-2921.
- [30] Saveliev, A.; Everett, C.; Sharpe, T.; Webster, Z.; Festenstein, R. DNA triplet repeats mediate heterochromatin-protein-1-sensitive variegated gene silencing. *Nature*, 2003, 422, 909-913.
- [31] Tufarelli, C.; Stanley, J. A. S.; Garrick, D.; Sharpe, J. A.; Ayyub, H.; Wood, W. G.; Higgs, D. R. Transcription of antisense RNA leading to gene silencing and methylation as a novel cause of human genetic disease. *Nat. Genet.*, **2003**, *34*, 157-165.
- [32] Fantes, J.; Redeker, B.; Breen, M.; Boyle, S.; Brown, J.; Fletcher, J.; Jones, S.; Bickmore, W.; Fukushima, Y.; Mannens, M.; Danes, S.; Vanheyningen, V.; Hanson, I. Aniridia associated cyogenetic

rearrangements suggest that a position effect may cause the mutant phenotype. *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, **1995**, *4*, 415-422.

- [33] Lauderdale, J.; Wilensky, J. S.; Oliver, E. R.; Walton, D. S.; Glaser, T. 3 ' deletions cause aniridia by preventing PAX6 gene expression. *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.USA*, 2000, 97, 13755-13759.
- [34] Kleinjan, D. A.; Seawright, A.; Schedl, A.; Quinlan, R. A.; Danes, S.; van Heyningen, V. Aniridia-associated translocations, DNase hypersensitivity, sequence comparison and transgenic analysis redefine the functional domain of PAX6. *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, 2001, 10, 2049-2059.
- [35] Crolla, J. A.; van Heyningen, V. Frequent chromosome aberrations revealed by molecular cytogenetic studies in patients with aniridia. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.*, 2002, 71, 1138-1149.
- [36] Kurotaki, N.; Shen, J. J.; Touyama, M.; Kondoh, T.; Visser, R.; Ozaki, T.; Nishimoto, J.; Shiihara, T.; Uetake, K.; Makita, Y.; Harada, N.; Raskin, S.; Brown, C. W.; Hoglund, P.; Okamoto, N.; Lupski, J. R. Phenotypic consequences of genetic variation at hemizygous alleles: Sotos syndrome is a contiguous gene syndrome incorporating coagulation factor twelve (FXII) deficiency. *Genet. Med.*, 2005, 7, 479-483.
- [37] Bailey, J. A.; Yavor, A. M.; Massa, H. F.; Trask, B. J.; Eichler, E. E. Segmental duplications: Organization and impact within the current Human Genome Project assembly. *Genome Res.*, 2001, 11, 1005-1017.
- [38] Stankiewicz, P.; Lupski, J. R. Genome architecture, rearrangements and genomic disorders. *Trends in Genet.*, **2002**, *18*, 74-82.
- [39] Espejel, S.; Franco, S.; Rodriguez-Perales, S.; Bouffler, S. D.; Cigudosa, J. C.; Blasco, M. A. Mammalian Ku86 mediates chromosomal fusions and apoptosis caused by critically short telomeres. *EMBO J.*, **2002**, *21*, 2207-2219.
- [40] Lee, J. A.; Carvalho, C. M. B.; Lupski, J. R. A DNA replication mechanism for generating nonrecurrent rearrangements associated with genomic disorders. *Cell*, 2007, 131, 1235-1247.
- [41] Zhang, F.; Khajavi, M.; Connolly, A.M.; Towne, C.F.; Batish, S.D.; Lupski, J.R. The DNA replication FoSTeS/MMBIR mechanism can generate genomic, genic and exonic complex rearrangements in humans. *Nat. Genet.*, 2009, 41, 849-U115.
- [42] Cocquempot, O.; Brault, V.; Babinet, C.; Herault, Y. Fork Stalling and Template Switching As a Mechanism for Polyalanine Tract Expansion Affecting the DYC Mutant of HOXD13, a New Murine Model of Synpolydactyly. *Genetics*, **2009**, *183*, 23-30.
- [43] Korbel, J.O.; Urban, A.E.; Affourtit, J.P.; Godwin, B.; Grubert, F.; Simons, J.F.; Kim, P.M.; Palejev, D.; Carriero, N.J.; Du, L.; Taillon, B.E.; Chen, Z.T.; Tanzer, A.; Saunders, A.C.E.; Chi, J.X.; Yang, F. T.; Carter, N.P.; Hurles, M.E.; Weissman, S M.; Harkins, T.T.; Gerstein, M.B.; Egholm, M.; Snyder, M. Paired-end mapping reveals extensive structural variation in the human genome. *Science*, 2007, 318, 420-426.
- [44] Arlt, M.F.; Mulle, J.G.; Schaibley, V.M.; Ragland, R.L.; Durkin, S.G.; Warren, S.T.; Glover, T.W. Replication Stress Induces Genome-wide Copy Number Changes in Human Cells that Resemble Polymorphic and Pathogenic Variants. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.*, 2009, 84, 339-350.
- [45] Gratacos, M.; Nadal, M.; Martin-Santos, R.; Pujana, M. A.; Gago, J.; Peral, B.; Armengol, L.; Ponsa, I.; Miro, R.; Bulbena, A.; Estivill, X. A polymorphic genomic duplication on human chromosome 15 is a susceptibility factor for panic and phobic disorders. *Cell*, 2001, 106, 367-379.
- [46] Youssoufian, H.; Pyeritz, R.E. Mechanisms and consequences of somatic mosaicism in humans. *Nat. Rev. Genet.*, 2002, *3*, 748-758.
- [47] Yang, J.J.; Bhojwani, D.; Yang, W.J.; Cai, X.J.; Stocco, G.; Crews, K.; Wang, J.H.; Morrison, D.; Devidas, M.; Hunger, S.P.; Willman, C.L.; Raetz, E.A.; Pui, C.H.; Evans, W.E.; Relling, M.V.; Carroll, W.L. Genome-wide copy number profiling reveals molecular evolution from diagnosis to relapse in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. *Blood*, 2008, *112*, 4178-4183.
- [48] Leary, R.J.; Lin, J.C.; Cummins, J.; Boca, S.; Wood, L.D.; Parsons, D.W.; Jones, S.; Sjoblom, T.; Park, B.H.; Parsons, R.; Willis, J.; Dawson, D.; Willson, J.K.V.; Nikolskaya, T.; Nikolsky, Y.; Kopelovich, L.; Papadopoulos, N.; Pennacchio, L.A.; Wang, T.L.; Markowitz, S.D.; Parmigiani, G.; Kinzler, K.W.; Vogelstein, B.; Velculescu, V.E. Integrated analysis of homozygous deletions, fo-cal amplifications, and sequence alterations in breast and colorectal cancers. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U SA*, **2008**, *105*, 16224-16229.
- [49] Natrajan, R.; Warren, W.; Messahel, B.; Reis-Filho, J.S.; Brundler, M.A.; Dome, J.S.; Grundy, P.E.; Vujanic, G.; Pritchard-Jones, K.;

Jones, C. Complex patterns of chromosome 9 alterations including the p16(INK4a) locus in Wilms tumours. J. Clin. Pathol., **2008**, 61, 95-102.

- [50] Bergman, Y. Allelic exclusion in B and T lymphopoiesis. Semin. Immunol., 1999, 11, 319-328.
- [51] Iourov, I.Y.; Vorsanova, S.G.; Yurov, Y.B. Chromosomal variation in mammalian neuronal cells: Known facts and attractive hypotheses. *Int. Rev. Cytol.*, 2006, 249, 143-91.
- [52] Yurov, Y.B.; Iourov, I.Y.; Vorsanova, S.G.; Liehr, T.; Kolotii, A.D.; Kutsev, S.I.; Pellestor, F.; Beresheva, A.K.; Demidova, I.A.; Kravets, V.S.; Monakhov, V.V.; Soloviev, I.V. Aneuploidy and confined chromosomal mosaicism in the developing human brain. *Plos One*, **2007**, *6*, e558.
- [53] Vanneste, E.; Voet, T.; Le Caignec, C.; Ampe, M.; Konings, P.; Melotte, C.; Debrock, S.; Amyere, M.; Vikkula, M.; Schuit, F.; Fryns, J.P.; Verbeke, G.; D'Hooghe, T.; Moreau, Y.; Vermeesch, J.R. Chromosome instability is common in human cleavage-stage embryos. *Nat. Med.*, **2009**, *15*, 577-583.
- [54] Liang, Q.; Conte, N.; Skarnes, W.C.; Bradley, A. Extensive genomic copy number variation in embryonic stem cells. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 2008, 105, 17453-17456.
- [55] Piotrowski, A.; Bruder, C.E.G.; Andersson, R.; de Stahl, T.D.; Menzel, U.; Sandgren, J.; Poplawski, A.; von Tell, D.; Crasto, C.; Bogdan, A.; Bartoszewski, R.; Bebok, Z.; Krzyzanowski, M.; Jankowski, Z.; Partridge, E.C.; Komorowski, J.; Dumanski, J.P. Somatic mosaicism for copy number variation in differentiated human tissues. *Hum. Mutat.*, **2008**, *29*, 1118-1124.
- [56] Bruder, C.E.G.; Piotrowski, A.; Gijsbers, A.; Andersson, R.; Erickson, S.; de Stahl, T.D.; Menzel, U.; Sandgren, J.; von Tell, D.; Poplawski, A.; Crowley, M.; Crasto, C.; Partridge, E.C.; Tiwari, H.; Allison, D.B.; Kornorowski, J.; van Ommen, G.J.B.; Boomsma, D.I.; Pedersen, N.L.; den Dunnen, J.T.; Wirdefeldt, K.; Dumanski, J.P. Phenotypically concordant and discordant monozygotic twins display different DNA copy-number-variation profiles. *Am. J. Med. Genet.*, **2008**, 82, 763-771.
- [57] Mkrtchyan, H.; Gross, M.; Hinreiner, S.; Polytiko, A.; Manvelyan, M.; Mrasek, K.; Kosyakova, N.; Ewers, E.; Nelle, H.; Liehr, T.; Volleth, M.; Weise, A. Early embryonic chromosome instability results in stable mosaic pattern in human tissues. *Plos One*, **2010**, *5*, e9591.
- [58] Weise, A.; Gross, M.; Mrasek, K.; Mkrtchyan, H.; Horsthemke, B.; Jonsrud, C.; Von Eggeling, F.; Hinreiner, S.; Witthuhn, V.; Claussen, U.; Liehr, T. Parental-origin-determination fluorescence in situ hybridization distinguishes homologous human chromosomes on a single-cell level. *Int. J. Mol. Med.*, **2008**, *21*, 189-200.
- [59] Mouse Genome Sequencing Consortium, Waterston, R.H.; Lindblad-Toh, K.; Birney, E.; Rogers, J.; Abril, J.F.; Agarwal, P.; Agarwala, R.; Ainscough, R.; Alexandersson, M.; An, P.; Antonarakis, S.E.; Attwood, J.; Baertsch, R.; Bailey, J.; Barlow, K.; Beck, S.; Berry, E.; Birren, B.; Bloom, T.; Bork, P.; Botcherby, M.; Bray, N.; Brent, M.R.; Brown, D.G.; Brown, S.D.; Bult, C.; Burton, J.; Butler, J.; Campbell, R.D.; Carninci, P.; Cawley, S.; Chiaromonte, F.; Chinwalla, A.T.; Church, D.M.; Clamp, M.; Clee, C.; Collins, F.S.; Cook, L.L.; Copley, R.R.; Coulson, A.; Couronne, O.; Cuff, J.; Curwen, V.; Cutts, T.; Daly, M.; David, R.; Davies, J.; Delehaunty, K.D.; Deri, J.; Dermitzakis, E.T.; Dewey, C.; Dickens, N.J.; Diekhans, M.; Dodge, S.; Dubchak, I.; Dunn, D.M.; Eddy, S.R.; Elnitski, L.; Emes, R.D.; Eswara, P.; Eyras, E.; Felsenfeld, A.; Fewell, G.A.; Flicek, P.; Foley, K.; Frankel, W.N.; Fulton, L.A.; Fulton, R.S.; Furey, T.S.; Gage, D.; Gibbs, R.A.; Glusman, G.; Gnerre, S.; Goldman, N.; Goodstadt, L.; Grafham, D.; Graves, T.A.; Green, E.D.; Gregory, S.; Guigó, R.; Guyer, M.; Hardison, RC.; Haussler, D.; Hayashizaki, Y.; Hillier, L.W.; Hinrichs, A.; Hlavina, W.; Holzer, T.; Hsu, F.; Hua, A.; Hubbard, T.; Hunt, A.; Jackson, I.; Jaffe, D.B.; Johnson, L.S.; Jones, M.; Jones, T.A.; Joy, A.; Kamal, M.; Karlsson, E.K.; Karolchik, D.; Kasprzyk, A.; Kawai, J.; Keibler, E.; Kells, C.; Kent, W.J.; Kirby, A.; Kolbe, D.L.; Korf, I.; Kucherlapati, R.S.; Kulbokas, E.J.; Kulp, D.; Landers, T.; Leger, J.P.; Leonard, S.; Letunic, I.; Levine, R.; Li, J.; Li, M.; Lloyd, C.; Lucas, S.; Ma, B.; Maglott, D.R.; Mardis, E.R.; Matthews, L.; Mauceli, E.; Mayer, J.H.; McCarthy, M.; McCombie, W.R.; McLaren, S.; McLay, K.; McPherson, J.D.; Meldrim, J.; Meredith, B.; Mesirov, J.P.; Miller, W.; Miner, T.L.; Mongin, E.; Montgomery, K.T.; Morgan, M.; Mott, R.; Mullikin, J.C.; Muzny, D.M.; Nash, W.E.; Nelson, J.O.; Nhan, M.N.; Nicol, R.; Ning, Z.; Nusbaum, C.; O'Connor, M.J.; Okazaki, Y.; Oliver, K.; Overton-

Larty, E.; Pachter, L.; Parra, G.; Pepin, K.H.; Peterson, J.; Pevzner, P.; Plumb, R.; Pohl, C.S.; Poliakov, A.; Ponce, T.C.; Ponting, C.P.; Potter, S.; Quail, M.; Reymond, A.; Roe, B.A.; Roskin, K.M.; Rubin, E.M.; Rust, A.G.; Santos, R.; Sapojnikov, V.; Schultz, B.; Schultz, J.; Schwartz, M.S.; Schwartz, S.; Scott, C.; Seaman, S.; Searle, S.; Sharpe, T.; Sheridan, A.; Shownkeen, R.; Sims, S.; Singer, J.B.; Slater, G.; Smit, A.; Smith, D.R.; Spencer, B.; Stabenau, A.; Stange-Thomann, N.; Sugnet, C.; Suyama, M.; Tesler, G.; Thompson, J.; Torrents, D.; Trevaskis, E.; Tromp, J.; Ucla, C.; Ureta-Vidal, A.; Vinson, J.P.; Von Niederhausern, A.C.; Wade, C.M.; Wall, M.; Weber, R.J.; Weiss, R.B.; Wendl, M.C.; West, A.P.; Wetterstrand, K.; Wheeler, R.; Whelan, S.; Wierzbowski, J.; Willey, D.; Williams, S.; Wilson, R.K.; Winter, E.; Worley, K.C.; Wyman, D.; Yang, S.; Yang, S.P.; Zdobnov, E.M.; Zody, M.C.; Lander, E.S. Initial sequencing and comparative analysis of the mouse genome. Nature, 2002, 420, 520-562.

- [60] Evans, M.J.; Kaufman, M.H. Estabishment in culture of pluripotential cells from mouse embryos. *Nature*, **1981**, 292, 154-156.
- [61] Gordon, J.W.; Ruddle, F.H. Integration and stable germ line transmission of genes injected into mouse pronuclei. *Science*, 1981, 214, 1244-1246.
- [62] Doetschman, T.; Gregg, R.G.; Maeda, N.; Hooper, M.L.; Melton, D.W.; Thompson, S.; Smithies, O. Targeted correction of a mutant Hprt gene in mouse embryonic stem-cells. *Nature*, **1987**, *330*, 576-578.
- [63] Thomas, K. R.; Capecchi, M. R. Site-directed mutagenesis by gene targeting in mouse embryo-derived stem-cells. *Cell*, **1987**, *51*, 503-512.
- [64] Sauer, B.; Henderson, N. Site-specific DNA recombination in mammalian-cells by the Cre recombinase of bacteriophage-P1. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **1988**, 85, 5166-5170.
- [65] Sauer, B.; Henderson, N. Cre-stimulated recombination at loxPcontaining DNA sequences placed into the mammalian genome. *Nucleic Acids Res.*, **1989**, *17*, 147-161.
- [66] Sauer, B. Manipulation of transgenes by site-specific recombination - use of Cre recombinase. In *Guide to Techniques in Mouse Development*, **1993**, Vol. 225, pp. 890-900.
- [67] Sternberg, N.; Hamilton, D. Bacteriophage-P1 site-specific recombination. 1. recombination between loxP sites. J. Mol. Biol., 1981, 150, 467-486.
- [68] Gu, H.; Marth, J.D.; Orban, P.C.; Mossmann, H.; Rajewsky, K. Deletion of a DNA-polymerase-beta gene segment in T-cells using cell-type-specific gene targeting. *Science*, **1994**, *265*, 103-106.
- [69] Spitz, F.; Gonzalez, F.; Peichel, C.; Vogt, T.F.; Duboule, D.; Zakany, J. Large scale transgenic and cluster deletion analysis of the HoxD complex separate an ancestral regulatory module from evolutionary innovations. *Genes Dev.*, 2001, 15, 2209-2214.
- [70] Zakany, J.; Duboule, D. Synpolydactyly in mice with a targeted deficiency in the HoxD complex. *Nature*, **1996**, *384*, 69-71.
- [71] Ramirezsolis, R.; Liu, P. T.; Bradley, A. Chromosome engineering in mice. *Nature*, **1995**, *378*, 720-724.
- [72] Olson, L. E.; Richtsmeier, J. T.; Leszl, J.; Reeves, R.H. A chromosome 21 critical region does not cause specific down syndrome phenotypes. *Science*, 2004, 306, 687-690.
- [73] Puech, A.; Saint-Jore, B.; Merscher, S.; Russell, R.G.; Cherif, D.; Sirotkin, H.; Xu, H.; Factor, S.; Kucherlapati, R.; Skoultchi, A.I. Normal cardiovascular development in mice deficient for 16 genes in 550 kb of the velocardiofacial/DiGeorge syndrome region. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **2000**, *97*, 10090-10095.
- [74] Suemori, H.; Noguchi, S. Hox C cluster genes are dispensable for overall body plan of mouse embryonic development. *Dev. Biol.*, 2000, 220, 333-342.
- [75] Kudoh, H.; Ikeda, H.; Kakitani, M.; Ueda, A.; Hayasaka, M.; Tomizuka, K.; Hanaoka, K. A new model mouse for Duchenne muscular dystrophy produced by 2.4 Mb deletion of dystrophin gene using Cre-loxP recombination system. *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 2005, 328, 507-516.
- [76] Li, Z.W.; Stark, G.; Gotz, J.; Rulicke, T.; Gschwind, M.; Huber, G.; Muller, U.; Weissmann, C. Generation of mice with a 200-kb amyloid precursor protein gene deletion by Cre recombinase-mediated site-specific recombination in embryonic stem cells. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **1996**, *93*, 12052-12052.
- [77] Schlake, T.; Schupp, I.; Kutsche, K.; Mincheva, A.; Lichter, P.; Boehm, T. Predetermined chromosomal deletion encompassing the Nf-1 gene. *Oncogene*, **1999**, *18*, 6078-6082.

- [78] Zhu, Y.W.; Jong, M.C.; Frazer, K.A.; Gong, E.; Krauss, R.M.; Cheng, J.F.; Boffelli, D.; Rubin, E.M. Genomic interval engineering of mice identifies a novel modulator of triglyceride production. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **2000**, *97*, 1137-1142.
- [79] Nóbrega, M.; Zhu, Y.; Plajzer-Frick, I.; Afzal, V.; Rubin, E. Megabase deletions of gene deserts result in viable mice. *Nature*, 2004, 431, 988-93.
- [80] Zheng, B.H.; Mills, A.A.; Bradley, A. A system for rapid generation of coat color-tagged knockouts and defined chromosomal rearrangements in mice. *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 1999, 27, 2354-2360.
- [81] Adams, D. J.; Biggs, P. J.; Cox, T.; Davies, R.; van der Weyden, L.; Jonkers, J.; Smith, J.; Plumb, B.; Taylor, R.; Nishijima, I.; Yu, Y. J.; Rogers, J.; Bradley, A. Mutagenic insertion and chromosome engineering resource (MICER). *Nat. Genet.*, **2004**, *36*, 867-871.
- [82] Su, H.; Wang, X. H.; Bradley, A. Nested chromosomal deletions induced with retroviral vectors in mice. *Nat. Genet.*, 2000, 24, 92-95.
- [83] Zheng, B. H.; Mills, A. A.; Bradley, A. Introducing defined chromosomal rearrangements into the mouse genome. *Methods*, 2001, 24, 81-94.
- [84] Yu, Y. J.; Bradley, A. Engineering chromosomal rearrangements in mice. Nat. Rev. Genet., 2001, 2, 780-790.
- [85] Baubonis, W.; Sauer, B. Genomic targeting with purified cre recombinase. *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 1993, 21, 2025-2029.
- [86] Liu, P. T.; Zhang, H. J.; McLellan, A.; Vogel, H.; Bradley, A. Embryonic lethality and tumorigenesis caused by segmental aneuploidy on mouse chromosome 11. *Genetics*, **1998**, *150*, 1155-1168.
- [87] Zheng, B. H.; Sage, M.; Sheppeard, E. A.; Jurecic, V.; Bradley, A. Engineering mouse chromosomes with Cre-loxP: Range, efficiency, and somatic applications. *Mol. Cell. Biol.*, 2000, 20, 648-655.
- [88] Lindsay, E. A.; Botta, A.; Jurecic, V.; Carattini-Rivera, S.; Cheah, Y. C.; Rosenblatt, H. M.; Bradley, A.; Baldini, A. Congenital heart disease in mice deficient for the DiGeorge syndrome region. *Nature*, **1999**, *401*, 379-383.
- [89] Lindsay, E. A.; Vitelli, F.; Su, H.; Morishima, M.; Huynh, T.; Pramparo, T.; Jurecic, V.; Ogunrinu, G.; Sutherland, H. F.; Scambler, P. J.; Bradley, A.; Baldini, A. Tbx1 haploinsufficiency in the DiGeorge syndrome region causes aortic arch defects in mice. *Nature*, 2001, 410, 97-101.
- [90] Jerome, L. A.; Papaioannou, V. E. DiGeorge syndrome phenotype in mice mutant for the T-box gene, Tbx1. *Nat. Genet.*, 2001, 27, 286-291.
- [91] Davisson, M. T.; Schmidt, C.; Akeson, E. C. Segmental trisomy of murine chromosome-16 - a new model system for studying downsyndrome. *Prog. Clin. Biol. Res.*, **1990**, 360, 263-280.
- [92] Reeves, R. H.; Irving, N. G.; Moran, T. H.; Wohn, A.; Kitt, C.; Sisodia, S. S.; Schmidt, C.; Bronson, R. T.; Davisson, M. T. A mouse model for down-syndrome exhibits learning and behavior deficits. *Nat. Genet.*, **1995**, *11*, 177-184.
- [93] Sago, H.; Carlson, E. J.; Smith, D. J.; Kilbridge, J.; Rubin, E. M.; Mobley, W. C.; Epstein, C. J.; Huang, T. T. Ts1Cje, a partial trisomy 16 mouse model for Down syndrome, exhibits learning and behavioral abnormalities. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **1998**, *95*, 6256-6261.
- [94] Olson, L. E.; Roper, R. J.; Sengstaken, C. L.; Peterson, E. A.; Aquino, V.; Galdzicki, Z.; Siarey, R.; Pletnikov, M.; Moran, T. H.; Reeves, R. H. Trisomy for the Down syndrome 'critical region' is necessary but not sufficient for brain phenotypes of trisomic mice. *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, 2007, 16, 774-782.
- [95] Pereira, P. L.; Magnol, L.; Sahun, I.; Brault, V.; Duchon, A.; Prandini, P.; Gruart, A.; Bizot, J. C.; Chadefaux-Vekemans, B.; Deutsch, S.; Trovero, F.; Delgado-Garcia, J. M.; Antonarakis, S. E.; Dierssen, M.; Herault, Y. A new mouse model for the trisomy of the Abcg1-U2af1 region reveals the complexity of the combinatorial genetic code of down syndrome. *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, **2009**, *18*, 4756-4769.
- [96] Walz, K.; Caratini-Rivera, S.; Bi, W. M.; Fonseca, P.; Mansouri, D. L.; Lynch, J.; Vogel, H.; Noebels, J. L.; Bradley, A.; Lupski, J. R. Modeling del(17)(p11.2p11.2) and dup(17)(p11.2p11.2) contiguous gene syndromes by chromosome engineering in mice: Phenotypic consequences of gene dosage imbalance. *Mol. Cell. Biol.*, 2003, 23, 3646-3655.
- [97] Walz, K.; Spencer, C.; Kaasik, K.; Lee, C. C.; Lupski, J. R.; Paylor, R. Behavioral characterization of mouse models for Smith-Magenis

syndrome and dup(17)(p11.2p11.2). *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, **2004**, *13*, 367-378.

- [98] Yan, J.; Keener, V. W.; Bi, W. M.; Walz, K.; Bradley, A.; Justice, M. J.; Lupski, J. R. Reduced penetrance of craniofacial anomalies as a function of deletion size and genetic background in a chromosome engineered partial mouse model for Smith-Magenis syndrome. *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, 2004, *13*, 2613-2624.
- [99] Bi, W. M.; Ohyama, T.; Nakamura, H.; Yan, J.; Visvanathan, J.; Justice, M. J.; Lupski, J. R. Inactivation of Rai1 in mice recapitulates phenotypes observed in chromosome engineered mouse models for Smith-Magenis syndrome. *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, 2005, 14, 983-995.
- [100] Tsai, T. F.; Jiang, Y. H.; Bressler, J.; Armstrong, D.; Beaudet, A. L. Paternal deletion from Snrpn to Ube3a in the mouse causes hypotonia, growth retardation and partial lethality and provides evidence for a gene contributing to Prader-Willi syndrome. *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, **1999**, *8*, 1357-1364.
- [101] Smith, A. J. H.; Desousa, M. A.; Kwabiaddo, B.; Heppellparton, A.; Impey, H.; Rabbitts, P. A site-directed chromosomal translocation induced in embryonic stem-cells by cre-loxp recombination. *Nat. Genet.*, **1995**, *9*, 376-385.
- [102] Smith, A. J. H.; Xian, J.; Richardson, M.; Johnstone, K. A.; Rabbitts, P. H. Cre-loxP chromosome engineering of a targeted deletion in the mouse corresponding to the 3p21.3 region of homozygous loss in human tumours. *Oncogene*, **2002**, *21*, 4521-4529.
- [103] Vandeursen, J.; Fornerod, M.; Vanrees, B.; Grosveld, G. Cremediated site-specific translocation between nonhomologous mouse chromosomes. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **1995**, *92*, 7376-7380.
- [104] Koike, H.; Horie, K.; Fukuyama, H.; Kondoh, G.; Nagata, S.; Takeda, J. Efficient biallelic mutagenesis with Cre/loxP-mediated inter-chromosomal recombination. *EMBO Rep.*, 2002, *3*, 433-437.
- [105] Biggs, P. J.; Vogel, H.; Sage, M.; Martin, L. A.; Donehower, L. A.; Bradley, A. Allelic phasing of a mouse chromosome 11 deficiency influences p53 tumorigenicity. *Oncogene*, **2003**, *22*, 3288-3296.
- [106] Nakatani, J.; Tamada, K.; Hatanaka, F.; Ise, S.; Ohta, H.; Inoue, K.; Tomonaga, S.; Watanabe, Y.; Chung, Y. J.; Banerjee, R.; Iwamoto, K.; Kato, T.; Okazawa, M.; Yamauchi, K.; Tanda, K.; Takao, K.; Miyakawa, T.; Bradley, A.; Takumi, T. Abnormal Behavior in a Chromosome-Engineered Mouse Model for Human 15q11-13 Duplication Seen in Autism. *Cell*, **2009**, *137*, 1235-1246.
- [107] Beaudet, A. L. Autism: highly heritable but not inherited. *Nat. Med.*, 2007, 13, 534-536.
- [108] Herault, Y.; Rassoulzadegan, M.; Cuzin, F.; Duboule, D. Engineering chromosomes in mice through targeted meiotic recombination (TAMERE). *Nat. Genet.*, **1998**, *20*, 381-384.
- [109] Lewandoski, M.; Wassarman, K. M.; Martin, G. R. Zp3-cre, a transgenic mouse line for the activation or inactivation of loxPflanked target genes specifically in the female germ line. *Curr. Biol.*, **1997**, *7*, 148-151.
- [110] de Vries, W. N.; Binns, L. T.; Fancher, K. S.; Dean, J.; Moore, R.; Kemler, R.; Knowles, B. B. Expression of Cre recombinase in mouse oocytes: A means to study maternal effect genes. *Genesis*, 2000, 26, 110-112.
- [111] O'Gorman, S.; Dagenais, N. A.; Qian, M.; Marchuk, Y. Protamine-Cre recombinase transgenes efficiently recombine target sequences in the male germ line of mice, but not in embryonic stem cells. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **1997**, *94*, 14602-14607.
- [112] Dupe, V.; Davenne, M.; Brocard, J.; Dolle, P.; Mark, M.; Dierich, A.; Chambon, P.; Rijli, F. M. *In vivo* functional analysis of the Hoxa-1 3' retinoic acid response element (3'RARE). *Development*, **1997**, *124*, 399-410.
- [113] Soriano, P. Generalized lacZ expression with the ROSA26 Cre reporter strain. *Nat. Genet.*, **1999**, *21*, 70-71.
- [114] Tang, S. H. E.; Silva, F. J.; Tsark, W. M. K.; Mann, J. R. A Cre/loxP-deleter transgenic line in mouse strain 129S1/SvImJ. *Genesis*, 2002, 32, 199-202.
- [115] Zakany, J.; Kmita, M.; Duboule, D. A dual role for Hox genes in limb anterior-posterior asymmetry. *Science*, 2004, 304, 1669-1672.
- [116] Kmita, M.; Kondo, T.; Duboule, D. Targeted inversion of a polar silencer within the HoxD complex re-allocates domains of enhancer sharing. *Nat. Genet.*, 2000, 26, 451-454.
- [117] Stemmler, M. P.; Hecht, A.; Kemler, R. E-cadherin intron 2 contains cis-regulatory elements essential for gene expression. *Development*, 2005, 132, 965-976.

- [118] Spitz, F.; Herkenne, C.; Morris, M. A.; Duboule, D. Inversioninduced disruption of the Hoxd cluster leads to the partition of regulatory landscapes. *Nat. Genet.*, 2005, *37*, 889-893.
- [119] Kmita, M.; van der Hoeven, F.; Zakany, J.; Krumlauf, R.; Duboule, D. Mechanisms of Hox gene colinearity: transposition of the anterior Hoxb1 gene into the posterior HoxD complex. *Genes Dev.*, 2000, 14, 198-211.
- [120] Besson, V.; Brault, V.; Duchon, A.; Togbe, D.; Bizot, J. C.; Quesniaux, V. F. J.; Ryffel, B.; Herault, Y. Modeling the monosomy for the telomeric part of human chromosome 21 reveals haploinsufficient genes modulating the inflammatory and airway responses. *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, **2007**, *16*, 2040-2052.
- [121] Wu, S.; Ying, G.; Wu, Q.; Capecchi, M.R. Toward simpler and faster genome-wide mutagenesis in mice. *Nat. Genet.*, 2007, 39, 922-930.
- [122] Merscher, S.; Funke, B.; Epstein, J.A.; Heyer, J.; Puech, A.; Lu, M.M.; Xavier, R.J.; Demay, M.B.; Russell, R.G.; Factor, S.; Tokooya, K.; Jore, B.S.; Lopez, M.; Pandita, R.K.; Lia, M.; Carrion, D.; Xu, H.; Schorle, H.; Kobler, J.B.; Scambler, P.; Wynshaw-Boris, A.; Skoultchi, A.I.; Morrow, B.E.; Kucherlapati, R. TBX1 is responsible for cardiovascular defects in velo-cardiofacial/DiGeorge syndrome. *Cell*, **2001**, *104*, 619-629.
- [123] Vidal, F.; Sage, J.; Cuzin, F.; Rassoulzadegan, M. Cre expression in primary spermatocytes: a tool for genetic engineering of the germ line. *Mol. Reprod. Dev.*, **1998**, *51*, 274-280.
- [124] Herault, Y.; Kmita, M.; Sawaya, C.C.; Duboule, D. A nested deletion approach to generate Cre deleter mice with progressive Hox profiles. *Int. J. Dev. Biol.* 2002, *46*, 185-191.
- [125] Genoud, N.; Behrens, A.; Miele, G.; Robay, D.; Heppner, F.L.; Freigang, S.; Aguzzi, A. Disruption of Doppel prevents neurodegeneration in mice with extensive Prnp deletions. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 2004, 101, 4198-4203.
- [126] Olson, L.E.; Tien, J.; South, S.; Reeves, R.H. Long-range chromosomal engineering is more efficient *in vitro* than *in vivo*. *Transgenic Res.*, 2005, 14, 325-332.
- [127] Kmita, M.; Fraudeau, N.; Herault, Y.; Duboule, D. Serial deletions and duplications suggest a mechanism for the collinearity of Hoxd genes in limbs. *Nature*, 2002, 420, 145-150.
- [128] Kmita, M.; Tarchini, B.; Duboule, D.; Herault, Y. Evolutionary conserved sequences are required for the insulation of the vertebrate Hoxd complex in neural cells. *Development*, 2002, 129, 5521-5528.
- [129] Buchholz, F.; Ringrose, L.; Angrand, P.O.; Rossi, F.; Stewart, A.F. Different thermostabilities of FLP and Cre recombinases: implications for applied site-specific recombination. *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 1996, 24, 4256-4262.
- [130] Sauer, B.; McDermott, J. DNA recombination with a heterospecific Cre homolog identified from comparison of the pac-c1 regions of P1-related phages. *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 2004, 32, 6086-6095.
- [131] Anastassiadis, K.; Fu, J.; Patsch, C.; Hu, S.B.; Weidlich, S.; Duerschke, K.; Buchholz, F.; Edenhofer, F.; Stewart, A.F. Dre recombinase, like Cre, is a highly efficient site-specific recombinase in E. coli, mammalian cells and mice. *Dis. Model. Mech.*, 2009, 2, 508-515.
- [132] Schaft, J.; Ashery-Padan, R.; van der Hoeven, F.; Gruss, P.; Stewart, A.F. Efficient FLP recombination in mouse ES cells and oocytes. *Genesis*, **2001**, *31*, 6-10.
- [133] Xu, Z.; Lee, N.C.O.; Dafhnis-Calas, F.; Malla, S.; Smith, M.C.M.; Brown, W.R.A. Site-specific recombination in Schizosaccharomyces pombe and systematic assembly of a 400kb transgene array in mammalian cells using the integrase of Streptomyces phage phiBT1. *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 2008, 36, e9.
- [134] Horie, K.; Kuroiwa, A.; Ikawa, M.; Okabe, M.; Kondoh, G.; Matsuda, Y.; Takeda, J. Efficient chromosomal transposition of a Tc1/mariner- like transposon Sleeping Beauty in mice. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 2001, *98*, 9191-9196.
- [135] Horie, K.; Yusa, K.; Yae, K.; Odajima, J.; Fischer, S.E.J.; Keng, V.W.; Hayakawa, T.; Mizuno, S.; Kondoh, G.; Ijiri, T.; Matsuda, Y.; Plasterk, R.H.A.; Takeda, J. Characterization of Sleeping Beauty transposition and its application to genetic screening in mice. *Mol. Cell. Biol.*, **2003**, *23*, 9189-9207.
- [136] Carlson, C. M.; Dupuy, A.; Fritz, S.; Roberg-Perez, K.; Fletcher, C. F.; Largaespada, D. A. Transposon mutagenesis of the mouse germline. *Genetics*, **2003**, *165*, 243-256.
- [137] Collier, L.S.; Carlson, C.M.; Ravimohan, S.; Dupuy, A.J.; Largaespada, D.A. Cancer gene discovery in solid tumours using

transposon-based somatic mutagenesis in the mouse. *Nature*, **2005**, *436*, 272-276.

- [138] Ding, S.; Wu, X. H.; Li, G.; Han, M.; Zhuang, Y.; Xu, T. Efficient transposition of the piggyBac (PB) transposon in mammalian cells and mice. *Cell*, 2005, *122*, 473-483.
- [139] Dupuy, A.J.; Fritz, S.; Largaespada, D.A. Transposition and gene disruption in the male germline of the mouse. *Genesis*, 2001, 30, 82-88.
- [140] Keng, V.W.; Yae, K.; Hayakawa, T.; Mizuno, S.; Uno, Y.; Yusa, K.; Kokubu, C.; Kinoshita, T.; Akagi, K.; Jenkins, N.A.; Copeland, N.G.; Horie, K.; Takeda, J. Region-specific saturation germline mutagenesis in mice using the Sleeping Beauty transposon system. *Nat. Methods*, **2005**, *2*, 763-769.
- [141] Geurts, A.M.; Collier, L.S.; Geurts, J.L.; Oseth, L.L.; Bell, M.L.; Mu, D.; Lucito, R.; Godbout, S.A.; Green, L.E.; Lowe, S.W.; Hirsch, B.A.; Leinwand, L.A.; Largaespada, D.A. Gene mutations and genomic rearrangements in the mouse as a result of transposon mobilization from chromosomal concatemers. *Plos Genet.*, 2006, 2, 1413-1423.
- [142] Ivics, Z.; Hackett, P.B.; Plasterk, R.H.; Izsvak, Z. Molecular reconstruction of Sleeping Beauty, a Tc1-like transposon from fish, and its transposition in human cells. *Cell*, **1997**, *91*, 501-510.
- [143] Hahnemann, J.M.; Vejerslev, L.O. European collaborative research on mosaicism in CVS (EUCROMIC)--fetal and extrafetal cell lineages in 192 gestations with CVS mosaicism involving single autosomal trisomy. Am. J. Med. Genet., 1997, 70, 179-187.
- [144] Allanson, J.E.; Ohara, P.; Farkas, L.G.; Nair, R.C. Anthropometric craniofacial pattern profiles in Down syndrome. *Am. J. Med. Genet.*, 1993, 47, 748-752.
- [145] Cheung, S.W.; Shaw, C.A.; Scott, D.A.; Patel, A.; Sahoo, T.; Bacino, C.A.; Pursley, A.; Li, J.; Erickson, R.; Gropman, A.L.; Miller, D.T.; Seashore, M.R.; Summers, A.M.; Stankiewicz, P.; Chinault, A.C.; Lupski, J.R.; Beaudet, A.L.; Sutton, V.R. Microarray-based CGH detects chromosomal mosaicism not revealed by conventional cytogenetics. *Am. J. Med. Genet. A*, 2007, 143A, 1679-1686.
- [146] Kingsbury, M.A.; Yung, Y.C.; Peterson, S.E.; Westra, J.W.; Chun, J. Aneuploidy in the normal and diseased brain. *Cell. Mol. Life Sci.*, 2006, 63, 2626-2641.
- [147] Rehen, S.K.; Yung, Y.C.; McCreight, M.P.; Kaushal, D.; Yang, A.H.; Almeida, B.S.V.; Kingsbury, M.A.; Cabral, K.M.S.; McConnell, M.J.; Anliker, B.; Fontanoz, M.; Chun, J. Constitutional aneuploidy in the normal human brain. J. Neurosci., 2005, 25, 2176-2180.
- [148] Yurov, Y.B.; Iourov, I.Y.; Vorsanova, S.G.; Demidova, I.A.; Kravetz, V.S.; Beresheva, A.K.; Kolotii, A.D.; Monakchov, V.V.; Uranova, N.A.; Vostrikov, V.A.; Soloviev, I.V.; Liehr, T. The schizophrenia brain exhibits low-level aneuploidy involving chromosome 1. Schizophr. Res., 2008, 98, 139-147.
- [149] Zong, H.; Espinosa, S.; Su, H.H.; Muzumdar, M.D.; Luo, L.Q. Mosaic analysis with double markers in mice. *Cell*, 2005, 121, 479-492.
- [150] Duchon, A.; Besson, V.; Pereira, P.L.; Magnol, L.; Herault, Y. Inducing segmental aneuploid mosaicism in the mouse through targeted asymmetric sister chromatid event of recombination. *Genetics*, 2008, 180, 51-59.
- [151] Liu, P.T.; Jenkins, N.A.; Copeland, N.G. Efficient Cre-loxPinduced mitotic recombination in mouse embryonic stem cells. *Nat. Genet.*, 2002, 30, 66-72.
- [152] Losada, A.; Hirano, M.; Hirano, T. Cohesin release is required for sister chromatid resolution, but not for condensin-mediated compaction, at the onset of mitosis. *Genes Dev.*, **2002**, *16*, 3004-3016.
- Takata, H.; Matsunaga, S.; Morimoto, A.; Ma, N.; Kurihara, D.; Ono-Maniwa, R.; Nakagawa, M.; Azuma, T.; Uchiyama, S.; Fukui, K. PHB2 protects sister-chromatid cohesion in mitosis. *Curr. Biol.*, 2007, *17*, 1356-1361.
- [154] Leneuve, P.; Colnot, S.; Hamard, G.; Francis, F.; Niwa-Kawakita, M.; Giovannini, M.; Holzenberger, M. Cre-mediated germline mosaicism: a new transgenic mouse for the selective removal of residual markers from tri-lox conditional alleles. *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 2003, 31, e21.
- [155] Modi, D.; Bhartiya, D. Y chromosome mosaicism and occurrence of gonadoblastoma in cases of Turner syndrome and amenorrhoea. *Reprod. Biomed. Online*, **2007**, *15*, 547-553.
- [156] Weaver, B.A.A.; Cleveland, D.W. Aneuploidy: instigator and inhibitor of tumorigenesis. *Cancer Res.*, 2007, 67, 10103-10105.

- [157] Arnoldus, E.P.J.; Peters, A.C.B.; Bots, G.; Vanderploeg, M. Somatic pairing of chromosome 1 centromeres in interphase nuclei of human cerebellum. *Hum. Genet.*, **1989**, *83*, 231-234.
- [158] Yurov, Y.B.; Lourov, I.Y.; Monakhov, V.V.; Kolotii, A.D.; Demidova, E.A.; Beresheva, A.K.; Kravets, V.S.; Kutsev, S.I.; Vorsanova, S.G. The variation of aneuploidy frequency and somatic chromosome pairing in fetal human brain. *Chromosome Res.*, 2005, 13, 53-54.
- [159] Westra, J.W.; Peterson, S.E.; Yung, Y.C.; Mutoh, T.; Barral, S.; Chun, J. Aneuploid mosaicism in the developing and adult cerebellar cortex. J. Comp. Neurol., 2008, 507, 1944-1951.
- [160] Muotri, A.R.; Gage, F.H. Generation of neuronal variability and complexity. *Nature*, 2006, 441, 1087-1093.