

FUNCTIONAL MICROPROTEINS

Advances in DNA sequencing technologies, particularly long-read sequencing, have revolutionized the study of the transcriptome, revealing thousands of small transcripts previously categorized as noncoding. This reclassification is partly due to the presence of noncanonical open reading frames (ORFs) within these transcripts.

A major challenge of uncovering the functions of these small transcripts remains. In a recent paper published in *Trends in Genetics*, Azam et al. (1) leveraged CRISPR-Cas9 to knock out microproteins in cell culture systems. Their approach uncovered the involvement of over 1,000 microproteins in regulating cell proliferation.

1. [https://www.cell.com/trends/genetics/abstract/S0168-9525\(24\)00298-1?_returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS0168952524002981%3Fshowall%3Dtrue](https://www.cell.com/trends/genetics/abstract/S0168-9525(24)00298-1?_returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS0168952524002981%3Fshowall%3Dtrue)