

CRISPR-Cas9 ON DEMAND

Conditional gene knockout in mice is a technique in which a specific gene is knocked out at will by the administration of an appropriate substance to an adult knockout mouse. A paper in [Science](#) describes a CRISPR-Cas9 system, which the authors call very fast CRISPR (vfCRISPR) that can be activated by light. The system is described as “a caged RNA strategy that allows Cas9 to bind DNA but not cleave until light-induced activation”. In this paper the technology is used to induce double strand breaks in order to study DNA repair mechanisms. This may be a beginning of a new direction of CRISPR-Cas9 applications.