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## Localized transfection on arrays of magnetic beads coated with PCR products

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### Abstract

High-throughput gene analysis would benefit from new approaches for delivering DNA or RNA into cells. Here we describe a simple system that allows any molecular biology laboratory to carry out multiple, parallel cell transfections on microscope coverslip arrays. By using magnetically defined positions and PCR product-coated paramagnetic beads, we achieved transfection in a variety of cell lines. Beads may be added to the cells at any time, allowing both spatial and temporal control of transfection. Because the beads may be coated with more than one gene construct, the method can be used to achieve cotransfection within single cells. Furthermore, PCR-generated mutants may be conveniently screened, bypassing cloning and plasmid purification steps. We illustrated the applicability of the method by screening combinatorial peptide libraries, fused to GFP, to identify previously unknown cellular localization motifs. In this way, we identified several localizing peptides, including structured localization signals based around the scaffold of a single C2H2 zinc finger.

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Site-localized transfection in microarrays<sup>1,2</sup> is a powerful technique to facilitate large-scale genetic analysis or to screen protein libraries<sup>3</sup>. The increasing application of genome-wide experiments, involving RNAi<sup>4</sup> or the study of gene interactions<sup>5</sup>, requires efficient multicomponent gene delivery and would therefore benefit from new methods to construct transfection arrays<sup>6</sup>. By defining spatial patterns of gene expression on a culture plate, gene activities can be rapidly assayed, either individually or combinatorially. Furthermore, by expressing genes in different locations in a cell culture, one could construct elaborate interacting networks of ‘differentiated’ cells, or synthetic gene networks<sup>7,8</sup>, for artificial tissue-engineering applications.

To construct transfection arrays, we have developed a PCR-based method that takes advantage of streptavidin-biotin linkage to position genes. We generated PCR products of mammalian gene expression constructs using a biotinylated forward primer, which can bind to streptavidin-coated paramagnetic beads. Thus, by arraying ‘spots’ of beads over magnets, fixed either in a plasticine matrix or in a specially constructed transfection chamber, we can define transfection patterns at will (Fig. 1a,b).

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## RESULTS

### PCR transfection arrays with fluorescent protein genes

Initially, we tested the PCR product–bead transfection method with genes expressing the fluorescent proteins EGFP9 and HcRed10 (Fig. 1). For optimal mammalian expression, templates included a 5′ human cytomegalovirus (CMV) immediate early promoter and a 3′ SV40 early mRNA polyadenylation signal<sup>11</sup>. We typically immobilized 300 ng of purified PCR product DNA (1.6 kilobase pairs) with 5 μl beads, incubated with transfection reagent (Effectene; Qiagen), diluted appropriately (typically to 50 μl) and dispensed in 1-μl spots over magnet positions in a HEK293 cell monolayer (Fig. 1b,c). We dispensed beads manually, with a pipetting technique very similar to loading an electrophoretic gel.

We judged transfection by visual inspection to detect green fluorescent cells. As expected, GFP was only detected over magnetic spots (generally, we observed 250–400 transfected cells per spot when using the standard protocol for HEK293 cells). In control transfections with non–DNA coated magnetic beads or with beads incubated with the plasmid encoding GFP (but otherwise treated identically, including washing steps), we observed no transfectants. We were also unable to detect transfection in cells between magnetic spot areas, indicating that the magnets attracted the beads sufficiently strongly to prevent transfection outside the magnet boundary. Moreover, the parallel north-south pole arrangement of magnets created mutually repulsive fields between spots, ensuring that beads remained tightly localized and did not migrate between adjacent magnets.

For estimating transfection efficiencies, we counted cells by eye in an inverted microscope, using a 40× objective, with 100–200 cells in each field of view. For three independent experiments (three spots each, three fields of view per spot), the transfection efficiencies in HEK293 with 6 ng PCR product per spot were  $57 \pm 5\%$ ;  $58 \pm 4\%$  and  $61 \pm 6\%$  (mean  $\pm$  1 s.d.).

We tested varying dosages of PCR product–coated beads to establish optimal transfection conditions. For the majority of concentrations tested (range: 0.5–12 ng PCR product per spot), the average transfection efficiency was  $62 \pm 7\%$  (mean  $\pm$  1 s.d.). Notably, the efficiency varied with bead distribution: the use of fewer beads resulted in reduced spot size, but did not reduce the local efficiency in bead-rich areas. However, for higher concentrations of beads with DNA ( $> 15$  ng per spot) the transfection efficiency dropped substantially, perhaps because of transfection reagent toxicity. Notably, transfections were observed even in the absence of transfection reagent, albeit with very low efficiency (data not shown).

### Transfection efficiencies in various cell lines

Previous studies of transfection microarrays with plasmids<sup>1</sup> or small interfering RNAs (siRNAs)<sup>2</sup> have primarily used HEK293 cells because they transfect with high efficiency, although their low adherence can be a problem in handling arrays. Using other cell lines, 30–50% efficiency of transfection with plasmids in HeLa and A549 cells has been reported<sup>1</sup>, and another group has achieved higher efficiency with siRNAs: COS7L (70%), MCF7 or HeLa (80–90%) and HEK293 (95%)<sup>2</sup>. To compare our PCR product–bead methods to these systems, we carried out transfections with COS7, NIH3T3 and HeLa cells. These cell lines were initially harder to transfect (giving  $< 100$  transfectants per spot with the standard protocol, compared with 250–400 for HEK293). By optimizing the protocol (see Methods, alternative transfection method), we achieved 100–200 transfected cells per spot. Although this corresponds to transfection efficiencies around 30%, the number of transfectants in these cell lines would be sufficient for peptide screening applications, such

as those described below. HEK293 cells were used in all of the following experiments unless otherwise stated.

### Simultaneous transfection of multiple PCR products

To examine the potential of the system to cotransfect more than one gene, we coated beads with equimolar mixtures of PCR-amplified EGFP and HcRed genes and found that the majority of transfected cells expressed both genes (Fig. 1d; 75% of fluorescent cells apparently express both genes, 15% only EGFP, 10% only HcRed). Cotransfection is required in a variety of experiments, for example in mammalian two-hybrid screens<sup>12</sup>, in which library and reporter constructs must be simultaneously introduced into cells. The PCR product–bead approach has the potential to be applied to such experiments, and unlike with preprinted transfection arrays, the beads can be added at any time point or points during the growth of the cells on the coverslip.

### Screening PCR-introduced mutations directly

Because PCR product transfection may be used to construct and screen mutants directly, we amplified EGFP with primers that introduced wild-type or mutant SV40 nuclear localization signals (NLS)<sup>13</sup>. The arrays clearly resolve the different phenotypes (Fig. 1e), proving that PCR-introduced mutations can be scanned simply, avoiding subcloning steps. The method is therefore ideally suited to carry out screenings: PCR primers can be used to introduce individual peptide tags, which can be directly screened for cellular phenotypes. Alternatively, colony PCR could be used to screen individual clones from pre-existing combinatorially randomized protein libraries<sup>14</sup>, bypassing plasmid purification steps.

### Screening peptide libraries by PCR product–bead transfection

To investigate the suitability of our approach for functional sequence screening, we carried out screens from libraries of random peptides fused to EGFP3. First, we built a ‘KESL’ library, coding for 256 hexapeptide combinations of the amino acids lysine, glutamic acid, serine and lysine, linked to the C terminus of EGFP via two prolines (for example, PP-KSKLEK). This library design was expected to incorporate several potential targeting signals, including a peroxisomal localization signal (SKL<sup>15</sup>), variant NLSs<sup>16</sup> (for example, library variant PPKKKKKL) and an endoplasmic reticulum targeting signal related to KDEL<sup>17</sup> (library variant KEEL).

Five separate localizing species were obtained by screening 360 colony PCRs of the KESL libraries, using the 96-magnet chamber (Fig. 2 and Table 1). Two clones resulted in nuclear localization, and their products contained mainly lysine residues, which might be expected to act as NLSs (named by plate and well number: 3C7, PPKKKLKL; 3B4, PPEKKKKL). Another nuclear localizing peptide was more unusual, with two consecutive acidic residues (6C4, PPKKEEKL). Next, we found a clone with an SKL peroxisome targeting signal (3F4, PPESKLKE; Fig. 2b). This clone gave a maculate phenotype, consistent with peroxisomal distribution<sup>18</sup>. Two other clones, 3G2 and 3H3, also resulted in similar morphology and resembled the peroxisome signal sequence, encoding the peptide PPKKSLLL.

Next, we constructed a more complex peptide library (library random; Lrm). We built the Lrm gene cassette through PCR of an 85-bp oligonucleotide containing NNS codon repeats (where S = G or C; see Methods) and blunt-cloned it to the N terminus of EGFP. Although the theoretical library size is large, and it would be impossible to clone such a library exhaustively, even extremely low-coverage sampling of a complex library can yield interesting results. In fact, screening only 48 Lrm colonies was sufficient to discover two clones with distinct phenotypes.

First, the clone 11A10 gene product showed a characteristic nuclear aggregate distribution (Fig. 2c). Small aggregates were detectable next to the nuclear membrane after 24 h, and larger bodies were observed around condensed mitotic DNA by 45 h. Notably, the protein sequence of 11A10 (Table 1) is particularly hydrophobic, which may favor protein aggregation.

Second, the clone 11B10 gene product was mitochondrially distributed (Fig. 2d). Sequence analysis, using the sublocalization predictor TargetP19, gave a very high score for mitochondrial localization (0.891). Furthermore, the helical predictor AGADIR20 revealed that regions within the peptide (LTKKLLNQV and SIRALNIACWR) have a propensity for forming amphiphilic helices, which are associated with mitochondrial localization. Notably, a FASTA3 (ref. 21) search of the UNIPROT database for the 11B10 protein sequence found a degree of identity (40% identity; expectation value (E()) = 2.3) for a putative *Giardia lamblia* protein (UNIPROT Q7QQY8 (ref. 22); Table 1).

We also constructed a more structured peptide library around a scaffold of finger 1 of the zinc finger protein, Zif268 (ref. 23). By screening 60 clones with the PCR product–bead method, we found two clones with a maculate cytoplasmic distribution, very similar to the peroxisomal distribution seen for 3F4 from the Lrm library (10A6 and 10A12; Fig. 2b and Table 1). The zinc fingers had noticeably hydrophobic  $\alpha$ -helices, perhaps involved in membrane or protein-protein interactions<sup>24</sup>, and a FASTA3 identity search<sup>21</sup> revealed 61% identity to uncharacterized murine zinc finger proteins (Table 1; UNIPROT AAH66874, E() = 7.3, and UNIPROT Q8BSI2, E() = 39; although the latter E() value is poor, the residues in  $\alpha$ -helical positions –1, 2, 3 and 6 of a zinc finger are functionally the most important<sup>14</sup>, and these residues matched well).

Although we did not characterize the specific cytoplasmic sublocalization of the 10A6 and 10A12 zinc fingers, staining for lysosomes or mitochondria ruled out targeting to these compartments (Fig. 2e). To our knowledge, these two clones provide the first example of non-nuclear cellular localization signals in classical C2H2 zinc fingers<sup>25</sup>. Even though C2H2 zinc fingers are the second most common protein motif in the human genome, found in over 700 proteins<sup>26</sup>, the majority of their functions remain largely unknown. It would therefore be interesting to characterize clones 10A6 and 10A12 further, along with their mouse zinc finger homologs.

## DISCUSSION

We have developed a new method to allow simultaneous transfection of multiple gene constructs in a cell culture, with spatial definition. Unlike conventional transfection methods, which use plasmid DNA, this method uses PCR products, thereby greatly reducing the amount of time it takes to mutagenize or screen peptide libraries in an array format. Recently, an elegant method of creating plasmid microarrays by printing gelatin-DNA mixtures with a robotic arrayer was reported<sup>1,27</sup>. Although this printing technique produces higher-density arrays than the magnetic arrays we used, we have found PCR product–bead transfection to be a practical alternative, which can be implemented by any laboratory without sophisticated robotic equipment. Although hand-pipetting gelatin-DNA mixtures onto a glass coverslip is also possible, we have not been able to generate very efficient or reliable transfections using PCR products with this method. Our best results achieve no more than 20 transfectants per DNA spot (with 60 ng/ $\mu$ l DNA spotting solution), using an alternative lipid-DNA method (see Supplementary Information in ref. 1).

An alternative to coverslip microarrays is to use well-based transfection, which is established for high throughput<sup>28</sup>. We have achieved PCR product transfection in 96-well

plates with slightly higher efficiencies than with bead spots, although lower than for standard plasmid transfection (PCR transfection efficiencies in wells: HEK 293: 65%, NIH3t3: 44%, Cos7: 56%, HeLa: 46%; efficiencies using GFP-plasmid with Effectene: HEK 293: 65–80%, NIH3t3: 40–50%, Cos7: 40–50%, HeLa: 50–70%).

Plates are potentially easier to handle than coverslips because assays can be automated with standard pipetting robots and sample cross-contamination is prevented by the well boundaries. However, in principle, pipetting onto magnets could be automated by a modified gel loading system and magnet-bead attraction also prevents cross-contamination between adjacent samples; all localized constructs in our peptide screens were retransfected separately to ensure beads had not been misplaced and in no case was cross-contamination detected. Bead spots are also more economical, requiring at least 17-fold less DNA per sample, and optical-quality plates cost 160-fold more than coverslips, which cost around ten cents each. Another advantage of having all the transformants on one coverslip is that it may be easier to apply automated confocal microscopy with pattern recognition software to scan and recognize features such as fluorescently labeled subcompartments<sup>29</sup>. Finally, because beads can be added to cells at any stage of the transfection process (unlike preprinted reverse-transfection arrays), it is possible to apply diverse treatments to the cells *in situ* before adding beads and to add beads progressively with different constructs or time delays.

Transfection arrays are beginning to find many uses, for example in functional genomics screens using RNAi<sup>30,31</sup>. Using magnets for transfection arrays allows great control over pattern shape and size. Ultimately, one could gain precise control over single cells using single magnetic beads, placed by electromagnetic tweezers. Moreover, localized cotransfection could enable the design and delivery of multiple gene network cassettes, for systems biology applications<sup>7,8</sup>. For example, one could envision designing spatially defined signaling networks of interacting cells. We anticipate that such systems may be conveniently constructed and manipulated using PCR product–bead transfection.

## METHODS

### Chamber construction

We constructed transfection chambers by fixing 96 stirrer-bar magnets ( $8 \times 1.5$  mm; VWR International), from which the plastic coating had been stripped before use, into drilled holes in a solid, 80-mm-diameter acrylic disc (Fig. 1b). The disc fit inside a cell culture dish and contained an etched recess to fit a  $24 \times 60$  mm cell-coated coverslip. The same magnetic pole always faced the cells growing on the coverslip. This parallel north-south arrangement is very important to create distinct bead spots; misinserted magnets create field lines between adjacent magnets, redistributing the beads. It is useful to check the uniformity of the magnetic field before permanently fixing the magnets with epoxy resin by spreading iron filings on a piece of paper over the array, to visualize the magnetic field. Note that magnets on the outside rows of a parallel magnet array form field lines away from the center of the array, resulting in diffuse edge spots. Therefore, to get good spot definition for an array with  $A$  rows and  $B$  columns, use  $(A + 2) \times (B + 2)$  magnets. To construct a functional chamber simply and rapidly, we have also successfully used a plasticine bed to fix the magnets, sealing with epoxy resin for direct use in cell culture.

### Standard transfection method (for HEK293 cells)

Because the central magnetic positions gave the best-defined magnetic spots in the array, we typically transfected in a  $12 \times 4$ -spot array, in the 96-magnet chamber. For a typical 48-spot array, we washed 37  $\mu$ l Dynabeads from a KilobaseBinder kit (Dynal) and resuspended in 510  $\mu$ l KilobaseBinder binding solution (Dynal), according to the manufacturer's

instructions. We pipetted 10  $\mu$ l bead aliquots in a 96-well plate, adding 5  $\mu$ l of water plus 5  $\mu$ l of PCR product per well. After mixtures were incubated for 3 h at 22 °C, with mixing at 800 r.p.m, a magnetic particle concentrator (MPC; Dynal) was used to pellet the beads. After washing twice in KilobaseBinder washing solution and once in 10 mM Tris-Cl, pH 8.5, we resuspended beads in 30  $\mu$ l EC buffer (Effectene kit; Qiagen). We added 10  $\mu$ l of diluted Enhancer solution (diluted 0.6  $\mu$ l per 10  $\mu$ l EC buffer) per well, followed by 10  $\mu$ l of diluted Effectene reagent (2  $\mu$ l plus 10  $\mu$ l EC buffer). We incubated the plate for 45 min at 22 °C with mixing at 800 r.p.m and used the MPC to concentrate the beads down to 10  $\mu$ l, in the same solution. We dispensed 1  $\mu$ l of the resulting suspension over each magnet position. Thus, each preparation was sufficient for at least eight replicate arrays. The bead pipetting technique is very similar to loading an electrophoresis gel.

We made bead ‘spots’ on top of HEK 293 cell monolayers grown on 24  $\times$  60 mm polylysine-coated glass coverslips, consisting of  $5 \times 10^6$  exponentially growing cells per coverslip loaded 24 h in advance, and incubated in 100-mm-diameter cell culture dishes with 10 ml growth medium (complete DMEM from Gibco with 10% FCS, 50 U/ml penicillin and 50  $\mu$ g/ml streptomycin). For bead arraying, we first removed the coverslips, inserted in a magnetic platform (presterilized with 70% ethanol and UV light for 15 min) and covered with 3 ml fresh medium. After arraying, we incubated the entire platform 16–48 h at 37 °C. When indicated, we added LysoTracker and Mitotracker (Molecular Probes Inc.) to the cell culture medium 5 min before fixation (5 nM and 100 nM, respectively). We fixed samples by rinsing the coverslip twice in 1 $\times$  PBS, once in 1 $\times$  PBS with 4% formaldehyde and then for 20 min in 1 $\times$  PBS with 4% formaldehyde. In certain cases, DAPI DNA staining followed fixing, and we mounted slides using Mowiol. In general, we observed fluorescence 16–48 h after transfection with a Leica TCS SP2 AOBs confocal microscope. For array composition, we used large-field biomapping, with a 10 $\times$  objective. Alternatively, we used a laser fluorescence scanner (ScanArray 5000) at 5  $\mu$ m resolution.

#### **Alternative transfection method (recommended for COS7, NIH3T3, HeLa cells)**

For cell lines other than HEK293, we found that JetSI-ENDO Cationic polymer transfection reagent (Polyplus Transfection SAS) gave higher transfection efficiencies. We modified the manufacturer’s protocol for transfecting 0.35  $\mu$ g siRNA in a 24-well plate: 400 ng PCR product was bound to 5  $\mu$ l Dynabeads, scaling the KilobaseBinder protocol (described above) and finally resuspending in 50  $\mu$ l serum-free medium (DMEM). Meanwhile, we diluted 1  $\mu$ l of JetSI-ENDO solution by vortexing briefly in 50  $\mu$ l DMEM and incubating at room temperature for 10 min. We added this mixture to the resuspended beads, vortexed for 10 s and incubated at room temperature for 30 min on a rolling platform at 60 r.p.m. An MPC was used to reduce the volume to 40  $\mu$ l, allowing 40 arrayed spots per sample. The growth history of the cells is critical for efficient transfection: cells should not be allowed to reach confluence in the previous two passages.

#### **Transfection in 96-well format**

We used optical-quality 96-well glass-bottom plates (Whatman), adding  $1.25 \times 10^4$  cells per well, 24 h before transfection. We adapted the Effectene protocol: we used 100 ng PCR product per sample, in 30  $\mu$ l EC buffer with 0.8  $\mu$ l Enhancer. We vortexed Effectene (2.5  $\mu$ l, diluted in 20  $\mu$ l EC buffer) for 10 s with this mixture, incubated at room temperature for 10 min, diluted in 50  $\mu$ l DMEM and added to cells (already in 100  $\mu$ l fresh medium). We inspected cells directly after 24 h at 37 °C.

#### **Gene library construction**

We synthesized the KESL libraries from four DNA oligonucleotide cassettes coding for eight-amino-acid peptides of the form PPRRRRRT, PPRRRTRT, PPRTRTRR or

PPRRTTTT, where R was the codon RAG (R = purine), coding for the amino acids lysine or glutamic acid, and T was the codon TYG (Y = pyrimidine), coding for serine or leucine. Primer extensions of template oligonucleotides were cloned via *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI sites in the vector pEGFP-C1 (BD Biosciences Clontech), resulting C-terminal in-frame EGFP-fusion peptides (for example, primer: GACGTGTGGACTGACTGTGA; template: ACGTACGTGAATTCTCCUCCCRAGRAGRAGRAGTYGTAAGGATCCTC ACAGTCAGTCCACACGTC; *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI sites are underlined, randomised positions are in bold) We screened transformant bacterial colonies by PCR, using primers to include a 5' CMV promoter and a 3' SV40 early mRNA polyadenylation signal from the pEGFP-C1 vector (biotinylated forward primer: CTGTGGATAACCGTATTACCG; reverse primer: AACCACTAGAATGCAGTG). We used crude PCR products directly in bead transfection, as described above.

We cloned the Lrm unscaffolded peptide library from a randomized cassette, by PCR of an 85-bp oligonucleotide containing NNS repeats (where S = G or C). We blunt-cloned this cassette, in-frame and N-terminally to EGFP, using an *Sfi*I site in a modified pEGFP-N1 vector<sup>3</sup>. Random priming PCR contributed to greater library diversity with variable insert length and base composition. Library complexity can only be estimated (at least 28 randomized amino acid positions:  $>10^{36}$  combinations). Therefore, we constructed only a small sample for this library: PCR colony screening was carried out on 48 transformants, as described above.

We constructed the randomized Zif library by annealing and extension of two primers, ZlibFWD (ACGTACGTGAATTCTGCAGAGGAACGCCCGTATNNTGCNNNNNNNNNTC CTGCGATCGCCGCTTTTC) and ZlibREV (GACTGTGAGGATCCTTACTTCTGGCCTGTGTGNNNNNNNNNATGNNNNNN AAGNNNNNNNNNNAGAAAAGCGGCGATCGCAGGA). We cloned this cassette via *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI sites in the vector pEGFP-C1. The library complexity is again very high (20 randomized amino acids in 13 positions:  $>10^{16}$  combinations). We therefore ligated a test sample, using 100 ng of vector and a 3:1 insert-to-vector ratio. We screened 60 resulting transformants, as described above.

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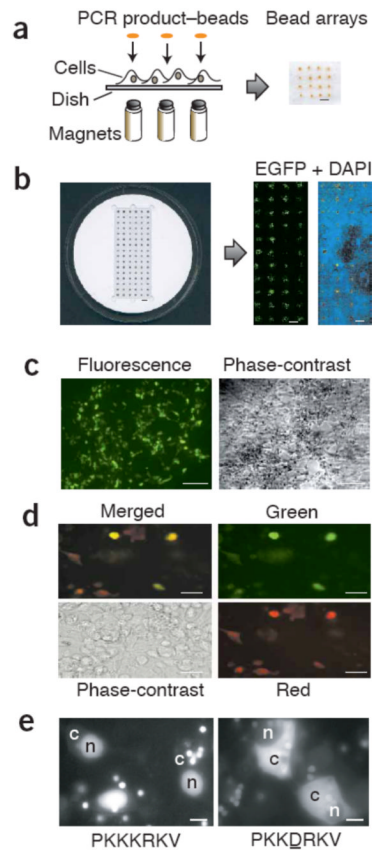
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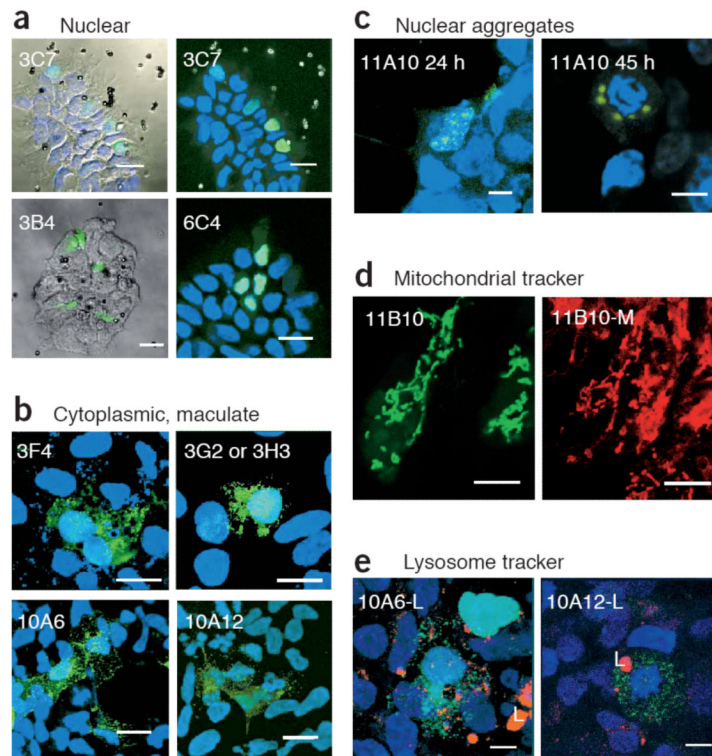


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**Figure 1.**

Magnetically defined transfection arrays. **(a)** Array construction illustrating magnets under a cell-coated dish or coverslip. Magnets may be fixed in either plasticine or a solid plastic matrix. PCR product-coated beads were overlaid by injection. An example of a resulting  $4 \times 4$  spot array is shown (viewed from above). Scale bar, 1 mm. **(b)** A 96-magnet transfection chamber constructed out of an acrylic disc (left). A cell-coated  $24 \times 60$  mm coverslip fits within the central rectangular recess. The resulting EGFP transfection arrays (right) are detected with a fluorescence array scanner at  $5 \mu\text{m}$  resolution. DAPI staining for nuclear DNA (blue) allows visualization of the cell distribution over the array. Scale bars, 3 mm. **(c)** An EGFP transfection spot, viewed by fluorescence and phase-contrast microscopy. Scale bars,  $100 \mu\text{m}$ . **(d)** Results of cotransfection in an array of beads coated with both EGFP and HcRed PCR products are shown as a (clockwise) merged image, view through green and red filters, and a phase-contrast micrograph. Scale bars,  $20 \mu\text{m}$ . **(e)** Mutant phenotype screen: a GFP with an SV40 nuclear localization signal (PKKKRKV; left) and GFP with a mutant NLS; a point mutation was introduced into the gene by PCR (PKKDRKV; right). Cytoplasm and nucleus in sample cells are indicated by 'c' and 'n', respectively. Note the multiple beads adjacent to cells. Whether beads can be seen depends on the imaging procedure: beads are generally best visualized in a fluorescence microscope (using a  $>40\times$  objective) or in a confocal system without any background subtraction. Scale bars,  $10 \mu\text{m}$ .



**Figure 2.** Confocal microscopy images of selected clones from the colony-PCR bead-transfection screen of the EGFP peptide libraries. **(a)** Nuclear localized clones 3C7, 3B4 and 6C4 from the EGFP-KESL library, viewed by reflection, with the green EGFP signal and/or DAPI superimposed (left), or viewed by fluorescence microscopy with blue DAPI staining for nuclei (right). **(b)** Cytoplasmically distributed clones with maculate morphology. 3F4, 3G2 and 3H3 are from the KESL library, whereas 10A6 and 10A12 are from the Zif library. Note that 3F4 contains an SKL peroxisomal targeting signal. **(c)** The 11A10 clone, from the Lrm library, forms aggregates that are generally located next to the nuclear membrane (24 h) and increase size with time. When the cell is in mitosis, aggregates remain around the DNA (45 h). **(d)** The Lrm 11B10 clone, viewed with a green filter for EGFP (left) or viewed with red filters for MitoTracker dye (right; 11B10-M), reveals colocalization of the EGFP signal with mitochondria. **(e)** LysoTracker staining for lysosomes (L; red) shows that the green maculate distribution of the zinc fingers 10A6 and 10A12 is not lysosomal. Green, red and DAPI signals are superimposed. Scale bars: 20  $\mu\text{m}$  (**a,b**); 8  $\mu\text{m}$  (**c,d,e**).

**Table 1**

List of selected clones from the transfection library screens, showing localization properties and sequence identity with proteins in the UNIPROT database as found by FASTA321 (percentage identity and expectation values, E(), are given for each sequence). Bold letters highlight matching residues. The  $\alpha$ -helices in the zinc finger sequences are underlined. For reference, the design of the Zif library framework is shown, with X denoting randomized amino acid positions; helical positions -1, 2, 3 and 6 are shown above this sequence. Note that two clones (3B4 and 3F4) contained mixed populations of sequence in their PCR product.

Clone	Source	Localization	Sequence	% identity, E()
3C7	KESL library	Nuclear	PPK <b>KKL</b> KL	
3B4	KESL library	Nuclear	PPE <b>KKK</b> (K/E)L	
6C4	KESL library	Nuclear	PPK <b>KEEK</b> L	
3F4	KESL library	Peroxisomal	PPE(S/L) <b>KLKE</b>	
3G2	KESL library	Cytoplasmic, maculate	PPK <b>KSLL</b> L	
3H3	KESL library	Cytoplasmic, maculate	PPK <b>KSLL</b> L	
11A10	Lrm library	Perinuclear	MARLSRRLIRLRCR YLD <b>CSSVIRL</b> VFGVF FSS <b>FL</b> FRLIMGI	
UNIPROT:Q8F2J3	Putative <i>Leptospira</i> sp. protein	—	MDLAVETISIVRVIF LVFFTE <b>LILFLIS</b> LV	39%, 7.2
11B10	Lrm library	Mitochondrial	MAHRR <b>LTKKLL</b> NQ VHP <b>RTL</b> RNI—RIST RNTNNKSIRALNIA CWRSG	
UNIPROT:Q7QQY8	<i>Giardia lamblia</i> genomic sequence	—	RRLW <b>KRTL</b> LGQVHS FNLRR <b>KLC</b> WRRLS CAGAIHQGIRSLCIV CY	40%, 2.3
	Zif library framework	—	Helical position: -1, 2,3 & 6 AEERP <b>YXCXXXS</b> CDRRFS <b>XXXXLXXHXX</b> XHTGQK	
10A6	Zif library	Cytoplasmic, maculate	AEERP <b>YKCG</b> SSCD RRF <b>SHLSCL</b> LFHYC HTGQK	
UNIPROT:AAH66874	Mouse hypothetical protien	—	TQEK <b>PKC</b> —NQCG KAF <b>LHLSCL</b> RVHER THTG <b>EK</b>	61%, 7.3
10A12	Zif library	Cytoplasmic, maculate	AEERP <b>YNCG</b> KVSC DRR <b>FSA</b> LVLVAH LACH <b>TG</b> QK	
UNIPROT:Q8BSI2	Mouse Zif-11	—	KREK <b>PHK</b> C—EECG RAF <b>SALSV</b> L <b>TQ</b> HRIT HTG <b>EK</b>	61%, 39