

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Efficient and flexible tagging of endogenous genes by homology-independent intron targeting

Yevgeniy V Serebrenik^{1,2,*}, Stephanie E Sansbury^{1,2,*}, Saranya Santhosh Kumar^{1,2}, Jorge Henao-Mejia^{3,4,5} and Ophir Shalem^{1,2,†}

¹ Center for Cellular and Molecular Therapeutics, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

² Department of Genetics, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

* Equal contribution

† Correspondence: shalemo@upenn.edu

Detailed protocol for generating and isolating fluorescent cell clones by homology-independent intron targeting

Materials and Reagents

- HEK293 cells (ATCC CRL-1573)
 - Can also work with (but not limited to) HeLa cells, H9 hESCs, or HAP1 cells.
- Cell culture reagents (Thermo Fischer Scientific): DMEM, trypsin, Opti-MEM
- Transfection-grade PEI (Polysciences, cat. #24765)
- Plasmid encoding generic fluorescent tag donor
 - Any vector can work as long as it contains the sequences listed in Supplemental Tables S1 and S2.
 - Consider whether the tag will be spliced in-frame with the coding sequence; if not, use a donor with the appropriate frameshift mutations on either end.
- Plasmid encoding validated target sgRNA
 - The appropriate spacer sequences can be cloned into the lentiGuide-Puro plasmid (Addgene #52963). sgRNA sequences can be chosen using the sgRNA designer provided by the Broad institute (<https://portals.broadinstitute.org/gpp/public/analysis-tools/sgrna-design>).
- Plasmid encoding sgRNA against donor
 - See Supplemental Table S3 for the utilized spacer sequence.
- Plasmid encoding Cas9
 - Can be used separately, such as on the lentiCas9-Blast plasmid (Addgene #53962), or included on the sgRNA plasmids (e.g. Addgene #52961).

Equipment

- Cell sorter (BD FACSAria Fusion or any other similar cell sorter)
- Flow cytometry tubes (12 × 75 mm)
- Cell Straining Kit (70 μm)
- Cell culture plates (12-well plate, 10 cm dish, 96-well plate)
- Cell culture incubator (37°C, 5% CO₂)

Procedure

Day 1: Plate cells

- 1) Plate HEK293 cells into at least 2 wells of a 12-well plate, such that they will be 60-80% confluent on the following day (160-200 × 10³ cells/well).

Day 2: Transfect cells

- 2) To 100 μl Opti-MEM, add plasmids encoding the generic donor, the donor sgRNA, the target sgRNA, and Cas9 in a 5:1:1:1 molar ratio, respectively. A total amount of 1360 ng of plasmid DNA is mixed with 4.08 μl PEI (1 μg DNA : 3 μl PEI ratio).
- 3) An additional reaction with PEI reagent only is used as the “mock” transfection.
- 4) Vortex and incubate transfection mixtures for at least 15 minutes.
- 5) Add each mixture dropwise to a single well of a 12-well plate.

Day 3: Wash and replat cells

- 6) Trypsinize cells in 100 μl trypsin, resuspend in 500 μl DMEM, and transfer entire cell suspensions to a 10 cm dish containing 10 ml DMEM.

Day 7-8: Analyze and sort cells

- 7) Prepare a 96-well plate filled with 100 μl DMEM per well. Store in cell culture incubator.

- 8) Trypsinize cells in 1 ml trypsin and resuspend in 2.5 ml DMEM.
- 9) Pass cell suspension through a cell strainer into a flow cytometry tube (this step is important to prevent clogs in the flow cytometer). Place tube immediately on ice.
- 10) Initialize cell sorter according to the manufacturer's protocol. Set up gates to differentiate between the "mock"- and truly-transfected cells.
- 11) Sort single fluorescent cells directly into a 96-well plate. Place immediately in cell culture incubator to grow and expand.

> pMC-mNG2₁₁

vector –

CCACACGAAATCGATTGCTCTTCTAATCTCCTCTCTTCTCCTCTCTCCAG[]GGTGGCTCT
GGAAGTTCAGGTGGAGGCTCGGGTGGCGGCAGTTCGACCGAGCTCAACTTCAAGGAGTG
GCAAAGGCCCTTTACCGATATGATGGGATCCGGAAGTGGCTCAAGCGGAGGAGGAAGTAG
TGGAAGTTC[]GTAAGTATTGGTTAAGAGCGAATCGATTTCTGAGG

– *vector*

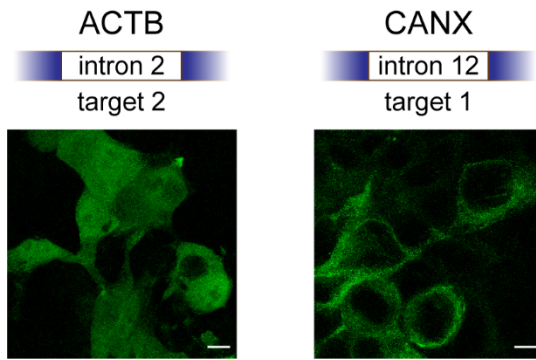
> pMC-mClover3

vector –

CCACACGAAATCGATTGCTCTTCTAATCTCCTCTCTTCTCCTCTCTCCAG[]GGTGGCTCT
GGAAGTTCAGGTGGAGGCTCGGGTGGCGGCAGTTCGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGCTGTT
CACCGGGGTGGTGCCCATCTGGTCGAGCTGGACGGCGACGTAAACGGCCACAAGTTCA
GCGTCCGCGGCGAGGGCGAGGGCGATGCCACCAACGGCAAGCTGACCCTGAAGTTCATC
TGCACCACCGGCAAGCTGCCCGTGCCCTGGCCACCCTCGTGACCACCTTCGGCTACGG
CGTGGCCTGCTTCAGCCGCTACCCCGACCACATGAAGCAGCACGACTTCTTCAAGTCCGC
CATGCCCGAAGGCTACGTCCAGGAGCGCACCATCTCTTTCAAGGACGACGGTACCTACAA
GACCCGCGCCGAGGTGAAGTTCGAGGGCGACACCCTGGTGAACCGCATCGAGCTGAAGG
GCATCGACTTCAAGGAGGACGGCAACATCCTGGGGCACAAAGCTGGAGTACAACCTCAACA
GCCACTACGTCTATATCACGGCCGACAAGCAGAAGAACTGCATCAAGGCTAACTTCAAGAT
CCGCCACAACGTTGAGGACGGCAGCGTGACGCTCGCCGACCACTACCAGCAGAACACCC
CCATCGGCGACGGCCCCGTGCTGCTGCCCGACAACCACTACCTGAGCCATCAGTCCAAG
CTGAGCAAAGACCCCAACGAGAAGCGCGATCACATGGTCCTGCTGGAGTTCGTGACCGCC
GCCGGGATTACACATGGCATGGACGAGCTGTACAAGGGATCCGGAAGTGGCTCAAGCGG
AGGAGGAAGTAGTGGAAGTTC[]GTAAGTATTGGTTAAGAGCGAATCGATTTCTGAGG

– *vector*

Supplemental Table S1. DNA sequences of the mNG2₁₁ and mClover3 donor regions in the pMC-mNG2₁₁ and pMC-mClover3 plasmids. The donor plasmid protospacer sequence is highlighted red. Linker regions are highlighted blue. The sequence of mNG2₁₁ or mClover3 is highlighted green. Splice sites are in black and directly adjacent to the sequences incorporated into the coding sequence. Blue brackets (“[]”) indicate locations where additional nucleotides should be added to change the frame of the tag.



Supplemental Figure S1. Additional intronic tagging locations for *ACTB* and *CANX*. Microscopy images of HEK293 cells stably expressing mNG2₁₋₁₀ tagged with mNG2₁₁ targeting the indicated genomic sites. Images are maximum projections of z-stacks and scale bars correspond to 10 μ m.

> pMC-mNG2₁₁-BSD(-)

vector –

CCACACGAAATCGATTGCTCTTAATCTCCTCTCTTCTCCTCTCTCCAG []GGTGGCTCT
GGAAGTTCAGGTGGAGGCTCGGGTGGCGGCAGTTCGACCGAGCTCAACTTCAAGGAGTG
GCAAAGGCCTTTACCGATATGATGGGATCCGGAAGTGGCTCAAGCGGAGGAGGAAGTAG
TGGAAGTTC []GTAAGTATTGGTGCAGTGAAAAAATGCTTTATTTGTGAAATTTGTGATGC
TATTGCTTTATTTGTAACCATTATAAGCTGCAATAAACAAGTTAACAACAACAATTGCATTCA
TTTTATGTTTCAGGTTTCAGGGGGAGGTGTGGGAGGTTTTTTAAAGCAAGTAAAACCTCTAC
AAATGTGGTATGGCTGATTATGATCCTCTGGAGATTTAGCCCTCCACACATAACCAGAGG
GCAGCAATTCACGAATCCCAACTGCCGTCCGGCTGTCCATCACTGTCCTTCACTATGGCTTT
GATCCCAGGATGCAGATCGAGAAGCACCTGTCCGGCACCCTCCGCAGGGGCTCAAGATGC
CCCTGTTCTCATTTCCGATCGCGACGATACAAGTCAGGTTGCCAGCTGCCGCAGCAGCAG
CAGTGCCCAGCACCACGAGTTCTGCACAAGGTCCCCCAGTAAATGATATACATTGACACC
AGTGAAGATGCGGCCGTGCTAGAGAGAGCTGCGCTGGCGACGCTGTAGTCTTCAGAGAT
GGGGATGCTGTTGATTGTAGCCGTTGCTCTTTCAATGAGGGTGGATTCTTCTTGAGACAAA
GGCTTGGCCATGGTGGCGGATCCCGCGTCACGACACCTGTGTTCTGGCGGCAAACCCGT
TGCGAAAAAGAACGTTACGGCGACTACTGCACTTATATACGGTTCTCCCCACCCTCGGG
AAAAAGGCGGAGCCAGTACACGACATCACTTTCCAGTTTACCCCGCGCCACCTTCTCTAG
GCACCGGTTCAATTGCCGACCCCTCCCCCAACTTCTCGGGGACTGTGGGCGATGTGCGC
TCTGCCACTGACGGGCACCGGAGCCTAAGAGCGAATCGATTTCGTGAGG

– *vector*

> pMC-mNG2₁₁-BSD(+)

vector –

CCACACGAAATCGATTGCTCTTAATCTCCTCTCTTCTCCTCTCTCCAG []GGTGGCTCT
GGAAGTTCAGGTGGAGGCTCGGGTGGCGGCAGTTCGACCGAGCTCAACTTCAAGGAGTG
GCAAAGGCCTTTACCGATATGATGGGATCCGGAAGTGGCTCAAGCGGAGGAGGAAGTAG
TGGAAGTTC []GTAAGTATTGGTGGCTCCGGTGCCCGTCAGTGGGCAGAGCGCACATCG
CCCACAGTCCCCGAGAAGTTGGGGGGAGGGGTCCGGCAATTGAACCGGTGCCTAGAGAAG
GTGGCGCGGGGTAAACTGGGAAAGTGATGTCGTGACTGGCTCCGCCTTTTTCCCGAGGG
TGGGGGAGAACCGTATATAAGTGCAAGTAGTCGCCGTGAACGTTCTTTTTCGCAACGGGTTT
GCCGCCAGAACACAGGTGTGCTGACGCGGGATCCGCCACCATGGCCAAGCCTTTGTCTCA
AGAAGAATCCACCCTCATTGAAAGAGCAACGGCTACAATCAACAGCATCCCCATCTCTGAA
GACTACAGCGTCGCCAGCGCAGCTCTCTCTAGCGACGGCCGCATCTTCACTGGTGTCAAT
GTATATCATTTTACTGGGGGACCTTGTGCAGAACTCGTGGTGTGCTGGGCACTGCTGCTGCT
GCGGCAGCTGGCAACCTGACTTGTATCGTCGCGATCGGAAATGAGAACAGGGGCATCTTG
AGCCCCTGCGGACGGTGCCGACAGGTGCTTCTCGATCTGCATCCTGGGATCAAAGCCATA
GTGAAGGACAGTGATGGACAGCCGACGGCAGTTGGGATTCGTGAATTGCTGCCCTCTGGT
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TTTACTTGCTTTAAAAACCTCCACACCTCCCCCTGAACCTGAAACATAAAATGAATGCAA
TTGTTGTGTTAACTTGTATTGTCAGCTTATAATGGTTACAAATAAAGCAATAGCATCACAA
ATTTACAAATAAAGCATTTTTTTCACTGCTAAGAGCGAATCGATTTCGTGAGG

– *vector*

> pMC-mClover3-BSD(-)

vector –

CCACACGAAATCGATTGCTCTTAATCTCCTCTCTTCTCCTCTCTCCAG []GGTGGCTCT
GGAAGTTCAGGTGGAGGCTCGGGTGGCGGCAGTTCGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGCTGTT
CACCGGGTGGTGCCCATCTGGTCGAGCTGGACGGCGACGTAACGGCCACAAGTTCA

GCGTCCGCGGGCGAGGGCGAGGGCGATGCCACCAACGGCAAGCTGACCCTGAAGTTCATC
TGCACCACCGGCAAGCTGCCCGTGCCCTGGCCACCCTCGTGACCACCTTCGGCTACGG
CGTGGCCTGCTTCAGCCGCTACCCCGACCACATGAAGCAGCACGACTTCTTCAAGTCCGC
CATGCCCGAAGGCTACGTCCAGGAGCGCACCATCTCTTTCAAGGACGACGGTACCTACAA
GACCCGCGCCGAGGTGAAGTTCGAGGGCGACACCCTGGTGAACCGCATCGAGCTGAAGG
GCATCGACTTCAAGGAGGACGGCAACATCCTGGGGCACAAGCTGGAGTACAATTCAACA
GCCACTACGTCTATATCACGGCCGACAAGCAGAAGAAGTGCATCAAGGCTAACTTCAAGAT
CCGCCACAACGTTGAGGACGGCAGCGTGCAGCTCGCCGACCACTACCAGCAGAACACCC
CCATCGGCGACGGCCCCGTGCTGCTGCCCGACAACCACTACCTGAGCCATCAGTCCAAG
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GCCGGGATTACACATGGCATGGACGAGCTGTACAAGGGATCCGGAAGTGGCTCAAGCGG
AGGAGGAAGTAGTGGAAGTTCT]GTAAGTATTGGTGCAGTGAAAAAATGCTTTATTTGTG
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GTAAAACCTCTACAAATGTGGTATGGCTGATTATGATCCTCTGGAGATTTAGCCCTCCCACA
CATAACCAGAGGGCAGCAATTCACGAATCCCAACTGCCGTCCGCTGTCCATCACTGTCTT
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CACCTTCTCTAGGCACCGTTCAATTGCCGACCCCTCCCCCAACTTCTCGGGGACTGTG
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AGG
– vector

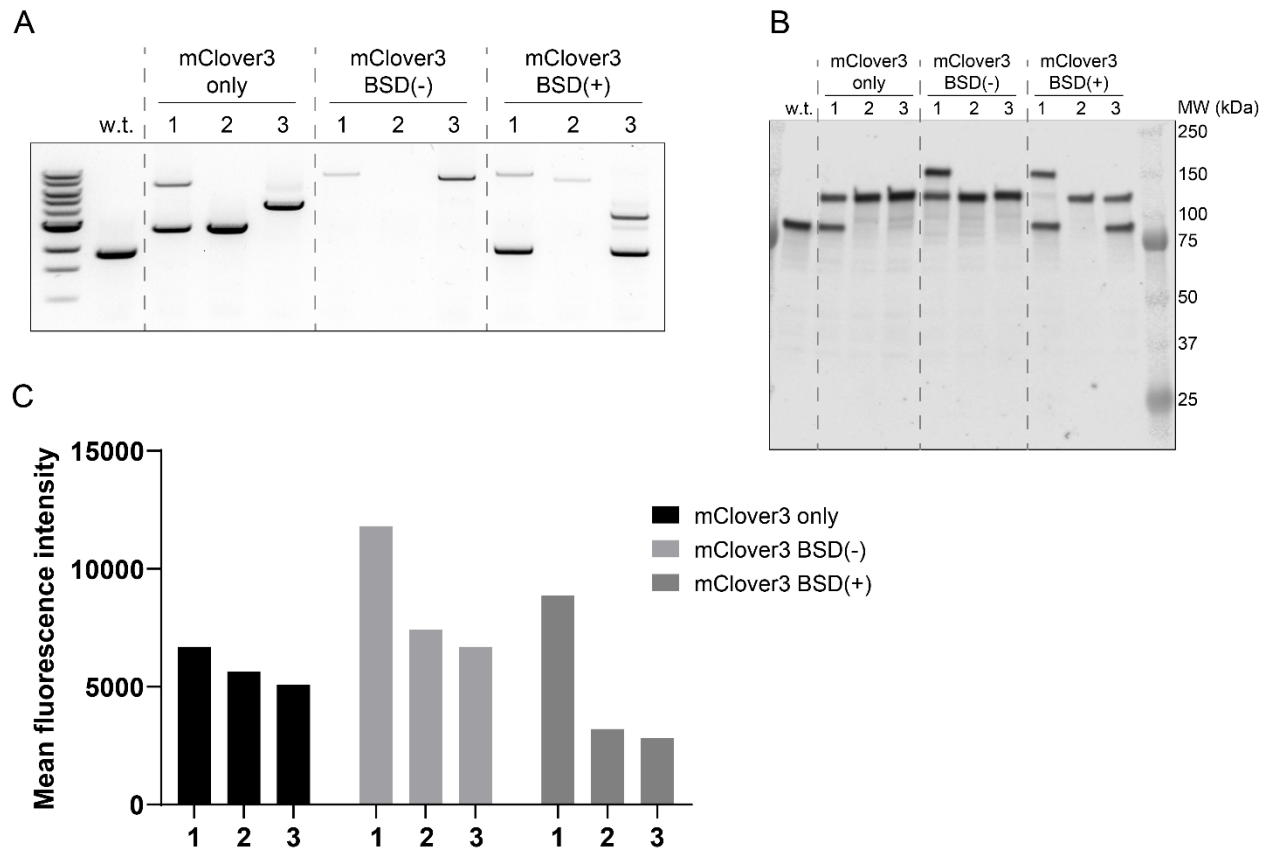
> pMC-mClover3-BSD(+)

vector –

CCACACGAAATCGATTCGCTCTTCTAATCTCCTCTCTTCTCCTCTCTCCAG]GGTGGCTCT
GGAAGTTCAGGTGGAGGCTCGGGTGGCGGCAGTTCGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGCTGTT
CACCGGGGTGGTGCCCATCCTGGTCGAGCTGGACGGCGACGTAAACGGCCACAAGTTCA
GCGTCCGCGGGCGAGGGCGAGGGCGATGCCACCAACGGCAAGCTGACCCTGAAGTTCATC
TGCACCACCGGCAAGCTGCCCGTGCCCTGGCCACCCTCGTGACCACCTTCGGCTACGG
CGTGGCCTGCTTCAGCCGCTACCCCGACCACATGAAGCAGCACGACTTCTTCAAGTCCGC
CATGCCCGAAGGCTACGTCCAGGAGCGCACCATCTCTTTCAAGGACGACGGTACCTACAA
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GCCACTACGTCTATATCACGGCCGACAAGCAGAAGAAGTGCATCAAGGCTAACTTCAAGAT
CCGCCACAACGTTGAGGACGGCAGCGTGCAGCTCGCCGACCACTACCAGCAGAACACCC
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GCCGGGATTACACATGGCATGGACGAGCTGTACAAGGGATCCGGAAGTGGCTCAAGCGG
AGGAGGAAGTAGTGGAAGTTCT]GTAAGTATTGGTGGCTCCGGTGCCTGTCAGTGGGCA
GAGCGCACATCGCCACAGTCCCCGAGAAGTTGGGGGGAGGGGTCCGGCAATTGAACCGG
TGCCTAGAGAAGGTGGCGCGGGGTAAACTGGGAAAGTGATGTGCTGTAAGTGGCTCCGCCT
TTTTCCCAGGGTGGGGGAGAACCGTATATAAGTGCAAGTGCAGTAGTCCCGTGAACGTTCTTTT
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AGCCTTTGTCTCAAGAAGAATCCACCCTCATTGAAAGAGCAACGGCTACAATCAACAGCAT
CCCCATCTCTGAAGACTACAGCGTCGCCAGCGCAGCTCTCTCTAGCGACGGCCGCATCTT
CACTGGTGTCAATGTATATCATTTTACTGGGGGACCTTGTGCAGAACTCGTGGTGTGGGC
ACTGCTGCTGCTGCGGCAGCTGGCAACCTGACTTGTATCGTCGCGATCGGAAATGAGAAC
AGGGGCATCTTGAGCCCCTGCGGACGGTGCCGACAGGTGCTTCTCGATCTGCATCCTGG
GATCAAAGCCATAGTGAAGGACAGTGATGGACAGCCGACGGCAGTTGGGATTCGTGAATT
GCTGCCCTCTGGTTATGTGTGGGAGGGCTAAATCTCCAGAGGATCATAATCAGCCATACCA
CATTTGTAGAGGTTTTACTTGCTTTAAAAAACCTCCCACACCTCCCCCTGAACCTGAAACAT
AAAATGAATGCAATTGTTGTTGTTAACTTGTTTATTGCAGCTTATAATGGTTACAAATAAAGC
AATAGCATCACAAATTTACAAATAAAGCATTTTTTTTCACTGCTAAGAGCGAATCGATTCGT
GAGG
– vector

Supplemental Table S2. DNA sequences of the mNG2₁₁- and mClover3- BSD(-) and BSD(+) donor regions. The donor plasmid protospacer sequence is highlighted red. Linker regions are highlighted blue. The sequences of mNG2₁₁ and mClover3 are highlighted green, and the blasticidin resistance gene (BSD), EF1a promoter, and SV40 poly(A) sequence are highlighted orange. Splice sites are in black and directly adjacent to the sequences incorporated into the coding sequence. Blue brackets (“ ”) indicate locations where additional nucleotides should be added to change the frame of the tag.



Supplemental Figure S2. Clonal HAP1 cells tagged with mClover3-only or mClover3-BSD(-/+) at *CANX* intron 14, sgRNA target 1. **(A)** PCR analysis of the targeted *CANX* locus. Wild-type locus is 1921 bp; tagging with mClover3-only or -BSD(-/+) adds multiples of 881 or 1734 bp, respectively (ladder is NEB 1kb N3232). **(B)** Uncropped Western blot of *CANX* from Figure 3E. Molecular weight (MW) of ladder is indicated. **(C)** Mean fluorescence intensities of mClover3-tagged HAP1 clones measured by flow cytometry.

Gene	Intron	Target	Spacer sequence
<i>VIM</i>	8	n/a	CACTAGACTACCTCAATATG
<i>CBX1</i>	3	1	TTGGAGTGATTATTCATCAA
<i>CBX1</i>	3	2	TTAGTCCTGAAATCTTAGGT
<i>ACTB</i>	2	1	CCCCACCCCGGAAACCGGG
<i>ACTB</i>	2	2	CAAGGGCGCTTTCTCTGCAC
<i>ACTB</i>	2	3	AGCCTCCCGGTTTCCGGGGT
<i>ACTB</i>	3	1	GTGGGTGTAGGTACTAACAC
<i>ACTB</i>	3	2	TAGAACCTGCAGAGTTCCAA
<i>ACTB</i>	3	3	CCTACTTAATACACACTCCA
<i>ACTB</i>	5	1	GACAGCTCCCCACACACCAC
<i>ACTB</i>	5	2	CTGAGCTGACCTGGGCAGGT
<i>ACTB</i>	5	3	CTGCCAGGTCAGCTCAGGC
<i>CANX</i>	10	1	TTGCAACTATAAAAAGACTG
<i>CANX</i>	10	2	AGATTGTCCAGACTCAGCTG
<i>CANX</i>	10	3	TTTATAATCTCTACAAAGAG
<i>CANX</i>	12	1	GGCACAATAAACGGCCACTG
<i>CANX</i>	12	2	AAAGCTGATTATTGCCCAAG
<i>CANX</i>	12	3	TAACTAAGATATGTTGCCTG
<i>CANX</i>	14	1	ATGAACCCATCTATGGACAA
<i>CANX</i>	14	2	GAGACCAGATTTAGACACAG
<i>CANX</i>	14	3	ATACTAAAAGTGCTAGAGGT
donor plasmid	n/a	n/a	AAGAGCGAATCGATTTTCGTG

Supplemental Table S3. List of sgRNAs used.

Gene	Intron	Target	Orientation	Complementary sequence
<i>ACTB</i>	2	1	upstream	CACCAGGTAGGGGAGCTG
<i>ACTB</i>	2	1	downstream	AGGGTGAGGATGCCTCTCTT
<i>ACTB</i>	2	2	upstream	CACCAGGTAGGGGAGCTG
<i>ACTB</i>	2	2	downstream	AGGGTGAGGATGCCTCTCTT
<i>ACTB</i>	2	3	upstream	CACCAGGTAGGGGAGCTG
<i>ACTB</i>	2	3	downstream	AGGGTGAGGATGCCTCTCTT
<i>ACTB</i>	3	1	upstream	TTGCTTTTTCCCAGATGAGC
<i>ACTB</i>	3	1	downstream	GAACACGGCTAAGTGTGCTG
<i>ACTB</i>	3	2	upstream	GCCCTTTCTCACTGGTTCTCT
<i>ACTB</i>	3	2	downstream	GCTTTACACCAGCCTCATGG
<i>ACTB</i>	3	3	upstream	TTGCTTTTTCCCAGATGAGC
<i>ACTB</i>	3	3	downstream	GAACACGGCTAAGTGTGCTG
<i>ACTB</i>	5	1	upstream	CCCAGCACAATGAAGATCAA
<i>ACTB</i>	5	1	downstream	ACATCTGCTGGAAGGTGGAC
<i>ACTB</i>	5	2	upstream	GACATCCGCAAAGACCTGTA
<i>ACTB</i>	5	2	downstream	GTGAGGACCCTGGATGTGAC
<i>ACTB</i>	5	3	upstream	GACATCCGCAAAGACCTGTA
<i>ACTB</i>	5	3	downstream	GTGAGGACCCTGGATGTGAC
<i>CANX</i>	10	1	upstream	TACCCTGCTCTTGGGTGCTA
<i>CANX</i>	10	1	downstream	AGGCCTAAAGCCTCACAACC
<i>CANX</i>	10	2	upstream	TACCCTGCTCTTGGGTGCTA
<i>CANX</i>	10	2	downstream	AGGCCTAAAGCCTCACAACC
<i>CANX</i>	10	3	upstream	TTAGGCCTCATGCAAAAATG
<i>CANX</i>	10	3	downstream	GCCAAGATCCTGCTGAAATG
<i>CANX</i>	12	1	upstream	ACCAAGCCATGTTTGGTGTT
<i>CANX</i>	12	1	downstream	CAGCAGGCAAAGCTGATTATT
<i>CANX</i>	12	2	upstream	CCAGATGGGAGCAGGATTTA
<i>CANX</i>	12	2	downstream	GAAGGTGAAGGCAGAATGGA
<i>CANX</i>	12	3	upstream	TAGCCCTTCCTGTGTTCTCTG
<i>CANX</i>	12	3	downstream	ACAATAAACGGCCACTGAGG
<i>CANX</i>	14	1	upstream	TTGCCTCTCCTCACTGTGC
<i>CANX</i>	14	1	downstream	ACTGCTCATTGCCTGTTTCC
<i>CANX</i>	14	2	upstream	AGGGTGACAGGAGAGGAACA
<i>CANX</i>	14	2	downstream	GGAAGGCAGAGTTGTAGCTGA
<i>CANX</i>	14	3	upstream	GGAAACAGGCAATGAGCAGT
<i>CANX</i>	14	3	downstream	CACTTACATCCCCATGGAAAA
<i>mNG2₁₁</i>	n/a	n/a	forward	CTCCTCTCTTCTCCTCTCTCCA
<i>mNG2₁₁</i>	n/a	n/a	reverse	AACCAATACTTACAGAACTTCCA
<i>CANX</i>	14	1	upstream (1921 bp)	TGGCACTGTCAGTCAAGAGG
<i>CANX</i>	14	1	downstream (1921 bp)	CGTGGCTTTCTGTTTCTTGG

Supplemental Table S4. List of DNA primers used. “Orientation” refers to position of the primer binding site relative to the sgRNA target site. “Upstream” primers were mixed with mNG2₁₁ “reverse” for PCR amplification, and “downstream” primers were mixed with mNG2₁₁ “forward”.