

- B) Among engrafted human cells, the distribution among B-cell, myeloid, or other (i.e. HSPC/RBC/T/NK/Pre-B) lineages. Bars represent median \pm interquartile range. N=9 independent mouse transplantations.
- C) Targeted allele frequency at *HBA1* determined by ddPCR among engrafted human cells in bulk sample and lineages. Bars represent median \pm interquartile range. N=3 for mock treatment group and N=10 for targeted treatment group.

METHODS

AAV6 vector design, production, and purification

All AAV6 vectors were cloned into the pAAV-MCS plasmid (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA), which contains inverted terminal repeats (ITRs) derived from AAV2. Gibson Assembly Mastermix (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA, USA) was used for the creation of each vector as per manufacturer's instructions. Cut site (CS) vectors were designed such that the left and right homology arms ("LHA" and "RHA", respectively) are immediately flanking the cut site at either *HBA2* or *HBA1* gene. Whole gene replacement (WGR) vectors have a LHA flanking the 5' UTR of either the *HBA2* or *HBA1* gene while the RHA immediately flanks downstream of its corresponding cut site. The LHA and RHA of every vector is 400bp, unless otherwise noted, with the vector name (*HBA2/HBA1* and CS/WGR) referencing the target integration type and homology arms used, respectively. Within Figure 1, CS and WGR vectors consisted of a SFFV-GFP-BGH expression cassette. An alternative promoter, UbC, was also used in creating a WGR vector for *HBA1* (**Supplemental Fig. 10**). In Figure 2, WGR-T2A-YFP vectors consisted of the full-length *HBB* gene, unless noted, with a T2A-YFP expression cassette immediately following exon 3 of the *HBB* gene using the LHA and RHA described previously for WGR. These full-length *HBB*-T2A-YFP vectors were either flanked by 5' and 3' UTRs of *HBB*, *HBA2*, or *HBA1* as denoted in Figure 2a. In subsequent experiments, for targeting of SCD or β -thalassemia patient-derived CD34⁺ HSPCs, WGR vectors were designed to target the *HBA1* site and contained a full-length *HBB* gene flanked by either *HBA1* UTRs or *HBB* UTRs. While the '*HBB* UTRs' and '*HBA1* UTRs' vector both share 400bp HAs, the '*HBA1* UTRs long HAs' vector was modified to have 880bp HAs. Few modifications were made to the production of AAV6 vectors as described⁴⁴. 293T cells (Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) were seeded in ten 15 cm² dishes with 13-15 \times 10⁶ cells per plate. 24h later, each dish was transfected with a standard polyethylenimine (PEI) transfection of 6 μ g ITR-containing plasmid and 22 μ g pDGM6 (gift from David Russell, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA), which contains the AAV6 cap genes, AAV2 rep genes, and Ad5 helper genes. After a 48-72h incubation, cells were lysed by 3 freeze-thaw cycles, treated with benzonase (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) at 250 U/mL, and the vector was then purified through an iodixanol gradient centrifugation at 48,000 RPM for 2.25h at 18°C. Afterwards, full capsids were

isolated at the 40–58% iodixanol interface and then stored at 80°C until further use. As an alternative method, AAVPro Purification Kit (All Serotypes)(Takara Bio USA, Mountain View, CA, USA) were also used following the 48-72 h incubation period, to extract full AAV6 capsids as per manufacturer's instructions. AAV6 vectors were titered using a Bio-Rad QX200 ddPCR machine and QuantaSoft software (Version 1.7; Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA) to measure number of vector genomes as previously described⁴⁵.

Culturing of CD34⁺ HSPCs

Human CD34⁺ HSPCs were cultured as previously described^{18,24,33,36,46,47}. CD34⁺ HSPCs were sourced from fresh cord blood (generously provided by Binns Family program for Cord Blood Research), frozen cord blood and Plerixafor- and/or G-CSF-mobilized peripheral blood (AllCells, Alameda, CA, USA and STEMCELL Technologies, Vancouver, Canada), frozen Plerixafor- and/or G-CSF-mobilized peripheral blood of patients with SCD, and frozen Plerixafor- and Filgrastim-mobilized peripheral blood from β -thalassemia patient (compound heterozygous - c.-138C>T and c.92+5G>C). The β -thalassemia-derived HSPCs were collected under protocol 14-H-0077, (registered on clinicaltrials.gov, NCT02105766), which was approved and renewed annually by the NHLBI IRB. The patient provided informed consent for the study. CD34⁺ HSPCs were cultured at 2.5×10^5 – 5×10^5 cells/mL in StemSpan SFEM II (STEMCELL Technologies, Vancouver, Canada) base medium supplemented with stem cell factor (SCF)(100ng/mL), thrombopoietin (TPO)(100ng/mL), FLT3–ligand (100ng/mL), IL-6 (100ng/mL), UM171 (35nM), 20mg/mL streptomycin, and 20U/mL penicillin. The cell incubator conditions were 37°C, 5% CO₂, and 5% O₂.

Genome editing of CD34⁺ HSPCs

Chemically modified sgRNAs used to edit CD34⁺ HSPCs at either *HBA2* or *HBA1* were purchased from Synthego (Menlo Park, CA, USA) and TriLink BioTechnologies (San Diego, CA, USA) and were purified by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). The sgRNA modifications added were the 2'-O-methyl-3'-phosphorothioate at the three terminal nucleotides of the 5' and 3' ends described previously³⁰. The target sequences for sgRNAs were as follows: *sg1*: 5'-CTACCGAGGCTCCAGCTTAA-3'; *sg2*: 5'-GGCAGGAGGAACGGCTACCG-3'; *sg3*: 5'-GGGGAGGAGGGCCCGTTGGG-3'; *sg4*: 5'-CCACCGAGGCTCCAGCTTAA-3'; and *sg5*: 5'-GGCAAGAAGCATGGCCACCG-3'. All Cas9 protein (Alt-R S.p. Cas9 Nuclease V3) used was purchased from Integrated DNA Technologies (Coralville, Iowa, USA). The RNPs were complexed at a Cas9: sgRNA molar ratio of 1:2.5 at 25°C for 10min prior to electroporation. CD34⁺ cells were resuspended in P3 buffer (Lonza, Basel, Switzerland) with complexed RNPs and electroporated using the Lonza 4D Nucleofector (program DZ-100). Cells were plated at 2.5×10^5 cells/mL following electroporation in the cytokine-supplemented media described previously. Immediately following electroporation, AAV6 was supplied to the cells at 5×10^3 – 1×10^4 vector

genomes/cell based on titers determined using a Bio-Rad QX200 ddPCR machine and QuantaSoft software (Version 1.7; Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA).

Indel frequency analysis by TIDE

2-4d post-targeting, HSPCs were harvested and QuickExtract DNA extraction solution (Epicentre, Madison, WI, USA) was used to collect gDNA. The following primers were then used to amplify respective cut sites at *HBA2* and *HBA1* along with CleanAmp PCR 2x Master Mix (TriLink, San Diego, CA, USA) according to manufacturer's instructions: *HBA2* (sg1-3): forward: 5'-CCCGAAAGGAAAGGGTGGCG-3' reverse: 5'-TGGCACCTGCACTTGCCTG-3'; *HBA1* (sg4-5): forward: 5'-TCCGGGGTGCACGAGCCGAC-3', reverse: 5'-GCGGTGGCTCCACTTTCCCT-3'. PCR reactions were then run on a 1% agarose gel and appropriate bands were cut and gel-extracted using a GeneJET Gel Extraction Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) according to manufacturer's instructions. Gel-extracted amplicons were then Sanger sequenced with the following primers: *HBA2* (sg1-3): forward: 5'-GGGGTGCGGGCTGACTTTCT-3' reverse: 5'-CTGAGACAGTAAACACCTCCAT-3'; *HBA1* (sg4-5): forward: 5'-TGGAGACGTCCTGGCCCC-3', reverse: 5'-CCTGGCACGTTTGCTGAGG-3'. Resulting Sanger chromatograms were the used as input for indel frequency analysis by TIDE (Version 3.2.0) as previously described³¹.

Gene targeting analysis by flow cytometry

4-8d post-targeting with fluorescent gene replacement vectors, CD34⁺ HSPCs were harvested and the percentage of edited cells was determined by flow cytometry. Cells were analyzed for viability using Ghost Dye Red 780 (Tonbo Biosciences, San Diego, CA, USA) and reporter expression was assessed using either the Accuri C6 flow cytometer and software (Version 9.4.11; BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA) or FACS Aria II cytometer and FACS Diva software (Version 8.0.3; BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA). The data was subsequently analyzed using FlowJo (Version 10.6.1; FlowJo LLC, Ashland, OR, USA).

Allelic targeting analysis by ddPCR

2-4d post-targeting, HSPCs were harvested and QuickExtract DNA extraction solution (Epicentre, Madison, WI, USA) was used to collect gDNA. gDNA was then digested using BAMH1-HF as per manufacturer's instructions (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, MA, USA). The percentage of targeted alleles within a cell population was measured with a Bio-Rad QX200 ddPCR machine and QuantaSoft software (Version 1.7; Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA) using the following reaction mixture: 1-4µL of digested gDNA input, 10µL ddPCR SuperMix for Probes (No dUTP)(Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA), primer/probes (1:3.6 ratio; Integrated DNA Technologies, Coralville, Iowa, USA), volume up to 20µL with H₂O. ddPCR droplet were then generated following the manufacturer's instructions (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA): 20µL of ddPCR reaction, 70µL droplet generation oil, and 40µL of droplet sample. Thermocycler (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA) settings

were as follows: 1. 98°C (10min), 2. 94°C (30s), 3. 57.3°C (30s), 4. 72°C (1.75min)(return to step 2 × 40–50 cycles), 5. 98°C (10 min). Analysis of droplet samples was done using the QX200 Droplet Digital PCR System (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA). To determine percentage of alleles targeted, the number of Poisson-corrected integrant copies/mL were divided by the number of Poisson-corrected reference DNA copies/mL. The following primers and 6-FAM/ZEN/IBFQ-labelled hydrolysis probes were purchased as custom-designed PrimeTime qPCR Assays from Integrated DNA Technologies (Coralville, IA, USA): All *HBA2*-GFP vectors (spans from BGH to outside 400bp *HBA2* RHA): forward: 5'-TAGTTGCCAGCCATCTGTTG-3', reverse: 5'-GGGGACAGCCTATTTTGCTA-3', probe: 5'-AAATGAGGAAATTGCATCGC-3'; All *HBA1*-GFP vectors (spans from BGH to outside 400bp *HBA1* RHA): forward: 5'-TAGTTGCCAGCCATCTGTTG-3', reverse: 5'-TAGTGGGAACGATGGGGGAT-3', probe: 5'-AAATGAGGAAATTGCATCGC-3'; *HBA2*-HBB-T2A-YFP vector (spans from YFP to outside 400bp *HBA2* RHA): forward: 5'-AGTCCAAGCTGAGCAAAGA-3', reverse: 5'-GGGGACAGCCTATTTTGCTA-3', probe: 5'-CGAGAAGCGCGATCACATGGTCCTGC-3'; All *HBA1*-HBB-T2A-YFP vectors (spans from YFP to outside 400bp *HBA1* RHA): forward: 5'-AGTCCAAGCTGAGCAAAGA-3', reverse: 5'-TAGTGGGAACGATGGGGGAT-3', probe: 5'-CGAGAAGCGCGATCACATGGTCCTGC-3'; *HBA1*-HBB vectors (with 400bp HAs, without T2A-YFP)(spans from *HBB* exon 3 to outside 400bp *HBA1* RHA): forward: 5'-GCTGCCTATCAGAAAGTGGT-3', reverse: 5'-TAGTGGGAACGATGGGGGAT-3', probe: 5'-CTGGTGTGGCTAATGCCCTGGCCC-3'; *HBA1*-HBB vector (with 880bp HAs, without T2A-YFP)(spans from *HBB* exon 3 to outside 880bp *HBA1* RHA): forward: 5'-GCTGCCTATCAGAAAGTGGT-3', reverse: 5'-ATCACAAACGCAGGCAGAG-3', probe: 5'-CTGGTGTGGCTAATGCCCTGGCCC-3'. The primers and HEX/ZEN/IBFQ-labelled hydrolysis probe purchased as custom-designed PrimeTime qPCR Assays from Integrated DNA Technologies (Coralville, IA, USA) were used to amplify the *CCRL2* reference gene: forward: 5'-GCTGTATGAATCCAGGTCC-3', reverse: 5'-CCTCCTGGCTGAGAAAAG-3', probe: 5'-TGTTTCCTCCAGGATAAGGCAGCTGT-3'. Due to the length of the 'HBA1 UTRs long HAs' vector and to ensure episomal AAV is not detected, the ddPCR amplicon exceeds the template size recommended by the ddPCR manufacturer. Upon analysis of the data, the percentage of targeted alleles of this vector is underestimated. Therefore, in these instances a correction factor to account for this underestimation was determined by amplifying gDNA harvested from HSPCs targeted with *HBA1* UTRs vector with 400bp HAs with both sets of ddPCR primers and probes (those for vectors with 400bp and 880bp HAs) as well as *CCRL2* reference probes. The resulting correction factor was then applied to the targeted allele percentage from samples targeted with and amplified with primers and probe for 880bp HAs.

Off-target activity analysis by rhAmpSeq

Predicted off-target sites for *HBA1* sg5 was identified using COSMID with up to three mismatches allowed in the 19 PAM-proximal bases and the PAM sequence NGG. rhAmpSeq targeted sequencing was performed for the 40 most highly predicted off-target sites as described

previously. The raw sequencing files have been uploaded to the public NCBI data repository: BioProject ID PRJNA691350; available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/691350>.

In vitro differentiation of CD34⁺ HSPCs into erythrocytes

Following targeting, HSPCs derived from healthy, SCD, or β -thalassemia patients were cultured for 14-16d at 37°C and 5% CO₂ in SFEM II medium (STEMCELL Technologies, Vancouver, Canada) as previously described^{34,35}. SFEMII base medium was supplemented with 100U/mL penicillin–streptomycin, 10ng/mL SCF, 1ng/mL IL-3 (PeproTech, Rocky Hill, NJ, USA), 3U/mL erythropoietin (eBiosciences, San Diego, CA, USA), 200 μ g/mL transferrin (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA), 3% antibody serum (heat-inactivated from Atlanta Biologicals, Flowery Branch, GA, USA), 2% human plasma (umbilical cord blood), 10 μ g/mL insulin (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) and 3U/mL heparin (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA). In the first phase, d 0-7 (day zero being 2d post-targeting) of differentiation, cells were cultured at 1 \times 10⁵ cells/mL. In the second phase, d7–10, cells were maintained at 1 \times 10⁵ cells/mL, and IL-3 was removed from the culture. In the third phase, d11–16, cells were cultured at 1 \times 10⁶ cells/mL, and transferrin was increased to 1 mg/mL within the culture medium.

mRNA analysis

Following differentiation of HSPCs into erythrocytes, cells were harvested and RNA was extracted using RNeasy Plus Mini Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). Subsequently, cDNA was made from approximately 100ng RNA using the iScript Reverse Transcription Supermix for RT-qPCR (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA). Expression levels of β -globin transgene and α -globin mRNA were quantified with a Bio-Rad QX200 ddPCR machine and QuantaSoft software (Version 1.7; Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA) using the following primers and 6-FAM/ZEN/IBFQ-labelled hydrolysis probes purchased as custom-designed PrimeTime qPCR Assays from Integrated DNA Technologies (Coralville, IA, USA): *HBB*: forward: 5'-GAGAACTTCAGGCTCCTG-3', reverse: 5'-CGGGGGTACGGGTGCAGGAA-3', probe: 5'-TGGCCATGCTTCTTGCCCCT-3'; *HBA* (does not distinguish between *HBA2* and *HBA1*): forward: 5'-GACCTGCACGCGCACAAGCTT-3', reverse: 5'-GCTCACAGAAGCCAGGAACTTG-3', probe: 5'-CAACTCAAGCTCCTAAGCCA-3'. To normalize for RNA input, levels of the RBC-specific reference gene *GPA* was determined in each sample using the following primers and HEX/ZEN/IBFQ-labelled hydrolysis probes purchased as custom-designed PrimeTime qPCR Assays from Integrated DNA Technologies (Coralville, IA, USA): forward: 5'-ATATGCAGCCACTCCTAGAGCTC-3', reverse: 5'-CTGGTTCAGAGAAATGATGGGCA-3', probe: 5'-AGGAAACCGGAGAAAGGGTA-3'. ddPCR reactions were created using the respective primers and probes and droplets were generated as described above. Thermocycler (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA) settings were as follows: 1. 98°C (10min), 2. 94°C (30s), 3. 59.4°C (30s), 4. 72°C (30s)(return to step 2 \times 40–50 cycles), 5. 98°C (10 min). Analysis of droplet samples was done using the QX200 Droplet Digital PCR System (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA). To determine relative expression levels,

the number of Poisson-corrected HBA or HBB transgene copies/mL were divided by the number of Poisson-corrected GPA copies/mL.

Immunophenotyping of differentiated erythrocytes

HSPCs subjected to the above erythrocyte differentiation were analyzed at d14-16 for erythrocyte lineage-specific markers using a FACS Aria II and FACS Diva software (Version 8.0.3; BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA). Edited and non-edited cells were analyzed by flow cytometry using the following antibodies: hCD45 V450 (1:50 dilution; 2 μ L in 100 μ L of pelleted RBCs in 1x PBS buffer; HI30; BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA), CD34 APC (1:50 dilution; 561; BioLegend, San Diego, CA, USA), CD71 PE-Cy7 (1:500 dilution; OKT9; Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA, USA), and CD235a PE (GPA)(1:500 dilution; GA-R2; BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA).

Steady-state hemoglobin tetramer analysis

HSPCs subjected to the above erythrocyte differentiation were lysed using water equivalent to three volumes of pelleted cells. The mixture was incubated at room temperature for 15min, followed by 30s sonication. For separation of lysate from the erythrocyte ghosts, centrifugation was performed at 13,000 RPM for 5min. HPLC analysis of hemoglobins in their native form were analyzed on a weak cation-exchange PolyCAT A column (100 \times 4.6-mm, 3 μ m, 1,000 \AA) (PolyLC Inc., Columbia, MD, USA) using a Shimadzu UFLC system at room temperature. Mobile phase A (MPA) consists of 20mM Bis-tris + 2mM KCN, pH 6.96. Mobile phase B (MPB) consists of 20mM Bis-tris + 2mM KCN + 200mM NaCl, pH 6.55. Clear hemolysate was diluted four times in MPA, and then 20 μ L was injected onto the column. A flow rate of 1.5mL/min and the following gradients were used in time (min)/%B organic solvent: (0/10%; 8/40%; 17/90%; 20/10%; 30/stop).

Reverse-phase HPLC globin chain analysis

Analysis of globin chains in CD34⁺ cell-derived erythroblasts was performed by reverse-phase HPLC, as previously described^{48,49}. In brief, the reverse-phase HPLC assay was carried out on an Agilent 1260 Infinity II HPLC system with Diode Array Detector. The chromatographic column is Aeris™ 3.6 μ m WIDEPOR XB-C18 200 \AA , LC Column 250 \times 4.6mm behind a securityGuard™ ULTRA cartridge (Phenomenex). Globin chains were separated using a gradient program of 41–47% solvent B (acetonitrile) mixing with solvent A (0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in HPLC grade water at pH 2.9) and quantified by the area under the curve of the corresponding peaks in reverse-phase HPLC chromatogram.

Methylcellulose CFU assessment

2d post-targeting, HSPCs were stained using CD34 APC (561; BioLegend, San Diego, CA, USA), Ghost Dye Red 780 (Tonbo Biosciences, San Diego, CA, USA) and live CD34⁺ cells were sorted into 96-well plates containing MethoCult Optimum (STEMCELL Technologies, Vancouver, Canada).

After 12–16d, colonies were appropriately scored based on external appearance in a blinded fashion.

CD34⁺ HSPC transplantation into immunodeficient NSG mice

Six- to eight-week-old female NSG mice (Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME, USA) were irradiated using 200rads of radiation 12-24h prior to transplantation with targeted HSPCs (2d post-targeting) via intrafemoral or tail-vein injections. Approximately 2.5×10^5 – 1.3×10^6 electroporated HSPCs (exact number noted in figures) were injected using an insulin syringe with a 27G, 0.5 inch (12.7mm) needle. Mice were housed at an ambient temperature of 22°C with 50% humidity and 12-hour light/12-hour dark cycles. This experimental protocol was approved by Stanford University's Administrative Panel on Laboratory Animal Care. All mouse studies reported in this paper were performed as a minimum of three separate experimental replicates of editing and transplantation. For sample size, we transplanted as many mice as was feasible to cover the non-Gaussian distribution that would be expected from experimental and donor variability, while also minimizing the total number of animals as per FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research guidelines.

Assessment of Human Engraftment

15-17wks post-transplantation of CD34⁺-edited HSPCs, mice were euthanized and bone marrow was harvested from tibia, femurs, pelvis, sternum, and spine using a pestle and mortar. Mononuclear cells (MNCs) were enriched using a Ficoll gradient centrifugation (Ficoll-Paque Plus, GE Healthcare, Chicago, IL) for 25min at 2,000g at room temperature. The samples were then stained for 30min at 4°C with the following antibodies: monoclonal anti-human CD33 V450 (1:50 dilution; 6uL in 300uL of MNCs pelleted in MACS buffer (1x PBS, 2% FBS, 2mM EDTA); WM53; BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA); HLA-ABC FITC (1:100 dilution; W6/32; BioLegend, San Diego, CA, USA); CD19 PerCp-Cy5.5 (1:20 dilution; HIB19; BD Biosciences); anti-mouse PE-Cy5 mTer119 (1:400 dilution; TER-119; eBiosciences, San Diego, CA, USA); anti-mouse CD45.1 PE-Cy7 (1:200 dilution; A20; eBiosciences, San Diego, CA, USA); hGPA PE (1:200 dilution; HIR2; eBiosciences, San Diego, CA, USA); hCD34 APC (1:50 dilution; 581; BioLegend, San Diego, CA, USA); and CD10 APC-Cy7 (1:20 dilution; HI10a; BioLegend, San Diego, CA, USA). Multi-lineage engraftment was established by the presence of myeloid cells (CD33⁺) and B-cells (CD19⁺) of engrafted human cells (CD45⁺; HLA-A/B/C⁺ cells). For GFP-expressing cells, HLA-FITC was not used in the cocktail. For secondary transplantation, only a portion of the primary mouse mononuclear population was stained, and the rest (2.5×10^5 cells– 1.3×10^6 cells) were transplanted into six- to eight-week-old NSG mice post-irradiation conditioning. Cells were assessed in same aforementioned manner 16wks post-transplantation into secondary mice.

Statistical analysis

All statistical tests on experimental groups were done using GraphPad Prism software (Version 8.4). The exact statistical tests used for each comparison are noted in the figure legends.

Data availability

High-throughput sequencing data generated in the Cas9 off-target activity assessment has been uploaded to the public NCBI data repository: BioProject ID PRJNA691350; available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/691350>. All other data supporting the findings of this study are either included in the published article and/or supplementary information files or (if too large to be included therein) are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request. These include but are not limited to Sanger sequencing, ddPCR, flow cytometry, and HPLC data that were used to generate the figures and conclusions in this study.

Code availability

No previously unreported computer code or algorithm was generated during the course of this study.

Research animals

All reported experiments were completed in compliance with the institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC Protocol #: D16-00134) administered at Stanford by the Administrative Panel on Laboratory Animal Care (APLAC Protocol #: 25065) in accordance with Stanford University policy.

Human research participants

We have complied with all relevant ethical regulations for the following sources of primary human cells used in this study. Wild-type CD34⁺ HSPCs were sourced from fresh cord blood (generously provided by Binns Family program for Cord Blood Research; Stanford University IRB Protocol #: 33813). β -thalassemia-derived HSPCs were collected under protocol 14-H-0077, (registered on clinicaltrials.gov, NCT02105766), which was approved and renewed annually by the NHLBI IRB. We obtained informed consent from patients participating in the study. All human-derived samples were de-identified prior to use in laboratory studies.

Ethics/competing interests statement

The authors of this study also wish to declare the following conflicts of interest: M.H.P. is a member of the scientific advisory board of Allogene Therapeutics. M.H.P. is on the Board of Directors of Graphite Bio. M.H.P. has equity in CRISPR Tx. C.A.V., N.M.B., G.K., M.A.C., G.R.R., and M.A.B. are employees of Integrated DNA Technologies.

Author contributions

DPD and MHP supervised the project. MKC, JC, RM, VAS, JFT, DPD, and MHP designed experiments. MKC, JC, RMM, BJL, CAV, VTL, YZ, AG, FZ, EP, WS, ROB, and NU carried out experiments. MKC, JC, DPD, and MHP wrote the manuscript.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the following funding sources that made this work possible: NIH NHLBI R01 - HL135607 that funded MHP and DPD as well as NIH NHLBI T32 - HL120824 that funded MKC.

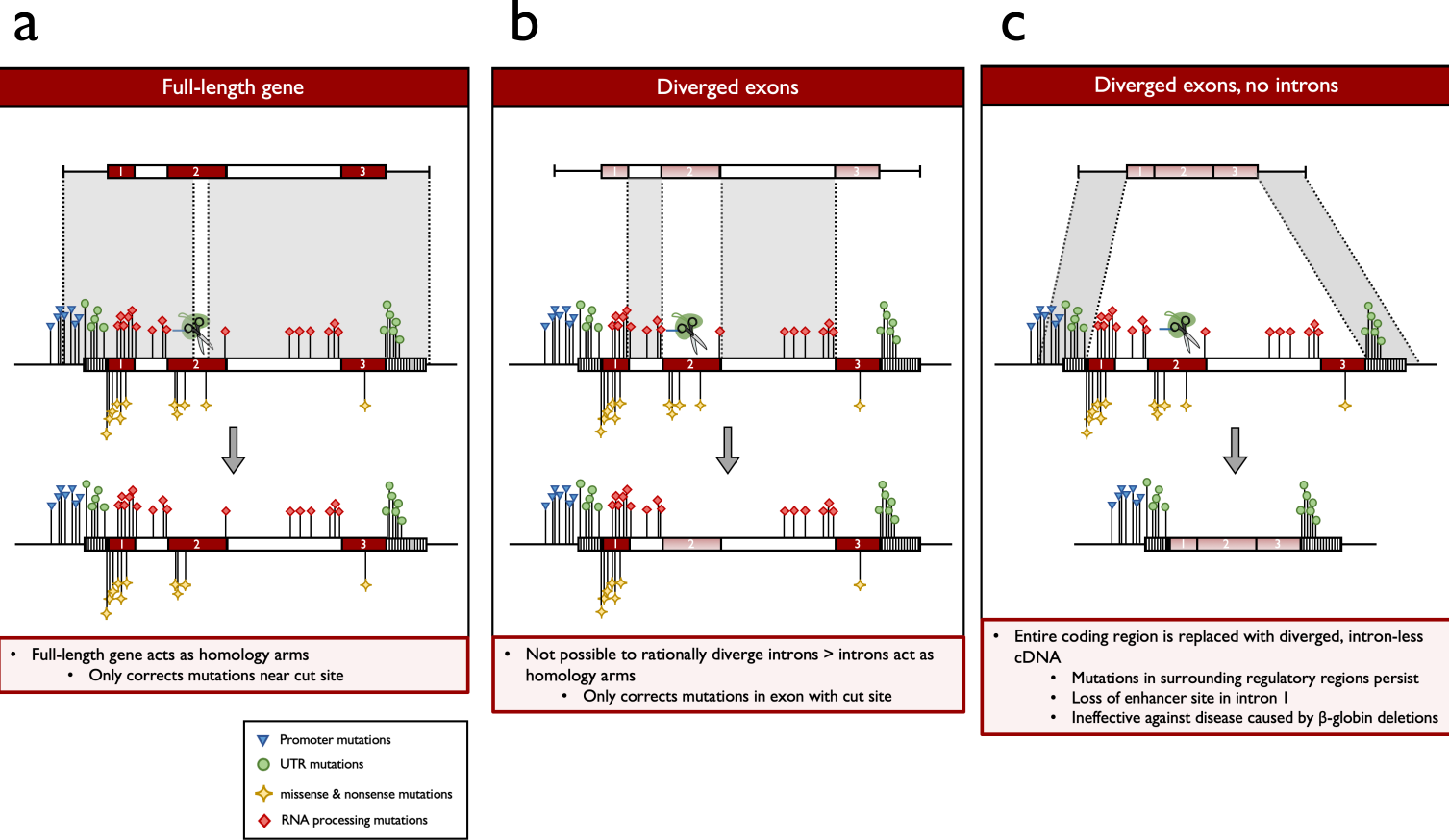
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Supplementary Fig. 1: Expected outcomes of introducing *HBB* transgene at endogenous locus

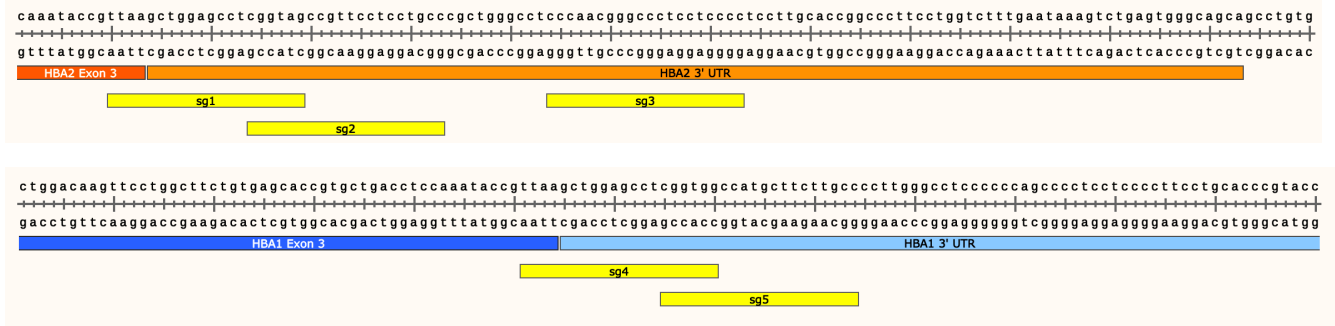


- A) Expected outcome when integrating an un-diverged, full-length *HBB* (with introns) at the endogenous locus of HSPCs derived from patients with β -thalassemia. The varieties of disease-causing mutations are annotated in the figure legend.
- B) Expected outcome when integrating a diverged, full-length *HBB* (with introns) at the endogenous locus of HSPCs derived from patients with β -thalassemia.
- C) Expected outcome when integrating a diverged, *HBB* cDNA (without introns) at the endogenous locus of HSPCs derived from patients with β -thalassemia.

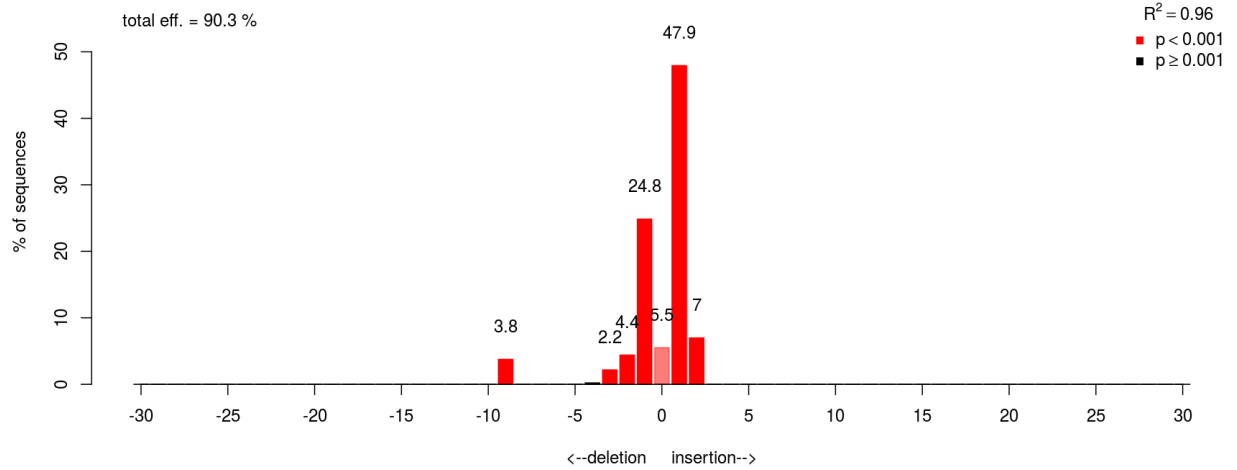
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Guide	Intended target	Sequence
sg1	<i>HBA2</i>	CTACCGAGGCTCCAGCTTAANGG
sg2	<i>HBA2</i>	GGCAGGAGGAACGGCTACCGNGG
sg3	<i>HBA2</i>	GGGGAGGAGGGCCCGTTGGGNGG
sg4	<i>HBA1</i>	CCACCGAGGCTCCAGCTTAANGG
sg5	<i>HBA1</i>	GGCAAGAAGCATGGCCACCGNGG

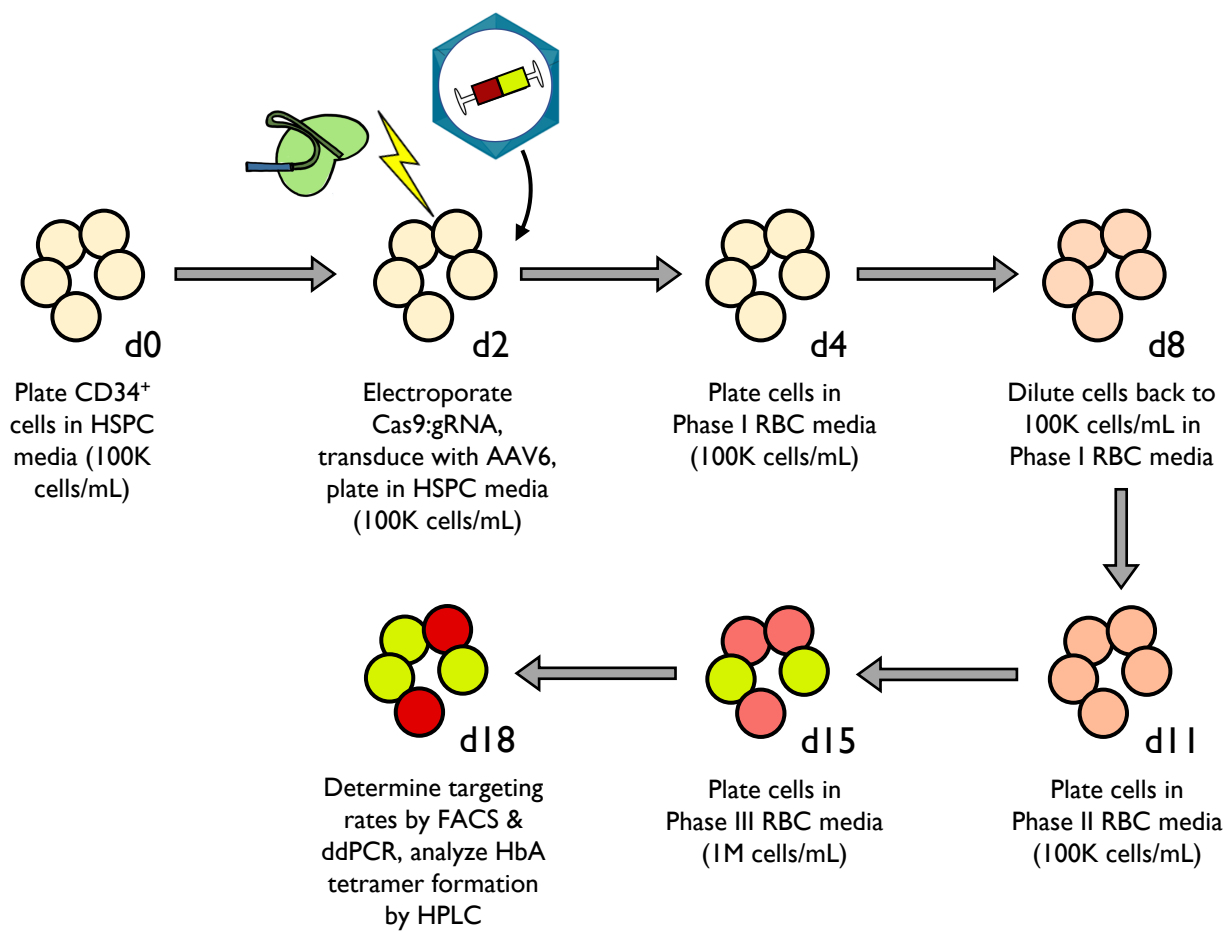
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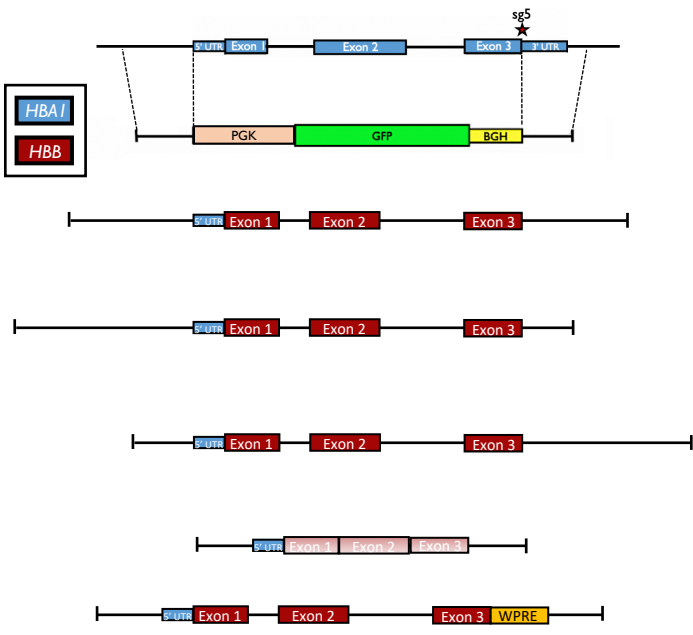


Supplementary Fig. 2: Timeline for targeting α -globin with promoterless reporter vectors



Timeline for targeting of HSPCs with HBB-T2A-YFP integration vectors, differentiation into RBCs, and subsequent analysis.

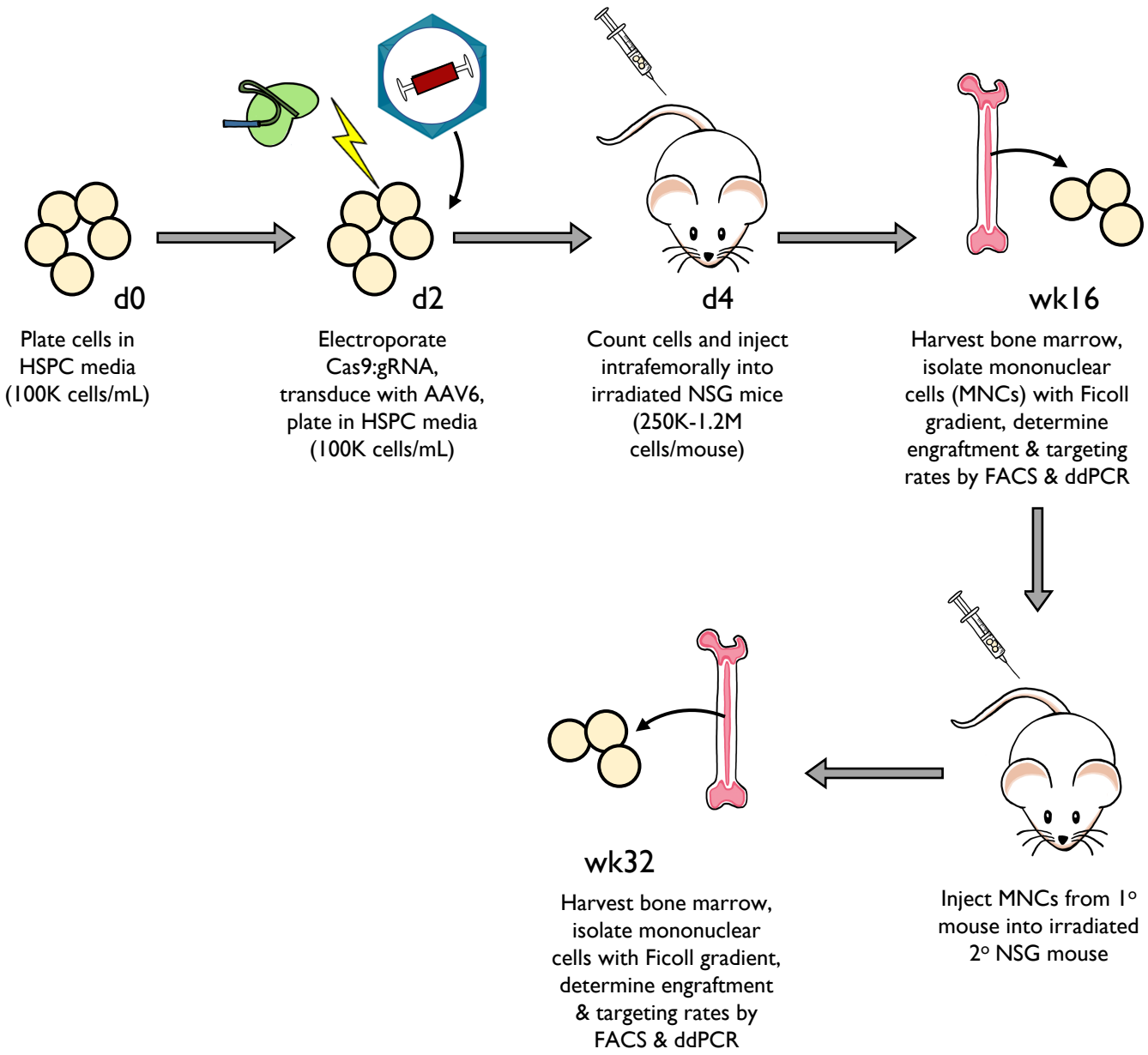
Supplementary Fig. 3: WGR cassettes screened for development of clinical vector



Vector	Rationale	Outcome
S1	To determine if PGK promoter is active at <i>HBA1</i> locus.	GFP expression was low, indicating that PGK is a weaker promoter at this locus than SFFV and UbC.
S2	To determine if even longer HAs (1360bp each) would improve targeting frequency.	Longer HAs reduced ddPCR efficiency, making it difficult to accurately determine targeting frequency. However, HPLC showed decreased HgbA production compared to "HBA1 UTRs long HAs" vector (Fig. 3E), possibly due to incompletely packaged integration vectors.
S3	To determine if longer LHA (2320bp) with normal RHA (400bp) would improve targeting frequency.	Targeting frequency was further improved beyond 880bp HA vector, but HgbA production decreased, possibly due to incompletely packaged integration vectors.
S4	To determine if longer RHA (2320bp) with normal LHA (400bp) would improve targeting frequency.	Longer HAs decreased ddPCR efficiency, making it difficult to accurately determine targeting frequency. 5' end is too homologous and GC-rich to yield efficient ddPCR results. However, very low levels of HgbA were produced, possibly due to incompletely packaged integration vectors.
S5	To see if diverged codon, intron-less <i>HBB</i> can produce HgbA.	Extremely low levels of HgbA were produced, likely as a result of divergence and/or removal of regulatory regions in introns.
S6	To determine if 3' WPRE affects transgene expression.	Extremely low levels of HgbA were produced, likely due to disruption caused by WPRE.

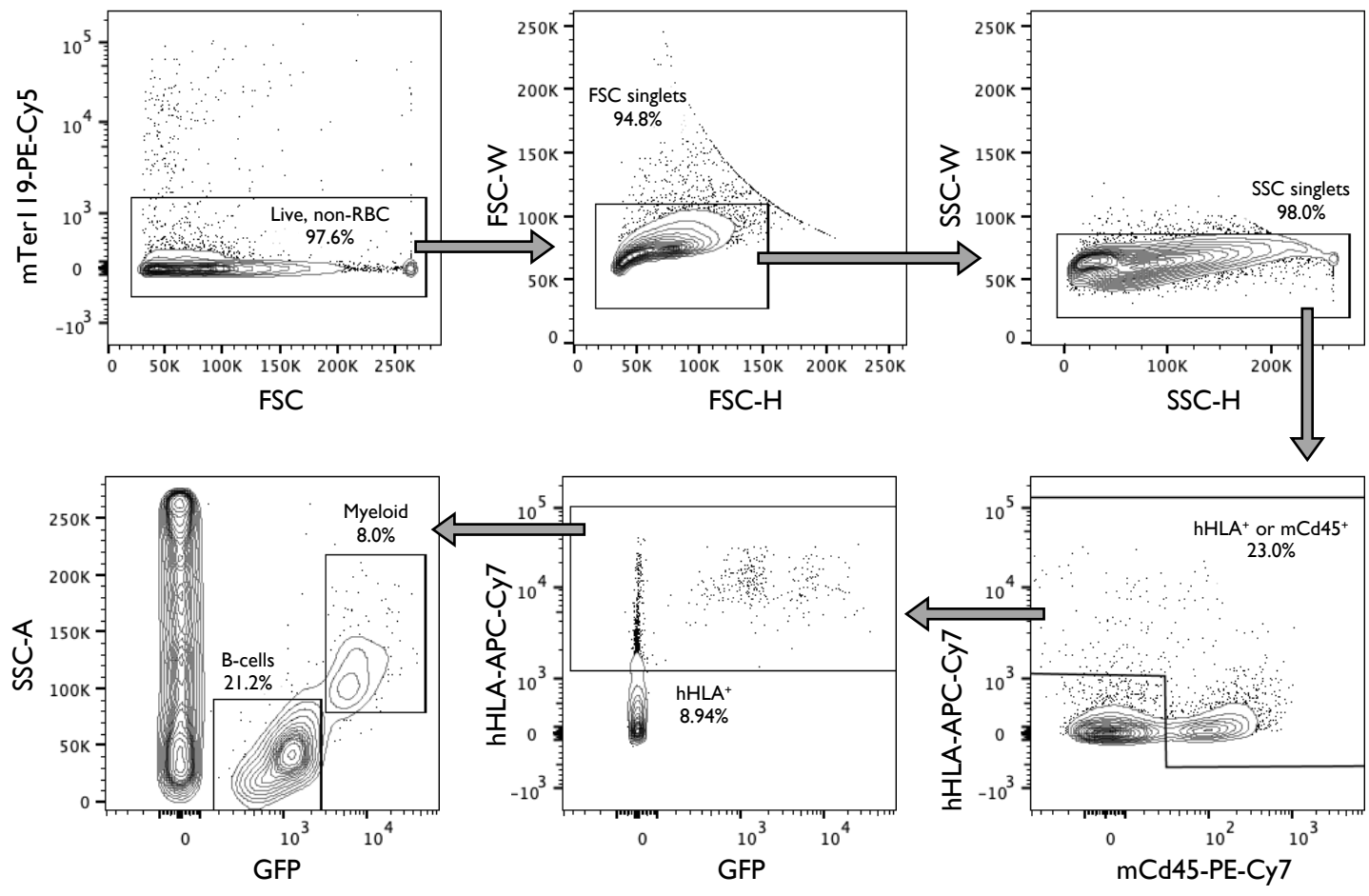
Schematics and corresponding rationale for design as well as eventual outcomes for Vectors S1-6.

Supplementary Fig. 4: Timeline for targeting HSPCs and transplanting into mice



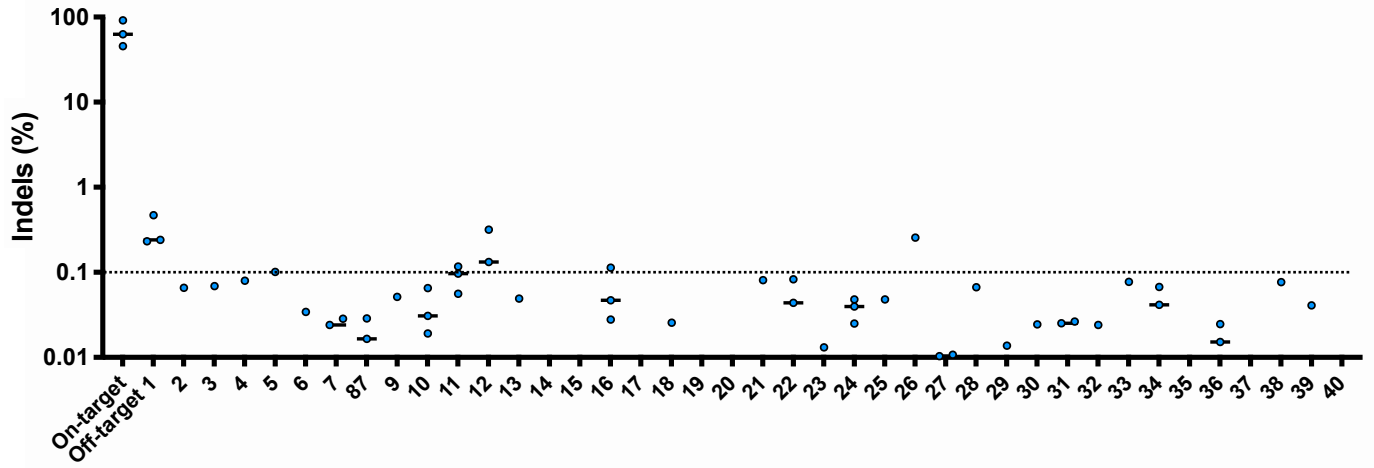
Timeline for targeting HSPCs with *HBB* integration vectors, transplantation into mice (both 1° and 2° engraftment), and subsequent analysis.

Supplementary Fig. 5: Staining and gating scheme used to analyze engraftment and targeting rates of human HSPCs into NSG mice



Representative flow cytometry staining and gating scheme used to analyze targeting and engraftment rates of human HSPCs transplanted into the bone marrow of NSG mice. This sample was targeted with a UbC-GFP integration at the *HBA1* locus. This demonstrates that only human cells (hHLA+) are able to express GFP. Analysis was performed on BD FACS Aria II platform.

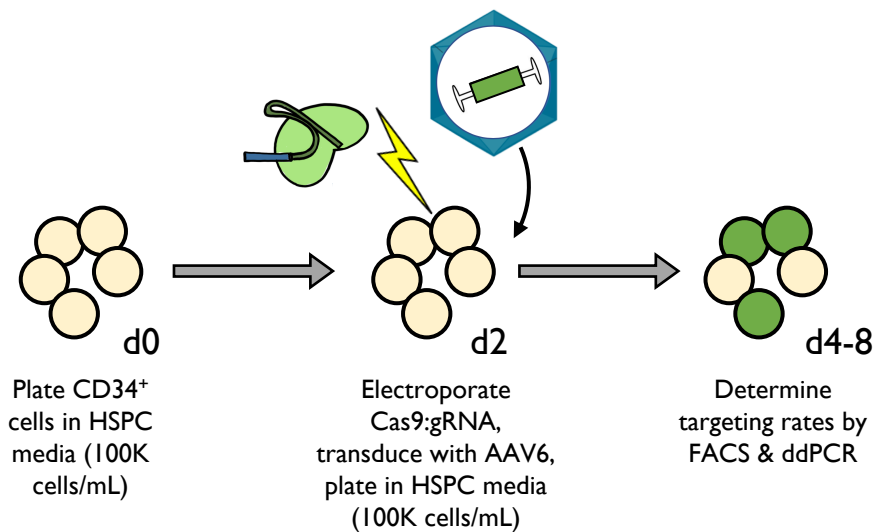
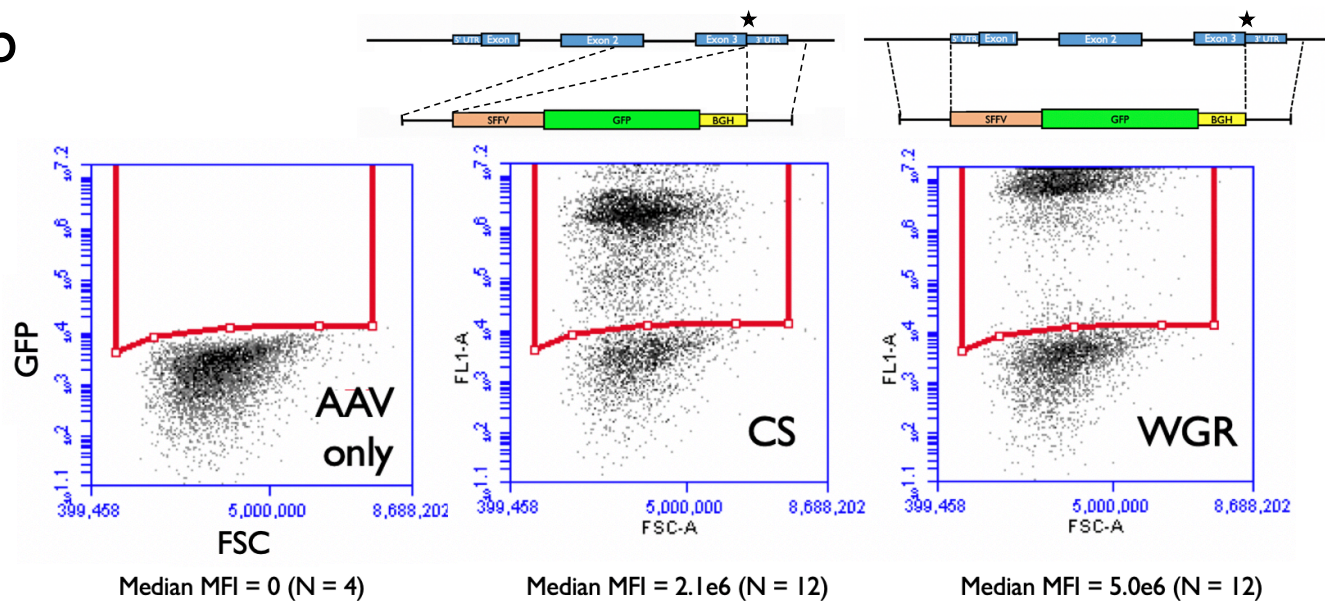
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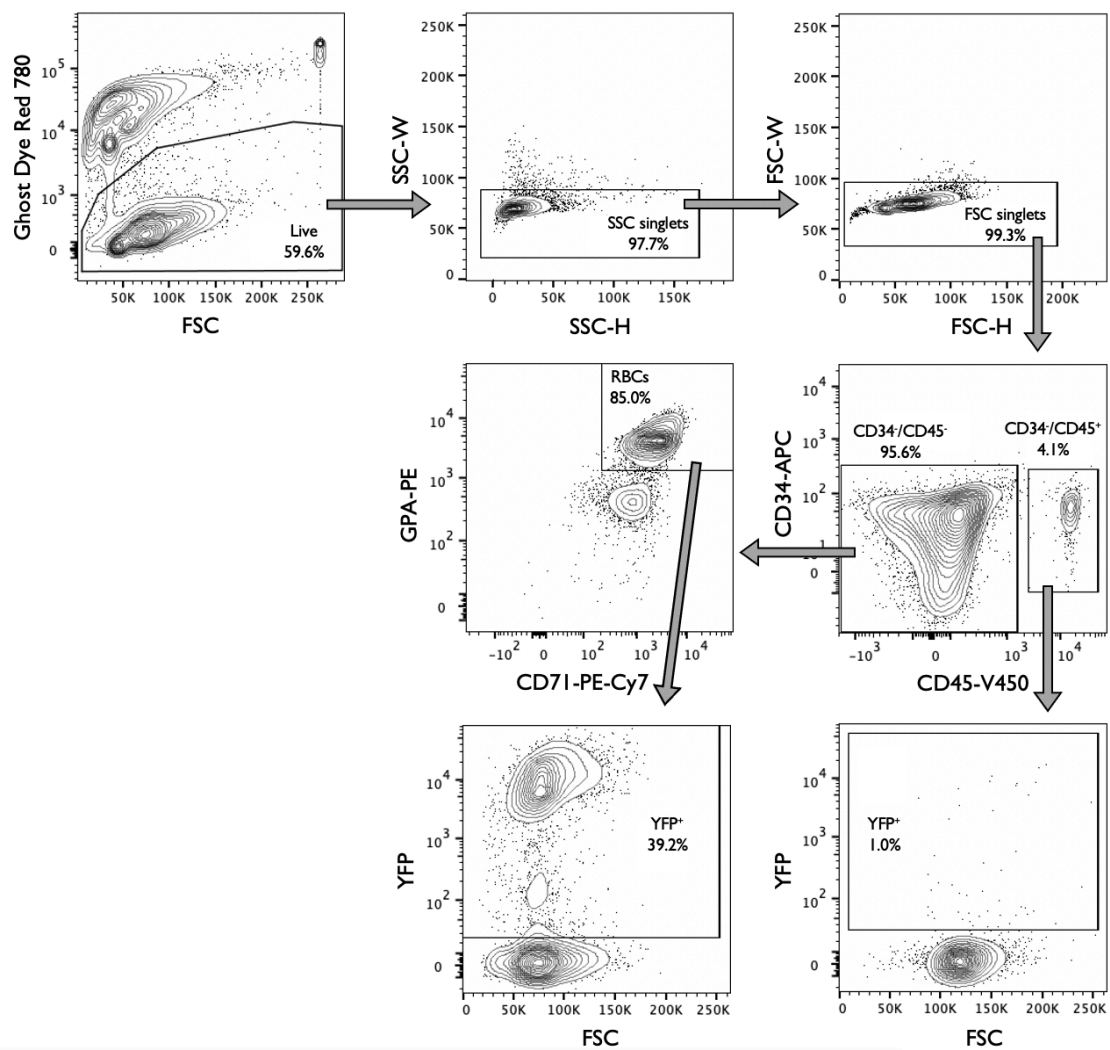
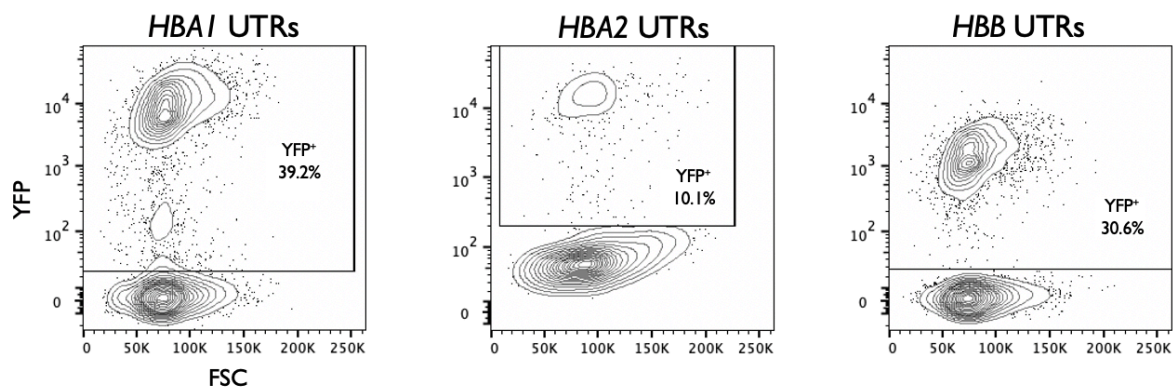


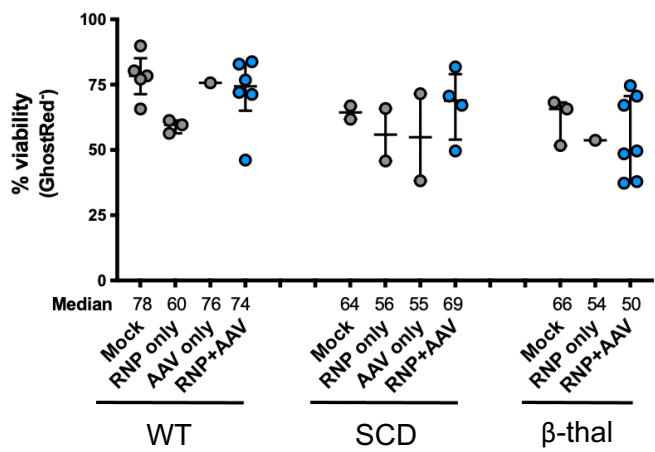
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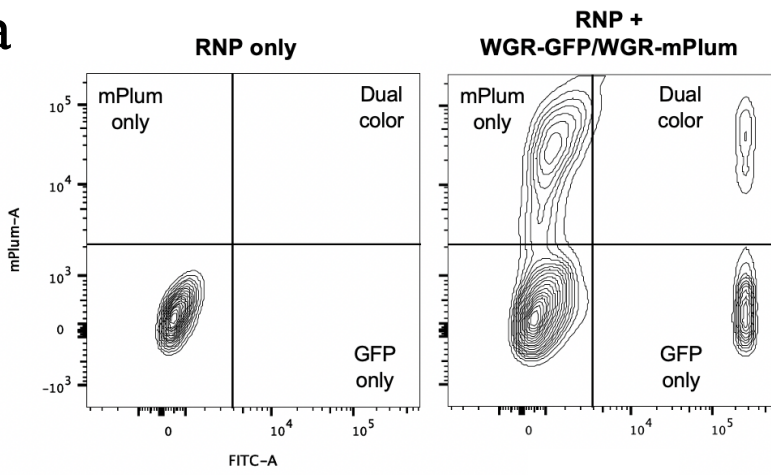
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On	16	177420	177441	-	3' UTR	GGCAAGAAGCATGGCCACCGNNGG	HBA1
OT1	1	116989909	116989932	-	3' UTR	GCAAGAAGCAAGGGCCACCGNNGG	PTGFRN
OT2	3	137162017	137162038	-	intergenic	GGCA_GGAGCATGGCTCCGNNGG	-
OT3	13	113077881	113077902	-	intron	GGCAAG_AGCTGGCCCCCGNNGG	MCF2L
OT4	15	88807360	88807381	-	intron	GACACGAAGCATGGCCA_CGNNGG	ACAN
OT5	1	148269712	148269734	-	intergenic	GGCCAGAAGCCTGGCCAACGNNGG	-
OT6	5	141389987	141390008	-	exon	GGCCAGAATCATGGCCA_CGNNGG	PCDHGB4
OT7	21	43355466	43355489	-	intergenic	ACAAGCAGCATGGCCAACCGNNGG	-
OT8	16	75538678	75538701	+	3' UTR	GCATGAAGCATGGATCACCNGG	TMEM231
OT9	16	27302397	27302418	+	intergenic	GGCAAGAAGCATGGAC_CCGNNGG	-
OT10	4	13580208	13580231	+	intron	GCAATGCAGCATGGCCACTGNNGG	BOD1L1
OT11	15	98113993	98114015	+	intergenic	GGTGAGAAGCATGGCCACCA_NGG	-
OT12	9	131578375	131578396	-	3' UTR	GGCA_GAAGCCTGGCCACAGNNGG	RAPGEF1
OT13	14	104082149	104082170	-	intergenic	GGCCAGAAGC_TGGCCACCGNNGG	-
OT14	1	41291639	41291660	-	intergenic	GGCA_GAAGCAAGGCCACAGNNGG	-
OT15	20	19596791	19596812	-	intron	TGCAA_AAGCATGGCCACCA_NGG	SLC24A3
OT16	2	120361718	120361739	-	intergenic	GG_AAGCAGCATGGCCACCCNNGG	-
OT17	8	137651409	137651430	+	intergenic	GTCAGAAGCATGGCTA_CGNNGG	-
OT18	1	110306904	110306925	+	intron	GGCAA_AACCATGGCCACCCNNGG	RBM15-AS1
OT19	16	85546784	85546805	+	intergenic	GGTAAGAAGC_TGGCCACCA_NGG	-
OT20	14	89983459	89983480	-	intron	GGCAAGATGCA_GGCCACCA_NGG	TDP1

	Chr	Start	Stop	Strand	Sequence	Feature	Gene
OT21	X	35244229	35244251	-	GGCAAGAAGCCTGGCCACCA_NGG	intergenic	-
OT22	17	17799461	17799482	-	GGCCAGAAGCATGGCC_CCGNNGG	intron	RAI1
OT23	3	152261101	152261122	+	GGCAAGAAGC_TGGCAACCTNNGG	intergenic	-
OT24	8	114006481	114006502	+	GGCAGGAAGCATGGCC_CCANNGG	intergenic	-
OT25	17	43862773	43862796	-	GCAAGAAGGCATGGCCAGGNNGG	3' UTR	CD300LG
OT26	2	132403081	132403103	-	GGCAAGAAGCATGTCCAGTNNGG	intergenic	-
OT27	8	63020684	63020705	+	GGCAAGAAGCATGGCT_CTNNGG	intron	GGH
OT28	X	38930273	38930294	-	GGCAAGAAGCAT_GCCAAGNNGG	intergenic	-
OT29	3	66950667	66950688	-	GGCAAGAAG_ATGGCCATCTNNGG	intergenic	-
OT30	16	23501298	23501319	-	GGCAAGAAGCATGGCT_CCANNGG	intron	GGA2
OT31	4	108864307	108864328	+	GGCAAGAAGCATGGC_AAAGNNGG	intron	COL25A1
OT32	1	155655358	155655380	+	GGCAAGCAGCTTGGCCACCGNT	intergenic	-
OT33	17	81371898	81371919	-	GGCCAGAAGC_TGGCCACCGNNGG	intergenic	-
OT34	17	2693605	2693626	-	GGCAGGAAGCATG_CCCACCGNNGG	intron	CLUH
OT35	9	119980958	119980979	+	GGCAA_AAGCATGGACCCGNNGG	intergenic	-
OT36	17	78854799	78854822	+	GCAAGAAGCAATGGCAACCGNAG	3' UTR	TIMP2
OT37	2	15692810	15692831	-	GGCAAGAAGCAGGGCC_CCGNNA	intron	LINC01804
OT38	8	131002525	131002547	-	GGCAGGAAGCATGGCCAC_ANAG	intron	ADCY8
OT39	3	81026992	81027014	-	GGCAAGAAGCATGGCCACAGNTG	intron	LINC02027
OT40	21	24341987	24342010	-	GCAAGCAAGCATGGCCACCTNAG	intergenic	-

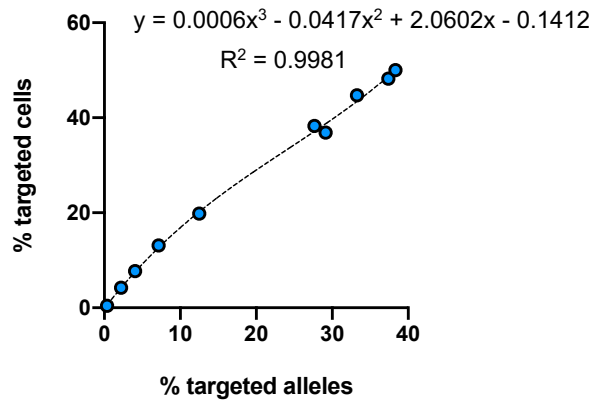
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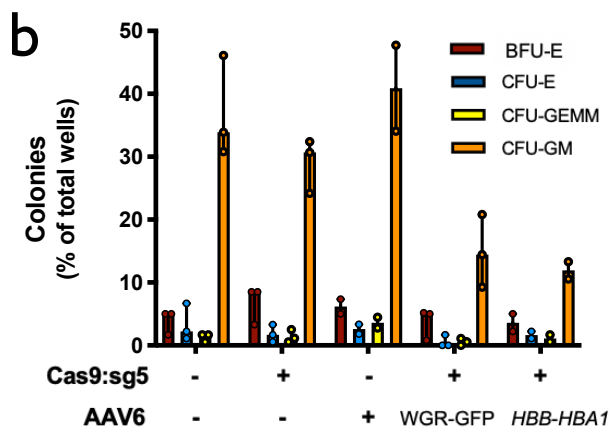
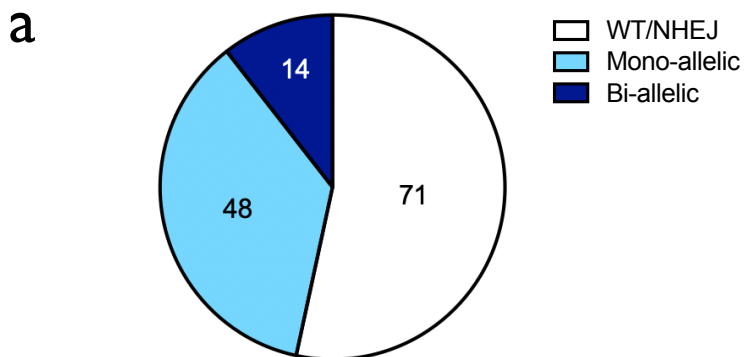
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a**b**

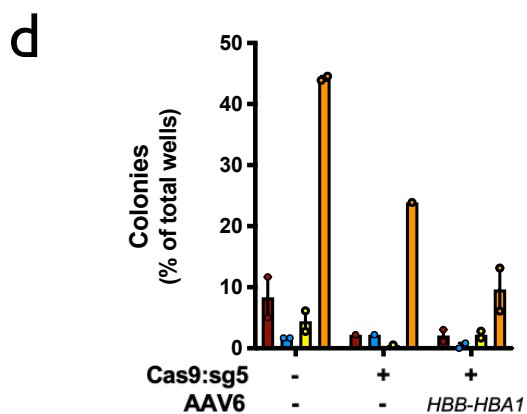
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100	3.4	0.7	0.1	4.2	4.4
300	5.1	2.4	0.2	7.7	8.1
500	17.9	11.8	8.6	38.3	55.4
1000	7.3	5.2	0.6	13.1	14.3
1000	22.4	11.4	10.9	44.7	66.5
2500	12.3	4.9	2.6	19.8	25.0
2500	23.9	11.0	13.3	48.2	74.8
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10000	18.8	7.4	10.7	36.9	58.3

c



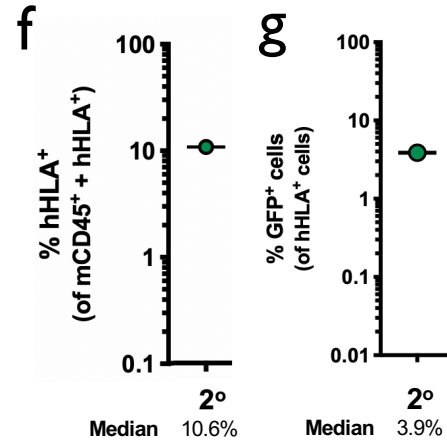
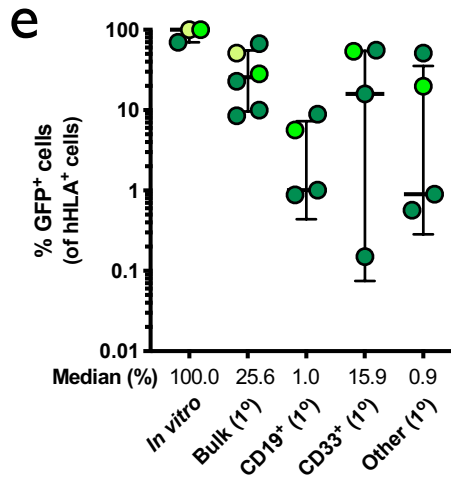
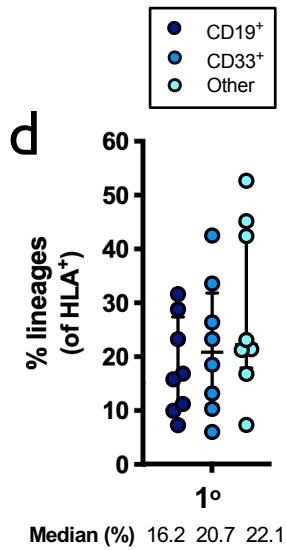
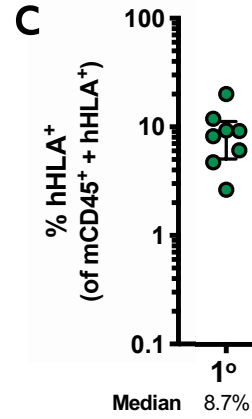
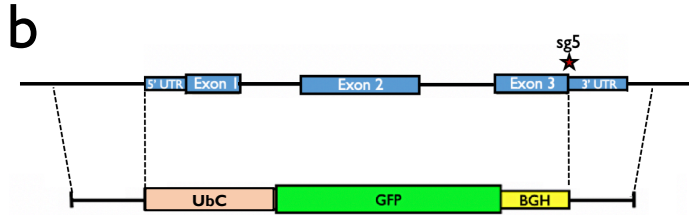
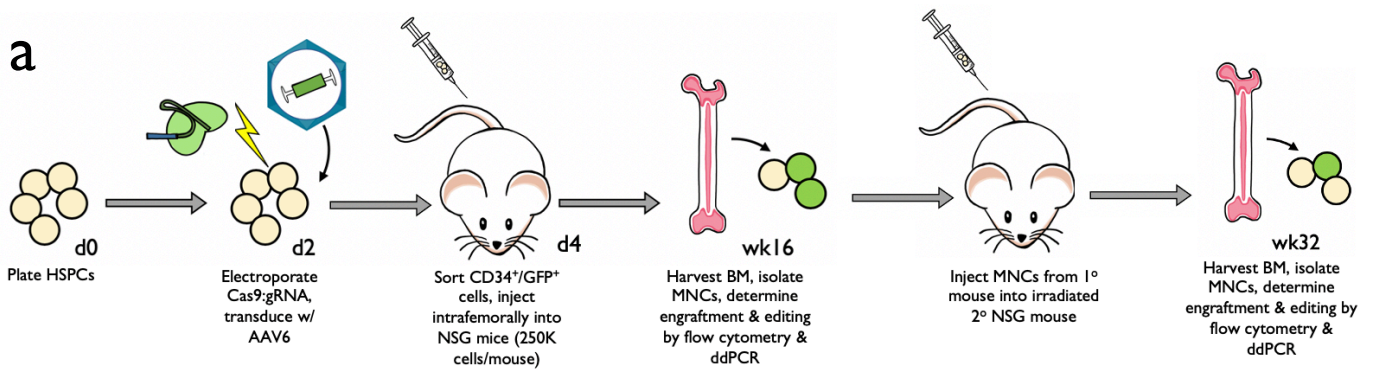
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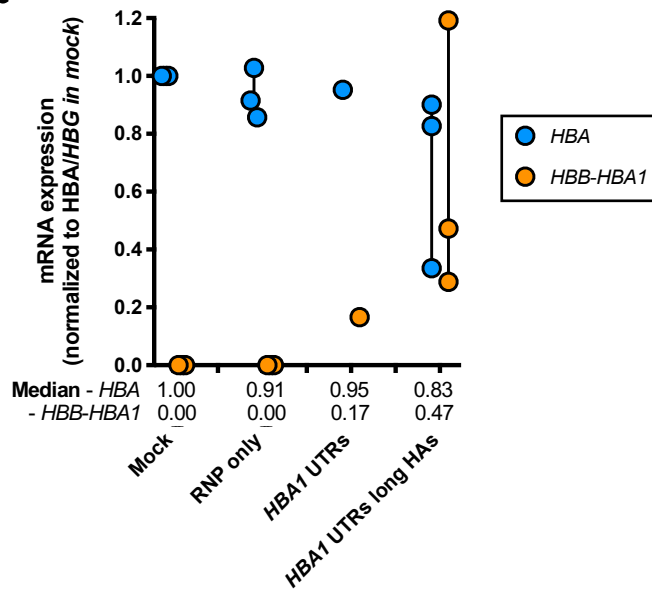
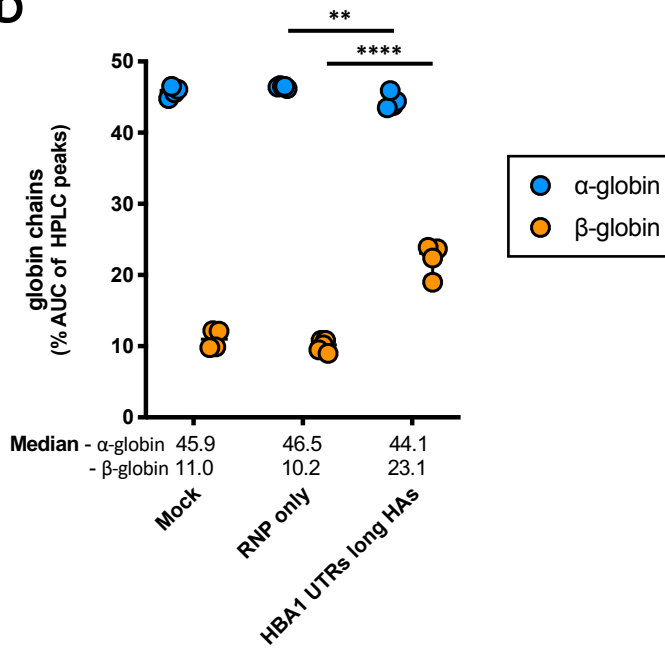
	Mock	RNP only	AAV only	WGR-GFP	HBB-HBA1
BFU-E	8.6%	17.3%	11.6%	18.7%	19.7%
CFU-E	7.3%	4.8%	4.9%	2.8%	9.1%
CFU-GEMM	2.9%	3.6%	6.8%	2.9%	6.1%
CFU-GM	81.3%	74.3%	76.8%	75.6%	65.1%



e

	Mock	RNP only	HBA1 UTRs long HAs	Edited alleles
BFU-E	13.8%	7.7%	14.0%	31.8%
CFU-E	2.9%	7.7%	2.1%	100.0%
CFU-GEMM	7.4%	1.9%	16.4%	30.0%
CFU-GM	75.9%	82.7%	67.5%	34.8%



a**b**

Inventory of Supporting Information

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Extended Data Fig. 1	Analysis of Cas9 sgRNAs targeting α -globin loci	Cromer_ED_Fig1.pdf	A) Table with guide RNA sequences. PAM shown in grey, and differences between <i>HBA1</i> and <i>HBA2</i> are highlighted in red for each guide. B) Schematic depicting locations of all five guide sequences at genomic loci. C) Representative indel spectrum of <i>HBA1</i> -specific sg5 generated by TIDE software.
Extended Data Fig. 2	Off-target analysis of <i>HBA1</i> -specific sg5	Cromer_ED_Fig2.pdf	A) Summary of rhAmpSeq targeted sequencing results at on-target and 40 most highly predicted off-target sites by COSMID for <i>HBA1</i> sg5. Values are indel frequency for RNP treatment after subtraction of indel frequency for Mock

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			<p>treatment at each locus for each experimental replicate. N=3 biologically independent HSPC donors, though not all values are displayed since some were <0.01% after subtraction of Mock indel frequencies. Bars represent median.</p> <p>B) List of genomic coordinates for forty most highly predicted off-target sites by COSMID for <i>HBA1</i> sg5.</p>
Extended Data Fig. 3	Targeting α -globin with GFP integration vectors	Cromer_ED_Fig3.pdf	<p>A) Timeline for editing and analysis of HSPCs targeted with SFFV-<i>GFP</i> integration vectors.</p> <p>B) Depicted are representative flow cytometry images for human HSPCs 14d post-editing. This indicates that WGR integration yields a greater MFI per GFP⁺ cell than CS integration at the <i>HBA1</i> locus. Analysis was performed on BD Accuri C6 platform. Median MFI across all replicates is shown below each flow cytometry image, and schematics of integration vectors are shown above.</p>
Extended Data Fig. 4	Staining and gating scheme used to analyze editing and differentiation rates of RBCs	Cromer_ED_Fig4.pdf	<p>A) Representative flow cytometry staining and gating scheme for human HSPCs targeted at <i>HBA1</i> with HBB-T2A-YFP (<i>HBA1</i> UTRs) and differentiated into RBCs. This indicates that only RBCs (CD34⁻/CD45⁻/CD71⁺/GPA⁺) are able to express the promoterless YFP marker. Analysis was performed on BD FACS Aria II platform.</p> <p>B) Representative flow cytometry images of RBCs (CD34⁻/CD45⁻/CD71⁺/GPA⁺) derived from HSPCs targeted with <i>HBA1</i> UTRs, <i>HBA2</i> UTRs, and <i>HBB</i> UTRs vector. AAV only controls were used for each vector to establish gating scheme, leading to slight variation in positive/negative cut-offs across images.</p>
Extended Data Fig. 5	Viability of HSPCs post-editing	Cromer_ED_Fig5.pdf	<p>HSPC viability was quantified 2-4d post-editing by flow cytometry. Depicted are the percentage of cells that stained negative for GhostRed viability dye. All cells were edited with our optimized <i>HBB</i> WGR vector using standard conditions (i.e. electroporation of Cas9 RNP+sg5, 5K MOI of AAV, and no AAV wash at 24h). Bars represent median \pm interquartile range.</p>

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			WT: N=5 for mock, N=3 for RNP only, N=1 for AAV only, and N=6 for RNP+AAV treatment group; SCD: N=2 for each treatment group with exception of RNP+AAV with N=4; β -thal: N=3 for mock, N=1 for RNP only, and N=7 for RNP+AAV treatment group.
Extended Data Fig. 6	Relationship between % edited alleles and % edited cells	Cromer_ED_Fig6.pdf	<p>A) Representative flow cytometry plots of HSPCs simultaneously targeted at <i>HBA1</i> with GFP (shown in Fig. 1c) and mPlum integration cassettes.</p> <p>B) Table showing % of populations targeted with GFP only, mPlum only, and both colors. Percent of edited cells was then converted to % edited alleles by the following equation: $(\text{total \% targeted cells} + (\% \text{ dual color}) * 2) / 2 = \text{total \% targeted alleles}$.</p> <p>C) Percent edited cells is plotted against % edited alleles for data shown in panel B. A polynomial regression ($R^2 = 0.9981$) was used to determine an equation to convert between % edited alleles and % edited cells.</p>
Extended Data Fig. 7	Colony-forming ability of edited HSPCs	Cromer_ED_Fig7.pdf	<p>A) Distribution of genotypes of methylcellulose colonies displayed in Panels B and D. Numbers of clones corresponding to each category are included in the pie chart.</p> <p>B) <i>In vitro</i> (pre-engraftment) live CD34⁺ HSPCs from healthy donors were single-cell sorted into 96-well plates containing semisolid methylcellulose media for colony forming assays. 14d post-sorting cells were analyzed for morphology. Depicted are number of colonies formed for each lineage (CFU-E = erythroid lineage; CFU-GEMM = multi-lineage; or CFU-GM = granulocyte/macrophage lineage) divided by the total number of wells available for colonies. Columns represent median \pm interquartile range. N=3 experimental replicates with a minimum of 3 96-well methylcellulose-coated plates for mock, RNP only, and WGR-GFP AAV6 treatment groups; N=2 for AAV only and <i>HBB-HBA1</i> AAV6 treatment groups.</p>

			<p>C) Percent distribution of each lineage among all colonies for each treatment for Panel B.</p> <p>D) As above, <i>in vitro</i> (pre-engraftment) live CD34⁺ β-thalassemia HSPCs were sorted into 96-well plates for colony forming assays. Depicted are number of colonies formed for each lineage (B = BFU-E and C = CFU-E (erythroid lineage); GE = CFU-GEMM (multi-lineage); or GM = CFU-GM (granulocyte/macrophage lineage)) divided by the total number of wells available for colonies. Columns represent median ± interquartile range. For Mock and RNP+AAV, N=2 experimental replicates with a minimum of 3 96-well methylcellulose-coated plates for each treatment; N=1 experimental replicate with 3 plates for RNP only treatment.</p> <p>E) Percent distribution of each lineage among all colonies for each treatment for Panel D.</p>
<p>Extended Data Fig. 8</p>	<p>Engraftment into NSG mice of human HSPCs targeted with GFP at α-globin locus</p>	<p>Cromer_ED_Fig8.pdf</p>	<p>A) Timeline for targeting of HSPCs with UbC-GFP integration vector, transplantation into mice (both 1^o and 2^o engraftment), and subsequent analysis.</p> <p>B) AAV6 DNA repair donor design schematic to introduce a UbC-GFP-BGH integration is depicted at the <i>HBA1</i> locus.</p> <p>C) 16 weeks after bone marrow transplantation of targeted human CD34⁺ HSPCs into NSG mice, bone marrow was harvested and rates of engraftment were determined (1^o). Depicted is the percentage of mTert119⁻ cells (non-RBCs) that were hHLA⁺ from the total number of cells that were either mCd45⁺ or hHLA⁺. Bars represent median ± interquartile range. N=8 biologically independent NSG mouse transplantations.</p> <p>D) Among engrafted human cells, the distribution among CD19⁺ (B-cell), CD33⁺ (myeloid), or other (i.e. HSPC/RBC/T/NK/Pre-B) lineages are indicated. Bars</p>

			<p>represent median \pm interquartile range. N=8 biologically independent NSG mouse transplantations.</p> <p>E) Percentage of GFP⁺ cells among pre-transplantation (in vitro, post-sorting) and successfully engrafted populations, both bulk HSPCs and among lineages. Bars represent median \pm interquartile range. N=3 independent HSPC donors from <i>in vitro</i> experiments that were transplanted into N=6 individual NSG mice, from which N=4 individual mice were lineage sorted and analyzed. Various green shades correspond to each particular HSPC donor.</p> <p>F) Following primary engraftments, engrafted human cells were transplanted a second time into the bone marrow of NSG mice. 16 weeks post-transplantation, bone marrow was harvested and rates of engraftment were determined (2°). Depicted is the percentage of mTERR119⁻ cells (non-RBCs) that were hHLA⁺ from the total number of cells that were either mCd45⁺ or hHLA⁺. N=1 NSG mouse transplantation.</p> <p>G) Percentage of GFP⁺ cells among successfully engrafted population from the secondary transplant depicted in Panel F. N=1 NSG mouse transplantation.</p>
Extended Data Fig. 9	Characterization of targeted β -thalassemia HSPCs	Cromer_ED_Fig9.pdf	<p>A) Following differentiation of targeted HSPCs into RBCs, mRNA was harvested and converted into cDNA. Expression of <i>HBA</i> (does not distinguish between <i>HBA1</i> and <i>HBA2</i>) and <i>HBB</i> transgene were normalized to <i>HBG</i> expression. Bars represent median \pm interquartile range. N=3 biologically independent editing experiments for all treatment groups with exception of <i>HBA1</i> UTRs with N=1.</p>

			B) Summary of reverse-phase globin chain HPLC results showing % AUC of β -globin and α -globin. Bars represent median \pm interquartile range. Bars represent median \pm interquartile range. N=3 biologically independent erythroid differentiation experiments for all treatment groups with exception of RNP only with N=5. **: P<0.005; ***: P<0.0001 using unpaired two-tailed t test without adjustment for multiple comparisons.
Extended Data Fig. 10			

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Source Data Fig. 3	Cromer_SourceData_Fig3.xls	Statistical Source Data
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