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Mouse Engineering

Eliot Marshall's article "The mouse that prompted a roar" (News, 4 July, p. 24) discusses some of the constraints faced by researchers using the Cre-*loxP* site-specific recombination system. In fact, there are alternatives to the Cre-*loxP* system that can be used in mice.

The FLP site-specific recombinase system will also mediate precise editing of chromosomal and extrachromosomal sequences in mammalian cells (*1*) and in mice (*2*). Although the relative efficiencies of FLP and Cre in specific murine tissues remain to be determined, FLP works well in many tissues of transgenic mice. Several groups have found that FLP recombines chromosomal targets in murine embryonic stem cells less efficiently than does Cre, but it may be that relative efficiencies will be found to be different for other cell types or tissues.

The Salk Institute has obtained allowed claims for some applications of FLP in mammalian systems and will disseminate FLP-related research materials to the academic community under a simple Materials Transfer Agreement. It will not attempt to regulate or impede the transfer of FLP-related materials among researchers, and also offers nonexclusive commercial licenses under reasonable terms.

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