

Research

- A genome-wide RNA interference screen identifies new regulators of androgen receptor function in prostate cancer cells** 581
Keren Imberg-Kazdan, Susan Ha, Alex Greenfield, Christopher S. Poultney, Richard Bonneau, Susan K. Logan, and Michael J. Garabedian
- Temporal mapping of CEBPA and CEBPB binding during liver regeneration reveals dynamic occupancy and specific regulatory codes for homeostatic and cell cycle gene batteries** 592
Janus Schou Jakobsen, Johannes Waage, Nicolas Rapin, Hanne Cathrine Bisgaard, Fin Stolze Larsen, and Bo Torben Porse
- Analysis of CDS-located miRNA target sites suggests that they can effectively inhibit translation** 604^{OA}
Jean Hausser, Afzal Pasha Syed, Biter Bilen, and Mihaela Zavolan
- High-resolution DNA methylome analysis of primordial germ cells identifies gender-specific reprogramming in mice** 616^{OA}
Hisato Kobayashi, Takayuki Sakurai, Fumihito Miura, Misaki Imai, Kentaro Mochiduki, Eikichi Yanagisawa, Akihiko Sakashita, Takuya Wakai, Yutaka Suzuki, Takashi Ito, Yasuhisa Matsui, and Tomohiro Kono
- CHH islands: de novo DNA methylation in near-gene chromatin regulation in maize** 628
Jonathan I. Gent, Nathanael A. Ellis, Lin Guo, Alex E. Harkess, Yingyin Yao, Xiaoyu Zhang, and R. Kelly Dawe
- Efficient neocentromere formation is suppressed by gene conversion to maintain centromere function at native physical chromosomal loci in *Candida albicans*** 638
Jitendra Thakur and Kaustuv Sanyal
- A genomic portrait of the emergence, evolution, and global spread of a methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* pandemic** 653^{OA}
Matthew T.G. Holden, Li-Yang Hsu, Kevin Kurt, Lucy A. Weinert, Alison E. Mather, Simon R. Harris, Birgit Strommenger, Franziska Layer, Wolfgang Witte, Herminia de Lencastre, Robert Skov, Henrik Westh, Helena Žemličková, Geoffrey Coombs, Angela M. Kearns, Robert L.R. Hill, Jonathan Edgeworth, Ian Gould, Vanya Gant, Jonathan Cooke, Giles F. Edwards, Paul R. McAdam, Kate E. Templeton, Angela McCann, Zhemin Zhou, Santiago Castillo-Ramírez, Edward J. Feil, Lyndsey O. Hudson, Mark C. Enright, Francois Balloux, David M. Aanensen, Brian G. Spratt, J. Ross Fitzgerald, Julian Parkhill, Mark Achtman, Stephen D. Bentley, and Ulrich Nübel
- ## Methods
- ATARiS: Computational quantification of gene suppression phenotypes from multisample RNAi screens** 665
Diane D. Shao, Aviad Tsherniak, Shuba Gopal, Barbara A. Weir, Pablo Tamayo, Nicolas Stransky, Steven E. Schumacher, Travis I. Zack, Rameen Beroukhim, Levi A. Garraway, Adam A. Margolin, David E. Root, William C. Hahn, and Jill P. Mesirov

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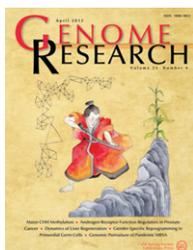
- RNA-seq–based mapping and candidate identification of mutations from forward genetic screens 679
Adam C. Miller, Nikolaus D. Obholzer, Arish N. Shah, Sean G. Megason, and Cecilia B. Moens
- MMAPPR: Mutation Mapping Analysis Pipeline for Pooled RNA-seq 687^{OA}
Jonathon T. Hill, Bradley L. Demarest, Brent W. Bisgrove, Bushra Gorski, Yi-Chu Su, and H. Joseph Yost
- High-resolution mapping, characterization, and optimization of autonomously replicating sequences in yeast 698^{OA}
Ivan Liachko, Rachel A. Youngblood, Uri Keich, and Maitreya J. Dunham
- Mapping genomic hotspots of DNA damage by a single-strand-DNA-compatible and strand-specific ChIP-seq method 705
Zhi-Xiong Zhou, Mei-Jun Zhang, Xu Peng, Yuko Takayama, Xing-Ya Xu, Ling-Zhi Huang, and Li-Lin Du

Resources

- A cross-platform analysis of 14,177 expression quantitative trait loci derived from lymphoblastoid cell lines 716^{OA}
Liming Liang, Nilesh Morar, Anna L. Dixon, G. Mark Lathrop, Goncalo R. Abecasis, Miriam F. Moffatt, and William O.C. Cookson
- A large-scale zebrafish gene knockout resource for the genome-wide study of gene function 727
Gaurav K. Varshney, Jing Lu, Derek E. Gildea, Haigen Huang, Wuhong Pei, Zhongan Yang, Sunny C. Huang, David Schoenfeld, Nam H. Pho, David Casero, Takashi Hirase, Deborah Mosbrook-Davis, Suiyuan Zhang, Li-En Jao, Bo Zhang, Ian G. Woods, Steven Zimmerman, Alexander F. Schier, Tyra G. Wolfsberg, Matteo Pellegrini, Shawn M. Burgess, and Shuo Lin
- Genome-wide bimolecular fluorescence complementation analysis of SUMO interactome in yeast 736
Min-Kyung Sung, Gyubum Lim, Dae-Gwan Yi, Yeon Ji Chang, Eun Bin Yang, KiYoung Lee, and Won-Ki Huh

Erratum 747

^{OA}Open Access paper



Cover From multiple perspectives, transposons and classical genes can be seen in conflict. One famous example of this is how transposons can repress gene expression through inducing DNA methylation of nearby genic sequences. Surprisingly, investigation of whole-genome DNA methylation patterns in maize (presented in this issue) reveals that genes can also induce methylation of nearby transposons. This strategy is reminiscent of a key concept in the martial arts developed by the Samurai for fighting in close quarters in which large weapons were ineffective: to take advantage of the enemies' own strength and turn it against them. (Cover illustration by Elizabeth Lowry. [For details, see Gent et al., pp. 628–637.]