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(54) **METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR TARGETED GENETIC MODIFICATION THROUGH SINGLE-STEP MULTIPLE TARGETING**

VERFAHREN UND ZUSAMMENSETZUNGEN ZUR GEZIELTEN GENETISCHEN MODIFIZIERUNG DURCH EINZELSCHRITTMEHRFACH- TARGETING

PROCÉDÉS ET COMPOSITIONS POUR MODIFICATION GÉNÉTIQUE CIBLÉE PAR CIBLAGE MULTIPLE EN UNE SEULE ÉTAPE

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Description**BACKGROUND**

[0001] Homologous recombination using targeting vectors designed to add, delete, or replace a particular nucleic acid sequence at a genomic locus is a popular approach to achieving a desired genomic modification in non-human animals.

[0002] Although the art of genome modification through homologous recombination has advanced considerably over the last two decades, difficulties still remain with achieving an acceptable targeting frequency using very large targeting vectors, LTVECs, in many circumstances, for example, when a large portion of a rodent genome is replaced with a large human genomic fragment, or targeting certain cell types, e.g., fibroblasts or other somatic cells.

SUMMARY

[0003] The present invention relates to the embodiments characterized in the claims. In particular, methods are provided for modifying a target genomic locus within a mammalian cell via a targeting system that utilizes two or more targeting vectors that are capable of recombining with one another to form a single contiguous nucleic acid segment, wherein the targeting vectors are large targeting vectors (LTVECs) and the LTVECs are each at least 10 kb in size.

[0004] The invention provides double targeting methods for modifying a target genomic locus in a cell, comprising (a) introducing into the cell a nuclease agent that makes a single or double-strand break within the target genomic locus; (b) introducing into the cell a first large targeting vector (LTVEC) that is at least 10 kb in size and comprises a first nucleic acid insert flanked by a first 5' homology arm and a first 3' homology arm, and a second LTVEC that is at least 10 kb in length and comprises a second nucleic acid insert flanked by a second 5' homology arm and a second 3' homology arm, wherein the first 3' homology arm of the first LTVEC has a first overlapping sequence homologous to the second 5' homology arm of the second LTVEC, and the first 5' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the second 3' homology arm of the second LTVEC are homologous to corresponding genomic segments within the target genomic locus, wherein the target genomic locus is modified by integration of the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert between the corresponding genomic segments; and (c) selecting a targeted cell comprising the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert integrated into the target genomic locus.

[0005] Optionally, the first nucleic acid insert and the first 3' homology arm and the second nucleic acid insert and second 5' homology arm are overlapping fragments of a contiguous nucleic acid, which is reformed by integration of the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert into the target genomic locus.

[0006] In accordance with the methods of the invention, the cell is a mammalian cell. In some such methods, the cell is a human cell. In other such methods, the cell is a non-human cell. In some such methods, the cell is a pluripotent cell, a hematopoietic stem cell, a neuronal stem cell, or a fibroblast cell. Optionally, the pluripotent cell is an embryonic stem (ES) cell or an induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell. Optionally, the mammalian cell is a rodent cell. Optionally, the rodent cell is a mouse cell or a rat cell.

[0007] In some of the above methods, the nuclease agent is a zinc finger nuclease (ZFN), a Transcription Activator-Like Effector Nuclease (TALEN), or a meganuclease. In some of the above methods, the nuclease agent comprises a Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR)-associated (Cas) protein and a guide RNA (gRNA). Optionally, the Cas protein is Cas9.

[0008] In some methods, the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, or both are from a species that is different from the species of the cell. In some methods, the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, or both are human nucleic acids.

[0009] In some methods, the combined size of the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert is from about 50 kb to about 500 kb, from about 50 kb to about 300 kb, from about 50 kb to about 75 kb, from about 75 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to 125 kb, from about 125 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 175 kb, from about 175 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 225 kb, from about 225 kb to about 250 kb, from about 250 kb to about 275 kb, from about 275 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 350 kb, from about 350 kb to about 400 kb, from about 400 kb to about 450 kb, or from about 450 kb to about 500 kb. Optionally, the combined size of the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert is from about 100 kb to about 500 kb. Optionally, the combined size of the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert is about 300 kb.

[0010] In some methods, the targeted cell comprises genomic DNA comprising the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert together, which have a combined size ranging from about 5 kb to about 500 kb.

[0011] In some methods, the first overlapping sequence of the first LTVEC is at least 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, or 99.9% identical to the first overlapping sequence of the second LTVEC. In accordance with the methods of the invention, the size of the first overlapping sequence is at least 1 kb. In some methods, the size of the first overlapping sequence is from about 1 kb to about 70 kb. In some methods, the size of the first overlapping sequence is at least 10 kb or at least 20 kb.

[0012] In some methods, integration of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, or both into the target genomic locus results in one or more of: (a) an addition of an exogenous sequence at the target genomic locus; (b) a deletion of an endogenous sequence at the target genomic locus; or (c) a knock-in, a knockout, a point mutation, a domain swap, an exon swap, an intron swap, a regulatory sequence swap, a gene swap, or a combination thereof.

Optionally, the deletion of the endogenous sequence at the target genomic locus is from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 400 kb, from about 400 kb to about 500 kb, from about 500 kb to about 600 kb, from about 600 kb to about 700 kb, or from about 700 kb to about 800 kb.

[0013] In some methods, combined use of the first LTVEC and the second LTVEC results in an increased targeting efficiency compared to use of a single LTVEC. Optionally, the increase in targeting efficiency is at least 1.5-fold, 2-fold, 2.5-fold, 3-fold, 4-fold, 5-fold, 6-fold, 7-fold, 8-fold, 9-fold, 10-fold, 11-fold, 12-fold, 13-fold, 14-fold, 15-fold, 16-fold, 17-fold, 18-fold, 19-fold, or 20-fold.

[0014] In some methods, the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the first LTVEC or the second LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 150 kb. In some methods, the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the first LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 150 kb, and the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the second LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 150 kb. In some methods, the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the first LTVEC or the second LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 120 kb, or from about 120 kb to about 150 kb. In some methods, the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the first LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 120 kb, or from about 120 kb to about 150 kb, and the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the second LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 120 kb, or from about 120 kb to about 150 kb.

[0015] The method of the invention may also comprise: (a) introducing a non-human ES cell into a non-human host embryo, wherein the non-human ES cell was produced by any of the above methods. The non-human animal is a mouse or a rat.

[0016] The invention also provides triple targeting methods for modifying a target genomic locus in a cell, comprising: (a) introducing into the cell a nuclease agent that makes a single or double-strand break within the target genomic locus; (b) introducing into the cell a first large targeting vector (LTVEC) that is at least 10 kb in length and comprises a first nucleic acid insert flanked by a first 5' homology arm and a first 3' homology arm, a second LTVEC that is at least 10 kb in length and comprises a second nucleic acid insert flanked by a second 5' homology arm and a second 3' homology arm, and a third LTVEC that is at least 10 kb in length and comprises a third nucleic acid insert flanked by a third 5' homology arm and a third 3' homology arm, wherein the first 3' homology arm of the first LTVEC has a first overlapping sequence homologous to the second 5' homology arm of the second LTVEC, the second 3' homology arm of the second LTVEC has a second overlapping sequence homologous to the third 5' homology arm of the third LTVEC, and the first 5' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the third 3' homology arm of the third LTVEC are homologous to corresponding genomic segments within the target genomic locus, wherein the target genomic locus is modified by integration of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert between the corresponding genomic segments; and (c) selecting a targeted cell comprising the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert integrated into the target genomic locus.

[0017] Optionally, the first nucleic acid insert and the first 3' homology arm and the second nucleic acid insert and second 5' homology arm are overlapping fragments of a contiguous nucleic acid, and the second nucleic acid insert and the second 3' homology arm and the third nucleic acid insert and third 5' homology arm are overlapping fragments of the contiguous nucleic acid, which is reformed by integration of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert into the target genomic locus.

[0018] In some such methods, the cell is a human cell. In other such methods, the cell is a non-human cell. In some such methods, the cell is a pluripotent cell, a hematopoietic stem cell, a neuronal stem cell, or a fibroblast cell. Optionally, the pluripotent cell is an embryonic stem (ES) cell or an induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell. In some such methods, the cell is a mammalian cell. Optionally, the mammalian cell is a rodent cell. Optionally, the rodent cell is a mouse cell or a rat cell.

[0019] In some such methods, the nuclease agent is a zinc finger nuclease (ZFN), a Transcription Activator-Like Effector Nuclease (TALEN), or a meganuclease. In some such methods, the nuclease agent comprises a Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR)-associated (Cas) protein and a guide RNA (gRNA). Optionally, the Cas protein is Cas9.

[0020] In some such methods, one or more of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert are from a species that is different from the species of the cell. In some such methods, the first nucleic

acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert are human nucleic acids.

[0021] In some such methods, the combined size of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert is from about 50 kb to about 700 kb, from about 50 kb to about 500 kb, from about 50 kb to about 300 kb, from about 50 kb to about 75 kb, from about 75 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to 125 kb, from about 125 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 175 kb, from about 175 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 225 kb, from about 225 kb to about 250 kb, from about 250 kb to about 275 kb, from about 275 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 350 kb, from about 350 kb to about 400 kb, from about 400 kb to about 450 kb, from about 450 kb to about 500 kb, from about 500 kb to about 550 kb, from about 550 kb to about 600 kb, from about 600 kb to about 650 kb, or from about 650 kb to about 700 kb. Optionally, the combined size of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert is from about 100 kb to about 700 kb. Optionally, the combined size of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert is about 400 kb.

[0022] In some such methods, the targeted cell comprises genomic DNA comprising the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert together, which have a combined size ranging from about 5 kb to about 700 kb.

[0023] In some such methods, the first overlapping sequence of the first LTVEC is at least 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, or 99.9% identical to the first overlapping sequence of the second LTVEC, and/or the second overlapping sequence of the second LTVEC is at least 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, or 99.9% identical to the second overlapping sequence of the third LTVEC. In accordance with the methods of the invention, the size of the first overlapping sequence is at least 1 kb and the size of the second overlapping sequence is at least 1 kb. In some such methods, the size of the first overlapping sequence is from about 1 kb to about 70 kb, and/or the size of the second overlapping sequence is from about 1 kb to about 70 kb. In some such methods, the size of the first overlapping sequence is at least 10 kb or at least 20 kb, and/or the size of the second overlapping sequence is at least 10 kb or at least 20 kb.

[0024] In some such methods, integration of one or more of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert into the target genomic locus results in one or more of: (a) an addition of an exogenous sequence at the target genomic locus; (b) a deletion of an endogenous sequence at the target genomic locus; or (c) a knock-in, a knockout, a point mutation, a domain swap, an exon swap, an intron swap, a regulatory sequence swap, a gene swap, or a combination thereof. Optionally, the deletion of the endogenous sequence at the target genomic locus is from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 400 kb, from about 400 kb to about 500 kb, from about 500 kb to about 600 kb, from about 600 kb to about 700 kb, or from about 700 kb to about 800 kb.

[0025] In some methods, the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the first LTVEC, the second LTVEC, or the third LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 150 kb. In some methods, the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the first LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 150 kb, the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the second LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 150 kb, and the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the third LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 150 kb. In some such methods, the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the first LTVEC, the second LTVEC, or the third LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 120 kb, or from about 120 kb to about 150 kb. In some methods, the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the first LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 120 kb, or from about 120 kb to about 150 kb; the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the second LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 120 kb, or from about 120 kb to about 150 kb; and the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the third LTVEC is from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 120 kb, or from about 120 kb to about 150 kb.

[0026] The method of the invention may also comprise: (a) introducing a non-human ES cell into a non-human host embryo, wherein the non-human ES cell was produced by any of the above methods. The non-human animal is a mouse or a rat.

[0027] Methods and compositions are provided for modifying a target genomic locus within a mammalian cell via a targeting system that utilizes two or more targeting vectors that are capable of recombining with one another to form a single contiguous nucleic acid segment, wherein the targeting vectors are large targeting vectors (LTVECs), wherein the LTVECs are each at least 10 kb in size.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0028]

Figure 1 provides a schematic for a genomic double targeting event in which a cell having a heterozygous modification of the TCR alpha locus on mouse chromosome 14 comprising a hygromycin selection cassette is targeted. The hygromycin selection cassette is cleaved by a zinc finger nuclease (ZFN) or by a CRISPR/Cas complex and is targeted with two large targeting vectors comprising a neomycin selection cassette and over 280 kb of human immunoglobulin kappa chain variable gene segments. The large targeting vectors each comprise an overlapping sequence of approximately 20 kb, which allows for homologous recombination between the large targeting vectors. The targeting event precisely inserted the human immunoglobulin kappa chain variable gene segments from both targeting vectors in a single targeting step. The locations of the various probes used to confirm the targeting event are shown as encircled rectangles. Mouse sequence is represented by upward, diagonal hatching, human sequence is represented by no hatching, and recombination sites and selection cassettes are represented by downward, dashed, diagonal hatching. The schematic is not to scale and does not, for example, reflect the actual number of variable gene segments.

Figure 2 provides a schematic for a single targeting event in which a cell having a heterozygous modification of the TCR alpha locus on mouse chromosome 14 comprising a hygromycin selection cassette is targeted with one large targeting vector comprising a neomycin selection cassette and 120 kb of human immunoglobulin kappa chain variable gene segments. The locations of the various probes used to confirm the targeting event are shown as encircled rectangles. Mouse sequence is represented by upward, diagonal hatching, human sequence is represented by no hatching, and recombination sites and selection cassettes are represented by downward, dashed, diagonal hatching. The schematic is not to scale and does not, for example, reflect the actual number of variable gene segments.

Figure 3 provides a schematic for targeting and destruction of a hygromycin selection cassette using a CRISPR/Cas9 system and illustrates the position within the hygromycin gene of the CRISPR recognition sites for the various guide RNAs (gRNAs) that target different sequences in the hygromycin gene. The schematic is not to scale.

Figure 4 provides a schematic for a genomic triple targeting event in which a cell having a heterozygous modification of the TCR alpha locus on mouse chromosome 14 comprising a hygromycin selection cassette is targeted. The hygromycin selection cassette is cleaved by a zinc finger nuclease (ZFN) or by a CRISPR/Cas complex and is targeted with three large targeting vectors comprising a neomycin selection cassette and about 370 kb of human immunoglobulin kappa chain variable gene segments. The large targeting vectors each comprise an overlapping sequence of about 20 kb to about 60 kb, which allows for homologous recombination between the large targeting vectors. The targeting event precisely inserted the human immunoglobulin kappa chain variable gene segments from all three targeting vectors in a single targeting step. The locations of the various probes used to confirm the targeting event are shown as encircled rectangles. Mouse sequence is represented by upward, diagonal hatching, human sequence is represented by no hatching, and recombination sites and selection cassettes are represented by downward, dashed, diagonal hatching. The schematic is not to scale and does not, for example, reflect the actual number of variable gene segments.

DEFINITIONS

[0029] The terms "protein," "polypeptide," and "peptide," used interchangeably herein, include polymeric forms of amino acids of any length, including coded and non-coded amino acids and chemically or biochemically modified or derivatized amino acids. The terms also include polymers that have been modified, such as polypeptides having modified peptide backbones.

[0030] The terms "nucleic acid" and "polynucleotide," used interchangeably herein, include polymeric forms of nucleotides of any length, including ribonucleotides, deoxyribonucleotides, or analogs or modified versions thereof. They include single-, double-, and multi-stranded DNA or RNA, genomic DNA, cDNA, DNA-RNA hybrids, and polymers comprising purine bases, pyrimidine bases, or other natural, chemically modified, biochemically modified, non-natural, or derivatized nucleotide bases.

[0031] A target genomic locus means a region of a genome to be modified by a targeted modification with a targeting vector. The region can be defined as the region within the outer borders of segments of genomic DNA corresponding to homology arms within the targeting vector. A target genomic locus can include any or all of a gene or grouping of genes, one or more introns, one or more exons, one or more regulatory sequences, and the like.

[0032] "Codon optimization" generally includes a process of modifying a nucleic acid sequence for enhanced expression in particular host cells by replacing at least one codon of the native sequence with a codon that is more frequently or most frequently used in the genes of the host cell while maintaining the native amino acid sequence. For example, a nucleic acid encoding a Cas protein can be modified to substitute codons having a higher frequency of usage in a given

prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell, including a bacterial cell, a yeast cell, a human cell, a non-human cell, a mammalian cell, a rodent cell, a mouse cell, a rat cell, a hamster cell, or any other host cell, as compared to the naturally occurring nucleic acid sequence. Codon usage tables are readily available, for example, at the "Codon Usage Database." These tables can be adapted in a number of ways. See Nakamura et al. (2000) Nucleic Acids Research 28:292. Computer algorithms for codon optimization of a particular sequence for expression in a particular host are also available (see, e.g., Gene Forge).

[0033] "Operable linkage" or being "operably linked" includes juxtaposition of two or more components (e.g., a promoter and another sequence element) such that both components function normally and allow the possibility that at least one of the components can mediate a function that is exerted upon at least one of the other components. For example, a promoter can be operably linked to a coding sequence if the promoter controls the level of transcription of the coding sequence in response to the presence or absence of one or more transcriptional regulatory factors.

[0034] The term "pluripotent cell" or "pluripotent stem cell" includes an undifferentiated cell that possesses the ability to develop into more than one differentiated cell type. Such pluripotent cells can be, for example, a mammalian embryonic stem (ES cell) cell or a mammalian induced pluripotent stem cell (iPS cell).

[0035] The term "embryonic stem cell" or "ES cell" includes a non-human embryo-derived totipotent or pluripotent cell that is capable of undifferentiated proliferation *in vitro*, and is capable of contributing to any tissue of the developing embryo upon introduction into a non-human embryo.

[0036] The term "induced pluripotent stem cell" or "iPS cell" includes a pluripotent stem cell that can be derived directly from a differentiated adult cell. Human iPS cells can be generated by introducing specific sets of reprogramming factors into a non-pluripotent cell which can include, for example, Oct3/4, Sox family transcription factors (e.g., Sox1, Sox2, Sox3, Sox15), Myc family transcription factors (e.g., c-Myc, 1-Myc, n-Myc), Krüppel-like family (KLF) transcription factors (e.g., KLF1, KLF2, KLF4, KLF5), and/or related transcription factors, such as NANOG, LIN28, and/or Glis1. Human iPS cells can also be generated, for example, by the use of miRNAs, small molecules that mimic the actions of transcription factors, or lineage specifiers. Human iPS cells are characterized by their ability to differentiate into any cell of the three vertebrate germ layers, e.g., the endoderm, the ectoderm, or the mesoderm. Human iPS cells are also characterized by their ability propagate indefinitely under suitable *in vitro* culture conditions. See, for example, Takahashi and Yamanaka (Cell (2006) Vol. 126(4), pp. 663-676).

[0037] The term "germline" in reference to an immunoglobulin nucleic acid sequence includes a nucleic acid sequence that can be passed to progeny.

[0038] "Complementarity" of nucleic acids means that a nucleotide sequence in one strand of nucleic acid, due to orientation of its nucleobase groups, forms hydrogen bonds with another sequence on an opposing nucleic acid strand. The complementary bases in DNA are typically A with T and C with G. In RNA, they are typically C with G and U with A. Complementarity can be perfect or substantial/sufficient. Perfect complementarity between two nucleic acids means that the two nucleic acids can form a duplex in which every base in the duplex is bonded to a complementary base by Watson-Crick pairing. "Substantial" or "sufficient" complementary means that a sequence in one strand is not completely and/or perfectly complementary to a sequence in an opposing strand, but that sufficient bonding occurs between bases on the two strands to form a stable hybrid complex in set of hybridization conditions (e.g., salt concentration and temperature). Such conditions can be predicted by using the sequences and standard mathematical calculations to predict the T_m (melting temperature) of hybridized strands, or by empirical determination of T_m by using routine methods. T_m includes the temperature at which a population of hybridization complexes formed between two nucleic acid strands are 50% denatured (i.e., a population of double-stranded nucleic acid molecules becomes half dissociated into single strands). At a temperature below the T_m, formation of a hybridization complex is favored, whereas at a temperature above the T_m, melting or separation of the strands in the hybridization complex is favored. T_m may be estimated for a nucleic acid having a known G+C content in an aqueous 1 M NaCl solution by using, e.g., T_m=81.5+0.41(% G+C), although other known T_m computations take into account nucleic acid structural characteristics.

[0039] "Hybridization condition" includes the cumulative environment in which one nucleic acid strand bonds to a second nucleic acid strand by complementary strand interactions and hydrogen bonding to produce a hybridization complex. Such conditions include the chemical components and their concentrations (e.g., salts, chelating agents, formamide) of an aqueous or organic solution containing the nucleic acids, and the temperature of the mixture. Other factors, such as the length of incubation time or reaction chamber dimensions may contribute to the environment. See, e.g., Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, 2nd ed., pp. 1.90-1.91, 9.47-9.51, 11.47-11.57 (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1989).

[0040] Hybridization requires that the two nucleic acids contain complementary sequences, although mismatches between bases are possible. The conditions appropriate for hybridization between two nucleic acids depend on the length of the nucleic acids and the degree of complementation, variables well known in the art. The greater the degree of complementation between two nucleotide sequences, the greater the value of the melting temperature (T_m) for hybrids of nucleic acids having those sequences. For hybridizations between nucleic acids with short stretches of complementarity (e.g. complementarity over 35 or fewer, 30 or fewer, 25 or fewer, 22 or fewer, 20 or fewer, or 18 or fewer nucleotides)

the position of mismatches becomes important (see Sambrook *et al.*, supra, 11.7-11.8). Typically, the length for a hybridizable nucleic acid is at least about 10 nucleotides. Illustrative minimum lengths for a hybridizable nucleic acid include at least about 15 nucleotides, at least about 20 nucleotides, at least about 22 nucleotides, at least about 25 nucleotides, and at least about 30 nucleotides. Furthermore, the temperature and wash solution salt concentration may be adjusted as necessary according to factors such as length of the region of complementation and the degree of complementation.

[0041] The sequence of polynucleotide need not be 100% complementary to that of its target nucleic acid to be specifically hybridizable. Moreover, a polynucleotide may hybridize over one or more segments such that intervening or adjacent segments are not involved in the hybridization event (e.g., a loop structure or hairpin structure). A polynucleotide (e.g., gRNA) can comprise at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 99%, or 100% sequence complementarity to a target region within the target nucleic acid sequence to which they are targeted. For example, a gRNA in which 18 of 20 nucleotides are complementary to a target region, and would therefore specifically hybridize, would represent 90% complementarity. In this example, the remaining noncomplementary nucleotides may be clustered or interspersed with complementary nucleotides and need not be contiguous to each other or to complementary nucleotides.

[0042] Percent complementarity between particular stretches of nucleic acid sequences within nucleic acids can be determined routinely using BLAST programs (basic local alignment search tools) and PowerBLAST programs known in the art (Altschul *et al.* (1990) *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410; Zhang and Madden (1997) *Genome Res.* 7:649-656) or by using the Gap program (Wisconsin Sequence Analysis Package, Version 8 for Unix, Genetics Computer Group, University Research Park, Madison Wis.), using default settings, which uses the algorithm of Smith and Waterman (*Adv. Appl. Math.*, 1981, 2, 482-489).

[0043] The methods and compositions provided herein employ a variety of different components. It is recognized throughout the description that some components can have active variants and fragments. Such components include, for example, nuclease agents, Cas proteins, CRISPR RNAs, tracrRNAs, and guide RNAs. Biological activity for each of these components is described elsewhere herein.

[0044] "Sequence identity" or "identity" in the context of two polynucleotides or polypeptide sequences makes reference to the residues in the two sequences that are the same when aligned for maximum correspondence over a specified comparison window. When percentage of sequence identity is used in reference to proteins it is recognized that residue positions which are not identical often differ by conservative amino acid substitutions, where amino acid residues are substituted for other amino acid residues with similar chemical properties (e.g., charge or hydrophobicity) and therefore do not change the functional properties of the molecule. When sequences differ in conservative substitutions, the percent sequence identity may be adjusted upwards to correct for the conservative nature of the substitution. Sequences that differ by such conservative substitutions are said to have "sequence similarity" or "similarity." Means for making this adjustment are well known. Typically, this involves scoring a conservative substitution as a partial rather than a full mismatch, thereby increasing the percentage sequence identity. Thus, for example, where an identical amino acid is given a score of 1 and a non-conservative substitution is given a score of zero, a conservative substitution is given a score between zero and 1. The scoring of conservative substitutions is calculated, e.g., as implemented in the program PC/GENE (Intelligenetics, Mountain View, California).

[0045] "Percentage of sequence identity" includes the value determined by comparing two optimally aligned sequences over a comparison window, wherein the portion of the polynucleotide sequence in the comparison window may comprise additions or deletions (i.e., gaps) as compared to the reference sequence (which does not comprise additions or deletions) for optimal alignment of the two sequences. The percentage is calculated by determining the number of positions at which the identical nucleic acid base or amino acid residue occurs in both sequences to yield the number of matched positions, dividing the number of matched positions by the total number of positions in the window of comparison, and multiplying the result by 100 to yield the percentage of sequence identity.

[0046] Unless otherwise stated, sequence identity/similarity values include the value obtained using GAP Version 10 using the following parameters: % identity and % similarity for a nucleotide sequence using GAP Weight of 50 and Length Weight of 3, and the nwsgapdna.cmp scoring matrix; % identity and % similarity for an amino acid sequence using GAP Weight of 8 and Length Weight of 2, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix; or any equivalent program thereof. "Equivalent program" includes any sequence comparison program that, for any two sequences in question, generates an alignment having identical nucleotide or amino acid residue matches and an identical percent sequence identity when compared to the corresponding alignment generated by GAP Version 10.

[0047] A "homologous" sequence includes a nucleic acid sequence that is either identical or substantially similar to a known reference sequence, such that it is at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100% identical to the known reference sequence. An "orthologous" sequence includes a nucleic acid sequence from one species that is functionally equivalent to a known reference sequence in another species.

[0048] The term "*in vitro*" includes artificial environments and to processes or reactions that occur within an artificial

environment (e.g., a test tube). The term "*in vivo*" includes natural environments (e.g., a cell or organism or body) and to processes or reactions that occur within a natural environment. The term "*ex vivo*" includes cells that have been removed from the body of an individual and to processes or reactions that occur within such cells.

[0049] Compositions or methods "comprising" or "including" one or more recited elements may include other elements not specifically recited. For example, a composition that "comprises" or "includes" a protein may contain the protein alone or in combination with other ingredients.

[0050] Designation of a range of values includes all integers within or defining the range, and all subranges defined by integers within the range.

[0051] Unless otherwise apparent from the context, the term "about" encompasses values within a standard margin of error of measurement (e.g., SEM) of a stated value.

[0052] The singular forms of the articles "a," "an," and "the" include plural references unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. For example, the term "a Cas protein" or "at least one Cas protein" can include a plurality of Cas proteins, including mixtures thereof.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

I. Modification of Genomic Loci Using Multiple Targeting Vectors

[0053] The present invention relates to methods for modifying a target genomic locus within a mammalian cell as characterized in the claims. Such methods employ multiple large targeting vectors (LTVECs) that are capable of recombining with one another to form a single contiguous nucleic acid segment. Such methods can utilize 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or more LTVECs in a single targeting step. Methods and compositions are also provided for enhancing homologous recombination at a target genomic locus in a cell. Such methods employ two or more nucleic acids comprising one or more overlapping sequences. Any of the methods disclosed herein can occur *in vitro*, *ex vivo*, or *in vivo*.

A. Double-Targeting

[0054] Methods for modifying a target genomic locus within a mammalian cell via a double targeting method are provided as characterized in the claims. The methods employ two large targeting vectors (LTVECs) (i.e., a first LTVEC and a second LTVEC) that are capable of recombining with one another to form a single contiguous nucleic acid segment. The first LTVEC comprises a first nucleic acid insert and the second LTVEC comprises a second nucleic acid insert. The nucleic acid inserts are flanked by 5' and 3' homology arms. The first nucleic acid insert and its 3' homology arm and the second nucleic acid insert and its 5' homology arm can be overlapping fragments of the same contiguous nucleic acid. The 3' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the 5' homology arm of the second LTVEC overlap (i.e., are complementary to one another) and the first and second inserts flank the overlapping homology arms. Such methods involve three recombination events that can occur in any order: (1) recombination between the 3' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the 5' homology arm of the second LTVEC; (2) recombination between the 5' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the corresponding segment in the target locus; and (3) recombination between the 3' homology arm of the second LTVEC and the corresponding segment in the target locus. This three-way recombination reconstructs the contiguous nucleic acid in the target locus with the overlapping sequence of the homology arms positioned in between the first and the second nucleic acid inserts.

[0055] Each of the LTVECs also comprises either a 5' or a 3' homology arm that is homologous to a region of DNA within or near a target genomic locus which allows recombination and integration of the single contiguous nucleic acid segment. Thus, by means of a three-way recombination event, a large nucleic acid modification (i.e., deletion, insertion, and/or replacement) can be made at a target locus in a single targeting step.

[0056] The three recombination events can occur in any order. In one embodiment, the recombination event between the overlapping sequences of the two LTVECs occurs before the homologous recombination with the target locus. In another embodiment, the recombination with the target locus occurs before the recombination between the two LTVECs. In yet another embodiment, the three recombination events can occur simultaneously.

[0057] In one embodiment, a method for modifying a target genomic locus in a cell is provided. Such a method comprises introducing a first large targeting vector (LTVEC) comprising a first nucleic acid insert flanked by a first 5' homology arm and a first 3' homology arm, and a second LTVEC comprising a second nucleic acid insert flanked by a second 5' homology arm and a second 3' homology arm, wherein the first 3' homology arm of the first LTVEC has an overlapping sequence homologous to the second 5' homology arm of the second LTVEC, and the first 5' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the second 3' homology arm of the second LTVEC are homologous to corresponding genomic segments within the target genomic locus; wherein the target genomic locus is modified by integration of the first and second nucleic acid inserts between the corresponding genomic segments. The method further comprises selecting a targeted cell comprising the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert integrated in the target genomic

locus.

B. Triple Targeting

[0058] Methods for modifying a target genomic locus within a mammalian cell via triple targeting methods are also provided as characterized in the claims. The methods employ three large targeting vectors (LTVECs) (i.e., a first LTVEC, a second LTVEC and a third LTVEC) that are capable of recombining with one another to form a single contiguous nucleic acid segment. The first LTVEC comprises a first nucleic acid insert, the second LTVEC comprises a second nucleic acid insert, and the third LTVEC comprises a third nucleic acid insert. The nucleic acid inserts are flanked by 5' and 3' homology arms. The first nucleic acid insert and its 3' homology arm and the second nucleic acid insert and its 5' homology arm can be overlapping fragments of the same contiguous nucleic acid. The second nucleic acid insert and its 3' homology arm and the third nucleic acid insert and its 5' homology arm can be overlapping fragments of the same contiguous nucleic acid. The 3' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the 5' homology arm of the second LTVEC overlap (i.e., are complementary to one another) and the first and second inserts flank the overlapping homology arms. The 3' homology arm of the second LTVEC and the 5' homology arm of the third LTVEC overlap (i.e., are complementary to one another) and the second and third inserts flank the overlapping homology arms.

[0059] Such methods involve four recombination events that can occur in any order: (1) recombination between the 3' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the 5' homology arm of the second LTVEC; (2) recombination between the 3' homology arm of the second LTVEC and the 5' homology arm of the third LTVEC; (3) recombination between the 5' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the corresponding segment in the target locus; and (4) recombination between the 3' homology arm of the third LTVEC and the corresponding segment in the target locus. This four-way recombination reconstructs the contiguous nucleic acid in the target locus with the overlapping sequence of the homology arms positioned in between the first and the second nucleic acid inserts and in between the second and third nucleic acid inserts.

[0060] The first and the third LTVECs also comprise either a 5' or a 3' homology arm that is homologous to a region of DNA within or near a target genomic locus, which allows recombination and integration of the single contiguous nucleic acid segment. Thus, by means of a four-way recombination event, a large nucleic acid modification (i.e., deletion, insertion, and/or replacement) can be made at a target locus in a single targeting step.

[0061] The four recombination events can occur in any order. In one embodiment, the recombination event between the overlapping sequences of the three LTVECs occurs before the homologous recombination with the target locus. In another embodiment, the recombination with the target locus occurs before the recombination between the three LTVECs. In yet another embodiment, the four recombination events can occur simultaneously.

[0062] In one embodiment, a method for modifying a target genomic locus in a cell is provided. Such a method comprises introducing a first large targeting vector (LTVEC) comprising a first nucleic acid insert flanked by a first 5' homology arm and a first 3' homology arm, a second LTVEC comprising a second nucleic acid insert flanked by a second 5' homology arm and a second 3' homology arm, and a third LTVEC comprising a third nucleic acid insert flanked by a third 5' homology arm and a third 3' homology arm, wherein the first 3' homology arm of the first LTVEC has an overlapping sequence homologous to the second 5' homology arm of the second LTVEC, the second 3' homology arm of the second LTVEC has an overlapping sequence homologous to the third 5' homology arm of the third LTVEC, and the first 5' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the third 3' homology arm of the third LTVEC are homologous to corresponding genomic segments within the target genomic locus; wherein the target genomic locus is modified by integration of the first, the second, and the third nucleic acid inserts between the corresponding genomic segments. The method further comprises selecting a targeted cell comprising the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert integrated in the target genomic locus.

C. Targeting With Multiple LTVECs

[0063] The targeting methods provided herein for creating a genetic modification in a single targeting step provide new possibilities and enhanced efficiencies for targeted gene modifications beyond those achieved with a single LTVEC targeting method. Targeting with two, three, or more LTVECs that are capable of recombining with each other allows for the modification of a larger segment of DNA. The recombination events can occur in any order. For example, the recombination event between the overlapping sequences of the LTVECs can occur before the homologous recombination with the target locus. Alternatively, the recombination with the target locus can occur before the recombination among the LTVECs or the recombination events can occur simultaneously.

[0064] The targeting methods described herein provide several advantages over existing single LTVEC targeting methods including an increased targeting efficiency, an increase in the achievable size of the genetic modification, and a reduction in the number of targeting steps needed to obtain large genomic modifications, which saves time and maintains the pluripotency of modified embryonic stem cells. This is of particular importance for large genomic modifications as the methods allow for the modification of the genomic locus with a combination of nucleic acid inserts from

two, three, or more LTVECs in a single step. Thus, such modifications can allow for very large (e.g., >50 kb) deletions, replacements and insertions within the targeted genomic locus.

[0065] For example, the time required to use three LTVECs in a sequential manner to modify a target genomic locus and screen for and confirm the targeted modification is approximately nine months, whereas the same modification can be made and confirmed with three LTVECs simultaneously in only about four months.

[0066] Sequential modifications also create a higher risk of loss of pluripotency and germline transmission potential when pluripotent cells such as embryonic stem cells are modified. As the number of passages in culture increases and the number of electroporations increases, chromosomal and karyotypic abnormalities accumulate and can cause a loss of germline competence. See, e.g., Buehr et al. (2008) *Cell* 135:1287-1298; Li et al. (2008) *Cell* 135(7): 1299-1310; and Liu et al. (1997) *Dev. Dyn.* 209:85-91. Targeting using multiple LTVECs simultaneously instead of sequentially reduces the number of passages and number of electroporations and thereby increases the ability to perform genetic manipulations in pluripotent cells such as embryonic stem cells while retaining their germline competency.

[0067] In particular embodiments, the genetic modification comprises a modification of one or more endogenous nucleic acids, a substitution of one or more endogenous nucleic acids, a replacement of an endogenous nucleic acid with a heterologous nucleic acid, a knockout, or a knock-in. In specific examples, the genetic modification is introduced by introducing at least two large targeting vectors (LTVECs) into a cell. In another example, the genetic modification is introduced by introducing at least three large targeting vectors (LTVECs) into a cell. In such examples, the LTVECs can comprise DNA to be inserted into the target genomic locus of the cell.

[0068] In some embodiments, the methods for modifying a target genomic locus comprise introducing a genetic modification into mammalian cells. Likewise, the invention provides mammalian cells that comprise a genetic modification.

[0069] Various methods for making targeted genetic modifications in cells can be used. For example, as described above, the targeted genetic modification employs a system that will generate a targeted genetic modification via a homologous recombination event. In other instances, a cell can be modified using nuclease agents that generate a single or double strand break at a targeted genomic locus. The single or double-strand break is then repaired by the non-homologous end joining pathway (NHEJ). Exemplary methods for generating such targeted genetic modifications are discussed in detail elsewhere herein, including, for example, the use of large targeting vectors. See also Wang et al. (2013) *Cell* 153:910-918, Mandalos et al. (2012) *PLOS ONE* 7:e45768:1-9, and Wang et al. (2013) *Nat Biotechnol.* 31:530-532.

[0070] Targeted gene modification by homologous recombination between a targeting vector and a target locus can be very inefficient, especially in cell types other than rodent embryonic stem cells. Use of a targeting vector in combination with a nuclease-directed double-strand DNA break at the target locus can greatly enhance targeting efficiency for modifications, such as deletions or insertions. Similarly, use of a targeting vector in combination with a nuclease-directed single-strand DNA break at the target locus can greatly enhance targeting efficiency for modifications.

[0071] In accordance with the embodiments characterized in the claims, the LTVECs are employed in combination with nuclease agents that make a single or double-strand break within a target genomic locus. Such a method further comprises introducing a nuclease agent into a cell. In one embodiment, the nuclease agent is a zinc-finger nuclease (ZFN). In another embodiment, the nuclease agent is a Clustered Regularly Interspersed Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR)/CRISPR-associated (Cas) system.

[0072] In one embodiment, a double targeting method is provided for modifying a target genomic locus in a cell, the method comprising: (a) introducing into a cell a nuclease agent that makes a single or double-strand break within a target genomic locus; (b) introducing a first large targeting vector (LTVEC) comprising a first nucleic acid insert flanked by a first 5' homology arm and a first 3' homology arm, and a second LTVEC comprising a second nucleic acid insert flanked by a second 5' homology arm and a second 3' homology arm, wherein the first 3' homology arm of the first LTVEC has an overlapping sequence homologous to the second 5' homology arm of the second LTVEC and the first 5' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the second 3' homology arm of the second LTVEC are homologous to corresponding genomic segments within the target genomic locus; wherein the target genomic locus is modified by integration of the first and second nucleic acid inserts between the corresponding genomic segments; and (c) selecting a targeted cell comprising the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert integrated in the target genomic locus. In such methods, the first nucleic acid insert and the first 3' homology arm and the second nucleic acid insert and second 5' homology arm are overlapping fragments of a contiguous nucleic acid, which is reformed by integration of the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert into the target genomic locus.

[0073] In one embodiment a triple targeting method is provided for modifying a target genomic locus in a cell, the method comprising: (a) introducing into a cell a nuclease agent that makes a single or double-strand break within a target genomic locus; (b) introducing a first large targeting vector (LTVEC) comprising a first nucleic acid insert flanked by a first 5' homology arm and a first 3' homology arm, a second LTVEC comprising a second nucleic acid insert flanked by a second 5' homology arm and a second 3' homology arm, and a third LTVEC comprising a third nucleic acid insert flanked by a third 5' homology arm and a third 3' homology arm, wherein the first 3' homology arm of the first LTVEC has an overlapping sequence homologous to the second 5' homology arm of the second LTVEC, the second 3' homology

arm of the second LTVEC has an overlapping sequence homologous to the third 5' homology arm of the third LTVEC, and the first 5' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the third 3' homology arm of the third LTVEC are homologous to corresponding genomic segments within the target genomic locus; wherein the target genomic locus is modified by integration of the first, the second, and the third nucleic acid inserts between the corresponding genomic segments; and
 5 (c) selecting a targeted cell comprising the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert integrated in the target genomic locus. In such triple targeting methods, the first nucleic insert and the first 3' homology arm and the second nucleic acid insert and second 5' homology arm are overlapping fragments of a contiguous nucleic acid, and the second nucleic insert and the second 3' homology arm and the third nucleic acid insert and third
 10 5' homology arm are overlapping fragments of a contiguous nucleic acid, which is reformed by integration of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert and the third nucleic acid insert into the target genomic locus.

[0074] In some cases, the two, three, or more LTVECs can be introduced simultaneously. Alternatively, the two, three, or more LTVECs can be introduced sequentially or can be introduced at different times.

[0075] The various components of the targeting system may include, for example, targeting vectors, nuclease agents, a target genomic locus, nucleic acid inserts, polynucleotides of interest, and/or other components, each of which is
 15 described in detail elsewhere herein.

D. Targeting With Multiple Overlapping Nucleic Acids

[0076] The targeting methods provided herein for creating a genetic modification in a single targeting step provide
 20 new possibilities and enhanced efficiencies for targeted gene modifications beyond those achieved with a single nucleic acid.

[0077] Methods are provided herein for modifying a target genomic locus or enhancing homologous recombination at a target genomic locus in a cell, comprising introducing into the cell first and second nucleic acids, wherein the first and the second nucleic acids comprise an overlapping sequence. The first and second nucleic acids can be, for example,
 25 linear nucleic acids. Such methods can also comprise introducing into the cell three or more nucleic acids that are capable of recombining with each other. For example, the first and second nucleic acids can have a first overlapping sequence, and the second and third nucleic acids can have a second overlapping sequence. In the methods of the invention, the target genomic locus is modified, or homologous recombination at the target genomic locus is enhanced, with the assistance of a nuclease that makes a single or double strand break at or near the target genomic locus, such
 30 as a zinc finger nuclease, a TALEN, a meganuclease, or Cas9 and a guide RNA.

[0078] The method can enhance homologous recombination of the first nucleic acid at the target genomic locus, can enhance homologous recombination of the second nucleic acid at the target genomic locus, or can enhance homologous recombination of both the first and the second nucleic acids at the target genomic locus. As an example, the homologous recombination of the first nucleic acid at the target genomic locus can be enhanced compared to methods in which the
 35 first nucleic acid is introduced without the second nucleic acid. Likewise, the homologous recombination of the second nucleic acid at the target genomic locus can be enhanced compared to methods in which the second nucleic acid is introduced without the first nucleic acid. The enhancement of the homologous recombination can be, for example, at least 1.5-fold, 2-fold, 2.5-fold, 3-fold, 4-fold, 5-fold, 6-fold, 7-fold, 8-fold, 9-fold, 10-fold, 11-fold, 12-fold, 13-fold, 14-fold, 15-fold, 16-fold, 17-fold, 18-fold, 19-fold, or 20-fold. For example, the fold change in enhancement with a nuclease can
 40 be 0.5-fold, 0.6-fold, 0.7-fold, 0.8-fold, 0.9-fold, 1.0-fold, 1.1-fold, 1.2-fold, 1.3-fold, 1.4-fold, 1.5-fold, 1.6-fold, 1.7-fold, 1.8-fold, 1.9-fold, 2-fold, 3-fold, 4-fold, 5-fold, 6-fold, 7-fold, 8-fold, 9-fold, or 10-fold when compared to enhancement without a nuclease.

[0079] The overlapping sequence of the first nucleic acid can be homologous to the overlapping sequence of the second nucleic acid. For example, the overlapping sequence of the first nucleic acid can be at least 70%, 75%, 80%,
 45 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, or 99.9% identical to the overlapping sequence of the second nucleic acid. Alternatively, the overlapping sequence of the first nucleic acid can be 100% identical to the overlapping sequence of the second nucleic acid.

[0080] The overlapping sequence is at least 1 kb and can be, for example, from about 1 kb to about 70 kb or more. For example, the overlapping sequence can be from about 1 kb to about 5 kb, from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from
 50 about 10 kb to about 15 kb, from about 15 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 25 kb, from about 25 kb to about 30 kb, from about 30 kb to about 35 kb, from about 35 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 45 kb, from about 45 kb to about 50 kb, from about 50 kb to about 55 kb, from about 55 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 65 kb, from about 65 kb to about 70 kb, from about 70 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 90 kb, from about 90 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 120 kb, from about 120 kb to about 140 kb, from about 140 kb to about
 55 160 kb, from about 160 kb to about 180 kb, from about 180 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 220 kb, from about 220 kb to about 240 kb, from about 240 kb to about 260 kb, from about 260 kb to about 280 kb, or about 280 kb to about 300 kb. As an example, the overlapping sequence can be from about 20 kb to about 60 kb. Alternatively, the overlapping sequence can be at least 1 kb, at least 5 kb, at least 10 kb, at least 15 kb, at least 20 kb, at least 25 kb, at

least 30 kb, at least 35 kb, at least 40 kb, at least 45 kb, at least 50 kb, at least 55 kb, at least 60 kb, at least 65 kb, at least 70 kb, at least 80 kb, at least 90 kb, at least 100 kb, at least 120 kb, at least 140 kb, at least 160 kb, at least 180 kb, at least 200 kb, at least 220 kb, at least 240 kb, at least 260 kb, at least 280 kb, or at least 300 kb.

[0081] The overlapping sequence can be located anywhere within the first and second nucleic acids. For example, the overlapping sequence can be located at the 3' end of the first nucleic acid and the 5' end of the second nucleic acid. Alternatively, the overlapping sequence can be located at the 5' end of the first nucleic acid and at the 3' end of the second nucleic acid.

[0082] The first nucleic acid is a targeting vector comprising a first nucleic acid insert flanked by a first 5' homology arm and a first 3' homology arm, and the second nucleic acid is a second targeting vector comprising a second nucleic acid insert flanked by a second 5' homology arm and a second 3' homology arm.

[0083] The first targeting vector is a large targeting vector (LTVEC) that is at least 10 kb. Likewise, the second targeting vector is an LTVEC that is at least 10 kb. Exemplary sizes of LTVECs are disclosed elsewhere herein. For example, the first and/or second LTVECs can be from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 120 kb, from about 120 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 250 kb, from about 250 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 350 kb, from about 350 kb to about 400 kb, from about 400 kb to about 450 kb, from about 450 kb to about 500 kb, from about 500 kb to about 550 kb, from about 550 kb to about 600 kb, about 600 kb to about 650 kb, from about 650 kb to about 700 kb, from about 700 kb to about 750 kb, or from about 750 kb to about 800 kb.

[0084] In some methods, the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert are overlapping fragments of a contiguous nucleic acid. In some methods, the first and/or second nucleic acid inserts can be from a different species than the species of the cell. For example, the first and/or second nucleic acid inserts can be human nucleic acids.

[0085] The methods result in integration of the first and/ second nucleic acid inserts into the target genomic locus. The integration can result in addition of a sequence at the target genomic locus, deletion of a sequence at the target genomic locus, or replacement of a sequence at the target genomic locus. For example, the integration can result in addition of an exogenous sequence at the target genomic locus, deletion of an endogenous sequence at the target genomic locus, or replacement of an endogenous sequence with an exogenous sequence at the target genomic locus. The first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, or the combination of the first and second nucleic acid inserts that are inserted at the target genomic locus can be, for example, from about 5 kb to about 500 kb. Other exemplary nucleic acid insert and insertion sizes are disclosed elsewhere herein. The deletion at the target genomic locus can be, for example, from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 150 kb, or from about 150 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 400 kb, from about 400 kb to about 500 kb, from about 500 kb to about 600 kb, from about 600 kb to about 700 kb, or from about 700 kb to about 800 kb. Other exemplary deletion sizes are disclosed elsewhere herein.

[0086] The targeted cell can be any of the cell types provided herein, and the target genomic locus can be any DNA within the cell. For example, the target genomic locus can be in the genome of the cell, or it can be on extrachromosomal DNA within the cell.

II. Nucleic Acid Inserts and Targeting Vectors

A. Nucleic Acid Insert

[0087] One or more nucleic acid inserts can be employed in the methods disclosed herein, and they can be introduced into a cell via separate targeting vectors or on the same targeting vector. Nucleic acid inserts include segments of DNA to be integrated at genomic target loci. Integration of a nucleic acid insert at a target locus can result in addition of a nucleic acid sequence of interest to the target locus, deletion of a nucleic acid sequence of interest at the target locus, and/or replacement of a nucleic acid sequence of interest at the target locus.

[0088] The methods provide for the modification of a genomic locus with nucleic acid inserts that are larger in size than can be achieved using conventional single targeting techniques (i.e., a single LTVEC). In such methods, the nucleic acid inserts are included on two, three, or more LTVECs. The LTVECs are designed such that they are capable of recombining with each other to form a single large segment of DNA comprising the combined nucleic acid inserts from the two, three, or more LTVECs.

[0089] In such methods, the nucleic acid inserts are flanked by 5' and 3' homology arms. The 3' homology arm flanking the first nucleic acid insert and the 5' homology arm flanking the second nucleic acid insert are overlapping fragments of the same contiguous nucleic acid which is then reformed by recombination between the overlapping fragments of the homology arms. In such methods, the recombination between the two LTVECs results in a contiguous nucleic acid insert with the overlapping sequence of the homology arms positioned in between the first and the second nucleic acid inserts. Triple targeting methods involve an additional recombination between the second LTVEC and the third LTVEC in which

the 3' homology arm flanking the second nucleic acid insert and the 5' homology arm flanking the third nucleic acid insert are overlapping fragments of the same contiguous nucleic acid which is then reformed by recombination between the overlapping fragments of the homology arms. In such triple targeting methods, the recombination between the three LTVECs results in a contiguous nucleic acid insert with the overlapping sequence of the homology arms positioned in between the first, the second and the third nucleic acid inserts. In one embodiment, the overlapping sequence of the homology arms comprises a portion of the nucleic acid insert.

[0090] As such, these methods allow for a modification of a genomic locus with nucleic acid inserts from two, three or more LTVECs in a single targeting step, thus effectively increasing the total size of the nucleic acid insert while at the same time reducing the number of targeting steps.

[0091] The nucleic acid insert or the corresponding nucleic acid at the target locus being replaced can be a coding region, an intron, an exon, an untranslated region, a regulatory region, a promoter, an enhancer, or any combination thereof. Moreover, the size of the nucleic acid insert (i.e., the combined nucleic acid inserts from the two, three or more LTVECs) or the corresponding nucleic acid at the target locus being replaced can be of any desired length, including, for example, between 10-100 nucleotides in length, 100-500 nucleotides in length, 500 nucleotides-1 kb in length, 1 kb to 1.5 kb in length, 1.5 kb to 2 kb in length, 2 kb to 2.5 kb in length, 2.5 kb to 3 kb in length, 3 kb to 5 kb in length, 5 kb to 8 kb in length, 8 kb to 10 kb in length or more. In other cases, the length can be from about 50 kb to about 700 kb, from about 50 kb to about 500 kb, from about 50 kb to about 300 kb, from about 50 kb to about 75 kb, from about 75 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to 125 kb, from about 125 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 175 kb, from about 175 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 225 kb, from about 225 kb to about 250 kb, from about 250 kb to about 275 kb, from about 275 kb to about 300 kb, from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 250 kb, from about 250 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 350 kb, from about 350 kb to about 400 kb, from about 400 kb to about 450 kb, from about 450 kb to about 500 kb, from about 500 kb to about 550 kb, from about 550 kb to about 600 kb, from about 600 kb to about 650 kb, from about 650 kb to about 700 kb, from about 700 kb to about 800 kb, from about 800 kb to 1 Mb, from about 1 Mb to about 1.5 Mb, from about 1.5 Mb to about 2 Mb, from about 2 Mb, to about 2.5 Mb, from about 2.5 Mb to about 2.8 Mb, or from about 2.8 Mb to about 3 Mb. Alternatively, the combined nucleic acid inserts from the two, three, or more LTVECs or the corresponding nucleic acid at the target locus being replaced can be from about 3 Mb to about 4 Mb, from about 4 Mb to about 5 Mb, from about 5 Mb to about 6 Mb, from about 6 Mb to about 7 Mb, from about 7 Mb to about 8 Mb, from about 8 Mb to about 9 Mb, or from about 9 Mb to about 10 Mb. In yet other cases, the length can be at least 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, or 900 nucleotides or at least 1 kb, 2 kb, 3 kb, 4 kb, 5 kb, 6 kb, 7 kb, 8 kb, 9 kb, 10 kb, 11 kb, 12 kb, 13 kb, 14 kb, 15 kb, 16 kb or greater. For example, the combined nucleic acid inserts from the two, three or more LTVECs) or the corresponding nucleic acid at the target locus being replaced can be at least 20 kb, at least 40 kb, at least 60 kb, at least 80 kb, at least 100 kb, at least 150 kb, at least 200 kb, at least 250 kb, at least 300 kb, at least 350 kb, at least 400 kb, at least 450 kb, at least 500 kb, at least 550 kb, at least 600 kb, at least 650 kb, at least 700 kb, at least 750 kb, at least 800 kb, at least 850 kb, at least 900 kb, at least 950 kb, at least 1 Mb, at least 1.5 Mb, at least 2 Mb, at least 2.5 Mb, at least 3 Mb, at least 4 Mb, at least 5 Mb, at least 6 Mb, at least 7 Mb, at least 8 Mb, at least 9 Mb, at least 10 Mb. In one embodiment, the size of the nucleic acid insert is from about 5 kb to about 700 kb. In one embodiment the size of the nucleic acid insert is from about 5 kb to about 500 kb. In another embodiment, the size of the nucleic acid insert is from about 100 kb to about 700 kb. In another embodiment the size of the nucleic acid insert is from about 100 kb to about 500 kb. In a specific embodiment, the nucleic acid insert is about 140 kb. In another specific embodiment, the nucleic acid insert is about 370 kb. In another specific embodiment, the nucleic acid insert is about 300 kb. In another specific embodiment, the nucleic acid insert is about 400 kb.

[0092] In some individual targeting vectors (i.e., prior to recombination with another targeting vector), the nucleic acid insert can be between 10-100 nucleotides in length, 100-500 nucleotides in length, 500 nucleotides-1 kb in length, 1 kb to 1.5 kb in length, 1.5 kb to 2 kb in length, 2 kb to 2.5 kb in length, 2.5 kb to 3 kb in length, or 3 kb to 5 kb in length. In other cases the length can be from about 5 kb to about 200 kb, from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 30 kb, from about 30 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 50 kb, from about 60 kb to about 70 kb, from about 80 kb to about 90 kb, from about 90 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 110 kb, from about 120 kb to about 130 kb, from about 130 kb to about 140 kb, from about 140 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 160 kb, from about 160 kb to about 170 kb, from about 170 kb to about 180 kb, from about 180 kb to about 190 kb, or from about 190 kb to about 200 kb. Alternatively, the nucleic acid insert can be from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 250 kb, from about 250 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 350 kb, or from about 350 kb to about 400 kb. Alternatively, the nucleic acid insert can be from about 400 kb to about 450 kb, from about 450 kb to about 500 kb, from about 500 kb to about 550 kb, from about 550 kb to about

600 kb, about 600 kb to about 650 kb, from about 650 kb to about 700 kb, from about 700 kb to about 750 kb, or from about 750 kb to about 800 kb.

[0093] In some cases, the replacement of the nucleic acid at the target locus results in the deletion of a nucleic acid sequence ranging from about 1 kb to about 200 kb, from about 2 kb to about 20 kb, or from about 0.5 kb to about 3 Mb.

In some cases, the extent of the deletion is greater than a total length of the 5' homology arm and the 3' homology arm.

[0094] In some cases, the extent of the deletion of the nucleic acid sequence ranges from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 200 kb, from about 20 kb to about 30 kb, from about 30 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 50 kb, from about 50 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 70 kb, from about 70 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 90 kb, from about 90 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 110 kb, from about 110 kb to about 120 kb, from about 120 kb to about 130 kb, from about 130 kb to about 140 kb, from about 140 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 160 kb, from about 160 kb to about 170 kb, from about 170 kb to about 180 kb, from about 180 kb to about 190 kb, from about 190 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 250 kb, from about 250 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 350 kb, from about 350 kb to about 400 kb, from about 400 kb to about 800 kb, from about 800 kb to 1 Mb, from about 1 Mb to about 1.5 Mb, from about 1.5 Mb to about 2 Mb, from about 2 Mb, to about 2.5 Mb, from about 2.5 Mb to about 2.8 Mb, from about 2.8 Mb to about 3 Mb, from about 200 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 400 kb, from about 400 kb to about 500 kb, from about 500 kb to about 1 Mb, from about 1 Mb to about 1.5 Mb, from about 1.5 Mb to about 2 Mb, from about 2 Mb to about 2.5 Mb, or from about 2.5 Mb to about 3 Mb. Alternatively, the deletion can be from about 3 Mb to about 4 Mb, from about 4 Mb to about 5 Mb, from about 5 Mb to about 10 Mb, from about 10 Mb to about 20 Mb, from about 20 Mb to about 30 Mb, from about 30 Mb to about 40 Mb, from about 40 Mb to about 50 Mb, from about 50 Mb to about 60 Mb, from about 60 Mb to about 70 Mb, from about 70 Mb to about 80 Mb, from about 80 Mb to about 90 Mb, or from about 90 Mb to about 100 Mb.

[0095] In other cases, the nucleic acid insert or the corresponding nucleic acid at the target locus being replaced can be at least 10 kb, at least 20 kb, at least 30 kb, at least 40 kb, at least 50 kb, at least 60 kb, at least 70 kb, at least 80 kb, at least 90 kb, at least 100 kb, at least 120 kb, at least 150 kb, at least 200 kb, at least 250 kb, at least 300 kb, at least 350 kb, at least 400 kb, at least 450 kb, at least 500 kb, at least 550 kb, at least 600 kb, at least 650 kb, at least 700 kb or greater.

[0096] The nucleic acid insert can comprise genomic DNA or any other type of DNA. For example, the nucleic acid insert can be from a prokaryote, a eukaryote, a yeast, a bird (e.g., chicken), a non-human mammal, a rodent, a human, a rat, a mouse, a hamster, a rabbit, a pig, a bovine, a deer, a sheep, a goat, a cat, a dog, a ferret, a primate (e.g., marmoset, rhesus monkey), a domesticated mammal, an agricultural mammal, or any other organism of interest.

[0097] The nucleic acid insert and/or the nucleic acid at the target locus can comprise a coding sequence or a non-coding sequence, such as a regulatory element (e.g., a promoter, an enhancer, or a transcriptional repressor-binding element). For example, the nucleic acid insert can comprise a knock-in allele of at least one exon of an endogenous gene, or a knock-in allele of the entire endogenous gene (i.e., "gene-swap knock-in"). For example, the nucleic acid insert can be homologous or orthologous to a sequence being targeted for deletion at the genomic target locus. The homologous or orthologous nucleic acid insert can replace the sequence being targeted for deletion at the genomic locus of interest. This can result in humanization of a locus if insertion of the nucleic acid insert results in replacement of a non-human nucleic acid sequence with a homologous or orthologous human nucleic acid sequence (i.e., the nucleic acid insert is inserted in place of the corresponding non-human DNA sequence at its endogenous genomic locus).

[0098] The nucleic acid insert can also comprise a conditional allele. The conditional allele can be a multifunctional allele, as described in US 2011/0104799. For example, the conditional allele can comprise: (a) an actuating sequence in sense orientation with respect to transcription of a target gene; (b) a drug selection cassette (DSC) in sense or antisense orientation; (c) a nucleotide sequence of interest (NSI) in antisense orientation; and (d) a conditional by inversion module (COIN, which utilizes an exon-splitting intron and an invertible gene-trap-like module) in reverse orientation. See, for example, US 2011/0104799. The conditional allele can further comprise recombinable units that recombine upon exposure to a first recombinase to form a conditional allele that (i) lacks the actuating sequence and the DSC; and (ii) contains the NSI in sense orientation and the COIN in antisense orientation. See US 2011/0104799.

[0099] Some nucleic acid inserts comprise a polynucleotide encoding a selection marker. The selection marker can be contained in a selection cassette. Such selection markers include, but are not limited, to neomycin phosphotransferase (neo^r), hygromycin B phosphotransferase (hyg^r), puromycin-N-acetyltransferase (puro^r), blasticidin S deaminase (bsr^r), xanthine/guanine phosphoribosyl transferase (gpt), or herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (HSV-k), or a combination thereof. The polynucleotide encoding the selection marker can be operably linked to a promoter active in a cell being targeted. Examples of promoters are described elsewhere herein.

[0100] In some targeting vectors, the nucleic acid insert comprises a reporter gene. Examples of reporter genes are genes encoding luciferase, β -galactosidase, green fluorescent protein (GFP), enhanced green fluorescent protein (eGFP), cyan fluorescent protein (CFP), yellow fluorescent protein (YFP), enhanced yellow fluorescent protein (eYFP),

blue fluorescent protein (BFP), enhanced blue fluorescent protein (eBFP), DsRed, ZsGreen, MmGFP, mPlum, mCherry, tdTomato, mStrawberry, J-Red, mOrange, mKO, mCitrine, Venus, YPet, Emerald, CyPet, Cerulean, T-Sapphire, alkaline phosphatase, and a combination thereof. Such reporter genes can be operably linked to a promoter active in a cell being targeted. Examples of promoters are described elsewhere herein.

[0101] In some targeting vectors, the nucleic acid insert comprises one or more expression cassettes or deletion cassettes. A given cassette can comprise a nucleotide sequence of interest, a nucleic acid encoding a selection marker, and/or a reporter gene, along with various regulatory components that influence expression. Examples of selectable markers and reporter genes that can be included are discussed in detail elsewhere herein.

[0102] In some targeting vectors, the nucleic acid insert comprises a nucleic acid flanked by site-specific recombination target sequences. Although the entire nucleic acid insert can be flanked by such site-specific recombination target sequences, any region or individual polynucleotide of interest within the nucleic acid insert can also be flanked by such sites. Site-specific recombination target sequences, which can flank the nucleic acid insert or any polynucleotide of interest in the nucleic acid insert can include, for example, loxP, lox511, lox2272, lox66, lox71, loxM2, lox5171, FRT, FRT11, FRT71, attP, att, FRT, rox, and a combination thereof. In one example, the site-specific recombination sites flank a polynucleotide encoding a selection marker and/or a reporter gene contained within the nucleic acid insert. Following integration of the nucleic acid insert at a targeted locus, the sequences between the site-specific recombination sites can be removed.

B. Polynucleotides of Interest

[0103] Any polynucleotide of interest may be contained in the various nucleic acid inserts and thereby integrated at the target genomic locus. The methods disclosed herein, provide for at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or more polynucleotides of interest to be integrated into the targeted genomic locus.

[0104] The polynucleotide of interest within the nucleic acid insert when integrated at the target genomic locus can introduce one or more genetic modifications into the cell. The genetic modification can comprise a deletion of an endogenous nucleic acid sequence and/or the addition of an exogenous or heterologous or orthologous polynucleotide into the target genomic locus. In one embodiment, the genetic modification comprises a replacement of an endogenous nucleic acid sequence with an exogenous polynucleotide of interest at the target genomic locus. Thus, methods provided herein allow for the generation of a genetic modification comprising a knockout, a deletion, an insertion, a replacement ("knock-in"), a point mutation, a domain swap, an exon swap, an intron swap, a regulatory sequence swap, a gene swap, or a combination thereof in a target genomic locus. Such modifications may occur upon integration of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, or any subsequent nucleic acid inserts into the target genomic locus.

[0105] The polynucleotide of interest within the nucleic acid insert and/or integrated at the target genomic locus can comprise a sequence that is native or homologous to the cell it is introduced into; the polynucleotide of interest can be heterologous to the cell it is introduced to; the polynucleotide of interest can be exogenous to the cell it is introduced into; the polynucleotide of interest can be orthologous to the cell it is introduced into; or the polynucleotide of interest can be from a different species than the cell it is introduced into. "Homologous" in reference to a sequence includes a sequence that is native to the cell. "Heterologous" in reference to a sequence includes a sequence that originates from a foreign species, or, if from the same species, is substantially modified from its native form in composition and/or genomic locus by deliberate human intervention. "Exogenous" in reference to a sequence includes a sequence that originates from a foreign species.

"Orthologous" includes a polynucleotide from one species that is functionally equivalent to a known reference sequence in another species (i.e., a species variant). The polynucleotide of interest can be from any organism of interest including, but not limited to, non-human, a rodent, a hamster, a mouse, a rat, a human, a monkey, an avian, an agricultural mammal or a non-agricultural mammal. The polynucleotide of interest can further comprise a coding region, a non-coding region, a regulatory region, or a genomic DNA. Thus, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and/or any of the subsequent nucleic acid inserts can comprise such sequences.

[0106] In one embodiment, the polynucleotide of interest within the nucleic acid insert and/or integrated at the target genomic locus is homologous to a human nucleic acid. In still further embodiments, the polynucleotide of interest integrated at the target locus is a fragment of a genomic nucleic acid. In one embodiment, the genomic nucleic acid is a mouse genomic nucleic acid, a human genomic nucleic acid, a non-human nucleic acid, a rodent nucleic acid, a rat nucleic acid, a hamster nucleic acid, a monkey nucleic acid, an agricultural mammal nucleic acid or a non-agricultural mammal nucleic acid or a combination thereof.

[0107] In one embodiment, the polynucleotide of interest can range from about 500 nucleotides to about 200 kb as described above. The polynucleotide of interest can be from about 500 nucleotides to about 5 kb, from about 5 kb to about 200 kb, from about 5 kb to about 700 kb, from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 30 kb, from about 30 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 50 kb, from about 60 kb to about 70 kb, from about 80 kb to about 90 kb, from about 90 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 110 kb, from

about 120 kb to about 130 kb, from about 130 kb to about 140 kb, from about 140 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 160 kb, from about 160 kb to about 170 kb, from about 170 kb to about 180 kb, from about 180 kb to about 190 kb, from about 190 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 400 kb, from about 400 kb to about 500 kb, from about 500 kb to about 600 kb or from about 600 kb to about 700 kb.

[0108] The polynucleotide of interest within the nucleic acid insert and/or inserted at the target genomic locus can encode a polypeptide, can encode an miRNA, can encode a long non-coding RNA, or it can comprise any regulatory regions or non-coding regions of interest including, for example, a regulatory sequence, a promoter sequence, an enhancer sequence, a transcriptional repressor-binding sequence, or a deletion of a non-protein-coding sequence, but does not comprise a deletion of a protein-coding sequence. In addition, the polynucleotide of interest within the nucleic acid insert and/or inserted at the target genomic locus can encode a protein expressed in the nervous system, the skeletal system, the digestive system, the circulatory system, the muscular system, the respiratory system, the cardiovascular system, the lymphatic system, the endocrine system, the urinary system, the reproductive system, or a combination thereof.

[0109] The polynucleotide of interest within the nucleic acid insert and/or integrated at the target genomic locus can comprise a genetic modification in a coding sequence. Such genetic modifications include, but are not limited to, a deletion mutation of a coding sequence or the fusion of two coding sequences.

[0110] The polynucleotide of interest within the nucleic acid insert and/or integrated at the target genomic locus can comprise a polynucleotide encoding a mutant protein. In one embodiment, the mutant protein is characterized by an altered binding characteristic, altered localization, altered expression, and/or altered expression pattern. In one embodiment, the polynucleotide of interest within the nucleic acid insert and/or integrated at the genomic target locus comprises at least one disease allele. In such instances, the disease allele can be a dominant allele or the disease allele is a recessive allele. Moreover, the disease allele can comprise a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) allele. The polynucleotide of interest encoding the mutant protein can be from any organism, including, but not limited to, a mammal, a non-human mammal, rodent, mouse, rat, a human, a monkey, an agricultural mammal or a domestic mammal polynucleotide encoding a mutant protein.

[0111] The polynucleotide of interest within the nucleic acid insert and/or integrated at the target genomic locus can also comprise a regulatory sequence, including for example, a promoter sequence, an enhancer sequence, a transcriptional repressor-binding sequence, or a transcriptional terminator sequence. In specific embodiments, the polynucleotide of interest within the nucleic acid insert and/or integrated at the target genomic locus comprises a polynucleotide having a deletion of a non-protein-coding sequence, but does not comprise a deletion of a protein-coding sequence. In one embodiment, the deletion of the non-protein-coding sequence comprises a deletion of a regulatory sequence. In another embodiment, the deletion of the regulatory element comprises a deletion of a promoter sequence. In one embodiment, the deletion of the regulatory element comprises a deletion of an enhancer sequence. Such a polynucleotide of interest can be from any organism, including, but not limited to, a mammal, a non-human mammal, rodent, mouse, rat, a human, a monkey, an agricultural mammal or a domestic mammal polynucleotide encoding a mutant protein.

[0112] A targeted genetic modification can comprise a targeted alteration to a polynucleotide of interest. Such targeted modifications include, but are not limited to, additions of one or more nucleotides, deletions of one or more nucleotides, substitutions of one or more nucleotides, a knockout of the polynucleotide of interest or a portion thereof, a knock-in of the polynucleotide of interest or a portion thereof, a replacement of an endogenous nucleic acid sequence with a heterologous nucleic acid sequence, or a combination thereof. In specific embodiments, at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 100, 500, or more nucleotides or at least 10 kb to 500 kb or more are changed to form the targeted genomic modification.

C. Targeting Vectors

[0113] Targeting vectors can be employed to introduce the nucleic acid insert into a genomic target locus and comprise the nucleic acid insert and homology arms that flank the nucleic acid insert. Targeting vectors can be in linear form or in circular form, and they can be single-stranded or double-stranded. Targeting vectors can be deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) or ribonucleic acid (RNA). For ease of reference, the homology arms are referred to herein as 5' and 3' (i.e., upstream and downstream) homology arms. This terminology relates to the relative position of the homology arms to the nucleic acid insert within the targeting vector. The 5' and 3' homology arms correspond to regions within the targeted locus or to a region within another targeting vector, which are referred to herein as "5' target sequence" and "3' target sequence," respectively. In some cases, the homology arms can also function as a 5' or a 3' target sequence.

[0114] The present methods employ two, three or more targeting vectors which are capable of recombining with each other. The targeting vectors are large targeting vectors (LTVEC) as described elsewhere herein. In such methods, the first, the second, and third targeting vectors each comprise a 5' and a 3' homology arm. The 3' homology arm of the first targeting vector comprises a sequence that overlaps with the 5' homology arm of the second targeting vector (i.e., overlapping sequences), which allows for homologous recombination between the first and the second LTVEC.

[0115] In the case of double targeting methods the 5' homology arm of the first targeting vector and the 3' homology

arm of the second targeting vector are homologous to corresponding segments within the target genomic locus (i.e., the target sequence) which promotes homologous recombination of the first and the second targeting vectors with the corresponding genomic segments and modifies the target genomic locus.

[0116] In the case of triple targeting methods, the 3' homology arm of the second targeting vector comprises a sequence that overlaps with the 5' homology arm of the third targeting vector (i.e., overlapping sequences), which allows for homologous recombination between the second and the third LTVEC. The 5' homology arm of the first targeting vector and the 3' homology arm of the third targeting vector are homologous to corresponding segments within the target genomic locus (i.e., the target sequence) which promotes homologous recombination of the first and the third targeting vectors with the corresponding genomic segments and modifies the target genomic locus.

[0117] A homology arm and a target sequence or two homology arms "correspond" or are "corresponding" to one another when the two regions share a sufficient level of sequence identity to one another to act as substrates for a homologous recombination reaction. The term "homology" includes DNA sequences that are either identical or share sequence identity to a corresponding sequence. The sequence identity between a given target sequence and the corresponding homology arm found on the targeting vector (i.e., overlapping sequence) or between two homology arms can be any degree of sequence identity that allows for homologous recombination to occur. For example, the amount of sequence identity shared by the homology arm of the targeting vector (or a fragment thereof) and the target sequence of another targeting vector or a target sequence of the target genomic locus (or a fragment thereof) can be at least 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 81%, 82%, 83%, 84%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% sequence identity, such that the sequences undergo homologous recombination.

[0118] Moreover, a corresponding region of homology between the homology arm and the corresponding target sequence can be of any length that is sufficient to promote homologous recombination at the target genomic locus. For example, a given homology arm and/or corresponding target sequence can comprise corresponding regions of homology that are at least about 5-10 kb, 5-15 kb, 5-20 kb, 5-25 kb, 5-30 kb, 5-35 kb, 5-40 kb, 5-45 kb, 5-50 kb, 5-55 kb, 5-60 kb, 5-65 kb, 5-70 kb, 5-75 kb, 5-80 kb, 5-85 kb, 5-90 kb, 5-95 kb, 5-100 kb, 100-200 kb, or 200-300 kb in length or more (such as described in the LTVEC vectors described elsewhere herein) such that the homology arm has sufficient homology to undergo homologous recombination with the corresponding target sequences within the target genomic locus of the cell or within another targeting vector.

[0119] The overlapping sequences of the 3' homology arm of the first targeting vector and the 5' homology arm of the second targeting vector or of the 3' homology arm of the second targeting vector and the 5' homology arm of the third targeting vector can be of any length that is sufficient to promote homologous recombination between the targeting vectors. For example, a given overlapping sequence of a homology arm can comprise corresponding overlapping regions that are at least about 1-5 kb, 5-10 kb, 5-15 kb, 5-20 kb, 5-25 kb, 5-30 kb, 5-35 kb, 5-40 kb, 5-45 kb, 5-50 kb, 5-55 kb, 5-60 kb, 5-65 kb, 5-70 kb, 5-75 kb, 5-80 kb, 5-85 kb, 5-90 kb, 5-95 kb, 5-100 kb, 100-200 kb, or 200-300 kb in length or more such that the overlapping sequence of the homology arm has sufficient homology to undergo homologous recombination with the corresponding overlapping sequence within another targeting vector. In one embodiment, the overlapping sequence is from 1-5 kb. In one embodiment, the overlapping sequence is from about 1 kb to about 70 kb. In one embodiment, the overlapping sequence is from about 10 kb to about 70 kb. In another embodiment, the overlapping sequence is from about 10 kb to about 50 kb. In one embodiment, the overlapping sequence is at least 10 kb. In another embodiment, the overlapping sequence is at least 20 kb. For example, the overlapping sequence can be from about 1 kb to about 5 kb, from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 15 kb, from about 15 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 25 kb, from about 25 kb to about 30 kb, from about 30 kb to about 35 kb, from about 35 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 45 kb, from about 45 kb to about 50 kb, from about 50 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 70 kb, from about 70 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 90 kb, from about 90 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 120 kb, from about 120 kb to about 140 kb, from about 140 kb to about 160 kb, from about 160 kb to about 180 kb, from about 180 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 220 kb, from about 220 kb to about 240 kb, from about 240 kb to about 260 kb, from about 260 kb to about 280 kb, or about 280 kb to about 300 kb. As an example, the overlapping sequence can be from about 20 kb to about 60 kb. Alternatively, the overlapping sequence can be at least 1 kb, at least 5 kb, at least 10 kb, at least 15 kb, at least 20 kb, at least 25 kb, at least 30 kb, at least 35 kb, at least 40 kb, at least 45 kb, at least 50 kb, at least 60 kb, at least 70 kb, at least 80 kb, at least 90 kb, at least 100 kb, at least 120 kb, at least 140 kb, at least 160 kb, at least 180 kb, at least 200 kb, at least 220 kb, at least 240 kb, at least 260 kb, at least 280 kb, or at least 300 kb.

[0120] The homology arms can correspond to a locus that is native to a cell (e.g., the targeted locus), or alternatively they can correspond to a region of a heterologous or exogenous segment of DNA that was integrated into the genome of the cell, including, for example, transgenes, expression cassettes, or heterologous or exogenous regions of DNA. Alternatively, the homology arms can correspond to a region on a targeting vector in a cell. The homology arms of the targeting vector can correspond to a region of a yeast artificial chromosome (YAC), a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC), a human artificial chromosome, or any other engineered region contained in an appropriate host cell. Still further, the homology arms of the targeting vector can correspond to or be derived from a region of a BAC library, a cosmid

library, or a P1 phage library. In certain instances, the homology arms of the targeting vector correspond to a locus that is native, heterologous, or exogenous to a prokaryote, a yeast, a bird (e.g., chicken), a non-human mammal, a rodent, a human, a rat, a mouse, a hamster a rabbit, a pig, a bovine, a deer, a sheep, a goat, a cat, a dog, a ferret, a primate (e.g., marmoset, rhesus monkey), a domesticated mammal, an agricultural mammal, or any other organism of interest.

In some cases, the homology arms correspond to a locus of the cell that is not targetable using a conventional method or that can be targeted only incorrectly or only with significantly low efficiency in the absence of a nick or double-strand break induced by a nuclease agent (e.g., a Cas protein). In some cases, the homology arms are derived from synthetic DNA.

[0121] In some targeting vectors, one of the 5' or 3' homology arms corresponds to a targeted genomic locus while the other of the 5' or 3' homology arms corresponds to a region on another targeting vector.

[0122] In some targeting vectors, the 5' and 3' homology arms correspond to a targeted genome. Alternatively, the homology arms can be from a related genome. For example, the targeted genome is a mouse genome of a first strain, and the targeting arms are from a mouse genome of a second strain, wherein the first strain and the second strain are different. In certain instances, the homology arms are from the genome of the same animal or are from the genome of the same strain, e.g., the targeted genome is a mouse genome of a first strain, and the targeting arms are from a mouse genome from the same mouse or from the same strain.

[0123] A homology arm of a targeting vector can be of any length that is sufficient to promote a homologous recombination event with a corresponding target sequence, including, for example, at least 1-5 kb, 5-10 kb, 5-15 kb, 5-20 kb, 5-25 kb, 5-30 kb, 5-35 kb, 5-40 kb, 5-45 kb, 5-50 kb, 5-55 kb, 5-60 kb, 5-65 kb, 5-70 kb, 5-75 kb, 5-80 kb, 5-85 kb, 5-90 kb, 5-95 kb, 5-100 kb, 100-200 kb, or 200-300 kb in length or greater. As described in further detail below, large targeting vectors can employ targeting arms of greater length.

[0124] Nuclease agents (e.g., CRISPR/Cas systems) can be employed in combination with targeting vectors to aid in the modification of a target locus. Such nuclease agents may promote homologous recombination between the targeting vector and the target locus. When nuclease agents are employed in combination with a targeting vector, the targeting vector can comprise 5' and 3' homology arms corresponding to 5' and 3' target sequences located in sufficient proximity to a nuclease cleavage site so as to promote the occurrence of a homologous recombination event between the target sequences and the homology arms upon a nick or double-strand break at the nuclease cleavage site. The term "nuclease cleavage site" includes a DNA sequence at which a nick or double-strand break is created by a nuclease agent (e.g., a Cas9 cleavage site). The target sequences within the targeted locus that correspond to the 5' and 3' homology arms of the targeting vector are "located in sufficient proximity" to a nuclease cleavage site if the distance is such as to promote the occurrence of a homologous recombination event between the 5' and 3' target sequences and the homology arms upon a nick or double-strand break at the recognition site. Thus, in specific instances, the target sequences corresponding to the 5' and/or 3' homology arms of the targeting vector are within at least 1 nucleotide of a given recognition site or are within at least 10 nucleotides to about 14 kb of a given recognition site. In some cases, the nuclease cleavage site is immediately adjacent to at least one or both of the target sequences.

[0125] The spatial relationship of the target sequences that correspond to the homology arms of the targeting vector and the nuclease cleavage site can vary. For example, target sequences can be located 5' to the nuclease cleavage site, target sequences can be located 3' to the recognition site, or the target sequences can flank the nuclease cleavage site.

[0126] Combined use of the targeting vector (including, for example, a large targeting vector) with a nuclease agent can result in an increased targeting efficiency compared to use of the targeting vector alone. For example, when a targeting vector is used in conjunction with a nuclease agent, targeting efficiency of the targeting vector can be increased by at least two-fold, at least three-fold, at least 4-fold, at least 10-fold or within a range formed from these integers, such as 2-10-fold when compared to use of the targeting vector alone.

D. Large Targeting Vectors

[0127] The targeting vectors are "large targeting vectors" or "LTVECs," which includes targeting vectors that comprise homology arms that correspond to and are derived from nucleic acid sequences larger than those typically used by other approaches intended to perform homologous recombination in cells. In accordance with the methods of the invention, the LTVEC is at least 10 kb in length, or the sum total of the 5' homology arm and the 3' homology arm can be, for example, at least 10 kb. LTVECs also include targeting vectors comprising nucleic acid inserts having nucleic acid sequences larger than those typically used by other approaches intended to perform homologous recombination in cells. For example, LTVECs make possible the modification of large loci that cannot be accommodated by traditional plasmid-based targeting vectors because of their size limitations. For example, the targeted locus can be (i.e., the 5' and 3' homology arms can correspond to) a locus of the cell that is not targetable using a conventional method or that can be targeted only incorrectly or only with significantly low efficiency in the absence of a nick or double-strand break induced by a nuclease agent (e.g., a Cas protein).

[0128] The methods provided herein employ two or three LTVECs that are capable of recombining with each other and with the target genomic locus in a three-way or a four-way recombination event as described elsewhere herein. These methods make possible the modification of large loci that cannot be achieved using a single LTVEC.

[0129] Examples of LTVECs include vectors derived from a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC), a human artificial chromosome, or a yeast artificial chromosome (YAC). Examples of LTVECs and methods for making them are described, e.g., in US Pat. No. 6,586,251; US Pat. No. 6,596,541; US Pat. No. 7,105,348; and WO 2002/036789 (PCT/US01/45375). LTVECs can be in linear form or in circular form.

[0130] LTVECs can be of any length, including, for example, from about 20 kb to about 300 kb, from about 20 kb to about 50 kb, from about 50 kb to about 75 kb, from about 75 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to 125 kb, from about 125 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 175 kb, from about 175 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 225 kb, from about 225 kb to about 250 kb, from about 250 kb to about 275 kb or from about 275 kb to about 300 kb. Alternatively, an LTVEC can be at least 10 kb, at least 15 kb, at least 20 kb, at least 30 kb, at least 40 kb, at least 50 kb, at least 60 kb, at least 70 kb, at least 80 kb, at least 90 kb, at least 100 kb, at least 150 kb, at least 200 kb, at least 250 kb, at least 300 kb, at least 350 kb, at least 400 kb, at least 450 kb, or at least 500 kb or greater. The size of an LTVEC can be too large to enable screening of targeting events by conventional assays, e.g., southern blotting and long-range (e.g., 1 kb to 5 kb) PCR.

[0131] In some cases, an LTVEC comprises a nucleic acid insert ranging from about 5 kb to about 200 kb, from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 30 kb, from about 30 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 50 kb, from about 50 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 70 kb, from about 70 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 90 kb, from about 90 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 110 kb, from about 110 kb to about 120 kb, from about 120 kb to about 130 kb, from about 130 kb to about 140 kb, from about 140 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 160 kb, from about 160 kb to about 170 kb, from about 170 kb to about 180 kb, from about 180 kb to about 190 kb, or from about 190 kb to about 200 kb. In other cases, the nucleic acid insert can range from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 250 kb, from about 250 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 350 kb, or from about 350 kb to about 400 kb. In some cases, an LTVEC comprises a nucleic acid insert ranging from about 400 kb to about 450 kb, from about 450 kb to about 500 kb, from about 500 kb to about 550 kb, from about 550 kb to about 600 kb, about 600 kb to about 650 kb, from about 650 kb to about 700 kb, from about 700 kb to about 750 kb, or from about 750 kb to about 800 kb.

[0132] In some LTVECS, the sum total of the 5' homology arm and the 3' homology arm is at least 10 kb. In other LTVECs, the 5' homology arm ranges from about 1 kb to about 100 kb and/or the 3' homology arm ranges from about 1 kb to about 100 kb. The sum total of the 5' and 3' homology arms can be, for example, from about 1 kb to about 5 kb, from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 30 kb, from about 30 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 50 kb, from about 50 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 70 kb, from about 70 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 90 kb, from about 90 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 110 kb, from about 110 kb to about 120 kb, from about 120 kb to about 130 kb, from about 130 kb to about 140 kb, from about 140 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 160 kb, from about 160 kb to about 170 kb, from about 170 kb to about 180 kb, from about 180 kb to about 190 kb, or from about 190 kb to about 200 kb. Alternatively, each homology arm can be at least 5 kb, at least 10 kb, at least 15 kb, at least 20 kb, at least 30 kb, at least 40 kb, at least 50 kb, at least 60 kb, at least 70 kb, at least 80 kb, at least 90 kb, at least 100 kb, at least 110 kb, at least 120 kb, at least 130 kb, at least 140 kb, at least 150 kb, at least 160 kb, at least 170 kb, at least 180 kb, at least 190 kb, or at least 200 kb. Likewise, the sum total of the 5' and 3' homology arms can be at least 5 kb, at least 10 kb, at least 15 kb, at least 20 kb, at least 30 kb, at least 40 kb, at least 50 kb, at least 60 kb, at least 70 kb, at least 80 kb, at least 90 kb, at least 100 kb, at least 110 kb, at least 120 kb, at least 130 kb, at least 140 kb, at least 150 kb, at least 160 kb, at least 170 kb, at least 180 kb, at least 190 kb, or at least 200 kb.

[0133] In some cases, the LTVEC and nucleic acid insert are designed to allow for a deletion of the endogenous sequence at the target locus from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 150 kb, or from about 150 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 400 kb, from about 400 kb to about 500 kb, from about 500 kb to about 600 kb, from about 600 kb to about 700 kb, from about 700 kb to about 800 kb, from about 800 kb to about 1 Mb, from about 1 Mb to about 1.5 Mb, from about 1.5 Mb to about 2 Mb, from about 2 Mb to about 2.5 Mb, or from about 2.5 Mb to about 3 Mb. Alternatively, the deletion can be from about 3 Mb to about 4 Mb, from about 4 Mb to about 5 Mb, from about 5 Mb to about 10 Mb, from about 10 Mb to about 20 Mb, from about 20 Mb to about 30 Mb, from about 30 Mb to about 40 Mb, from about 40 Mb to about 50 Mb, from about 50 Mb to about 60 Mb, from about 60 Mb to about 70 Mb, from about 70 Mb to about 80 Mb, from about 80 Mb to about 90 Mb, or from about 90 Mb to about 100 Mb. Alternatively, the deletion can be at least 10 kb, at least 20 kb, at least 30 kb, at least 40 kb, at least 50 kb, at least 60 kb, at least 70 kb, at least 80 kb, at least 90 kb, at least 100 kb, at least 150 kb, at least 200 kb, at least 250 kb, at least 300 kb, at least 350 kb, at least 400 kb, at least 450 kb,

or at least 500 kb or greater.

[0134] In other cases, the LTVEC and nucleic acid insert are designed to allow for an insertion into the target locus of an exogenous nucleic acid sequence ranging from about 5 kb to about 10 kb, from about 10 kb to about 20 kb, from about 20 kb to about 40 kb, from about 40 kb to about 60 kb, from about 60 kb to about 80 kb, from about 80 kb to about 100 kb, from about 100 kb to about 150 kb, from about 150 kb to about 200 kb, from about 200 kb to about 250 kb, from about 250 kb to about 300 kb, from about 300 kb to about 350 kb, or from about 350 kb to about 400 kb. Alternatively, the insertion can be from about 400 kb to about 450 kb, from about 450 kb to about 500 kb, from about 500 kb to about 550 kb, from about 550 kb to about 600 kb, about 600 kb to about 650 kb, from about 650 kb to about 700 kb, from about 700 kb to about 750 kb, or from about 750 kb to about 800 kb. Alternatively, the insertion can be at least 10 kb, at least 20 kb, at least 30 kb, at least 40 kb, at least 50 kb, at least 60 kb, at least 70 kb, at least 80 kb, at least 90 kb, at least 100 kb, at least 150 kb, at least 200 kb, at least 250 kb, at least 300 kb, at least 350 kb, at least 400 kb, at least 450 kb, or at least 500 kb or greater.

[0135] In yet other cases, the nucleic acid insert and/or the region of the endogenous locus being deleted is at least 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, or 900 nucleotides or at least 1 kb, 2 kb, 3 kb, 4 kb, 5 kb, 6 kb, 7 kb, 8 kb, 9 kb, 10 kb, 11 kb, 12 kb, 13 kb, 14 kb, 15 kb, 16 kb or greater.

E. Genomes and Target Genomic Loci

[0136] A genome or genomic target locus modified by the methods disclosed herein can include any segment or region of DNA within a cell. The genome or genomic target locus can be native to the cell, can be a heterologous or exogenous segment of DNA that was integrated into the genome of the cell, or can be a combination thereof. Such heterologous or exogenous segments of DNA can include transgenes, expression cassettes, polynucleotide encoding selection markers, or heterologous or exogenous regions of genomic DNA.

[0137] The genome or genomic target locus can also include extrachromosomal DNA within the cell, such as a yeast artificial chromosome (YAC), a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC), a human artificial chromosome, or any other engineered genomic region contained in an appropriate host cell.

III. Nuclease Agents

[0138] The methods and compositions for modifying a target genomic locus provided herein employ a nuclease agent that induces a nick or double-strand break into a desired recognition site.

[0139] The term "recognition site for a nuclease agent" includes a DNA sequence at which a nick or double-strand break is induced by a nuclease agent. The recognition site for a nuclease agent can be endogenous (or native) to the cell or the recognition site can be exogenous to the cell. In specific embodiments, the recognition site is exogenous to the cell and thereby is not naturally occurring in the genome of the cell. In still further embodiments, the recognition site is exogenous to the cell and to the polynucleotides of interest that one desired to be positioned at the target locus. In further embodiments, the exogenous or endogenous recognition site is present only once in the genome of the host cell. In specific embodiments, an endogenous or native site that occurs only once within the genome is identified. Such a site can then be used to design nuclease agents that will produce a nick or double-strand break at the endogenous recognition site.

[0140] The length of the recognition site can vary and includes, for example, recognition sites that are about 30-36 bp for a zinc finger nuclease (ZFN) pair (i.e., about 15-18 bp for each ZFN), about 36 bp for a Transcription Activator-Like Effector Nuclease (TALEN), or about 20 bp for a CRISPR/Cas9 guide RNA.

[0141] Any nuclease agent that induces a nick or double-strand break into a desired recognition site can be used in the methods and compositions disclosed herein. A naturally occurring or native nuclease agent can be employed so long as the nuclease agent induces a nick or double-strand break in a desired recognition site. Alternatively, a modified or engineered nuclease agent can be employed. An "engineered nuclease agent" includes a nuclease that is engineered (modified or derived) from its native form to specifically recognize and induce a nick or double-strand break in the desired recognition site. Thus, an engineered nuclease agent can be derived from a native, naturally occurring nuclease agent or it can be artificially created or synthesized. The modification of the nuclease agent can be as little as one amino acid in a protein cleavage agent or one nucleotide in a nucleic acid cleavage agent. In some embodiments, the engineered nuclease induces a nick or double-strand break in a recognition site, wherein the recognition site was not a sequence that would have been recognized by a native (non-engineered or non-modified) nuclease agent. Producing a nick or double-strand break in a recognition site or other DNA can be referred to herein as "cutting" or "cleaving" the recognition site or other DNA.

[0142] Active variants and fragments of the exemplified recognition sites are also provided. Such active variants can comprise at least 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity to the given recognition site, wherein the active variants retain biological activity and hence are capable of being

recognized and cleaved by a nuclease agent in a sequence-specific manner. Assays to measure the double-strand break of a recognition site by a nuclease agent are known in the art (e.g., TAQMAN[®] qPCR assay, Frendewey D. et al., *Methods in Enzymology*, 2010, 476:295-307).

[0143] The recognition site of the nuclease agent can be positioned anywhere in or near the target locus. The recognition site can be located within a coding region of a gene, or within regulatory regions that influence the expression of the gene. A recognition site of the nuclease agent can be located in an intron, an exon, a promoter, an enhancer, a regulatory region, or any non-protein coding region. In specific embodiments, the recognition site is positioned within the polynucleotide encoding the selection marker. Such a position can be located within the coding region of the selection marker or within the regulatory regions, which influence the expression of the selection marker. Thus, a recognition site of the nuclease agent can be located in an intron of the selection marker, a promoter, an enhancer, a regulatory region, or any non-protein-coding region of the polynucleotide encoding the selection marker. In specific embodiments, a nick or double-strand break at the recognition site disrupts the activity of the selection marker. Methods to assay for the presence or absence of a functional selection marker are known.

[0144] In one embodiment, the nuclease agent is a Transcription Activator-Like Effector Nuclease (TALEN). TAL effector nucleases are a class of sequence-specific nucleases that can be used to make double-strand breaks at specific target sequences in the genome of a prokaryotic or eukaryotic organism. TAL effector nucleases are created by fusing a native or engineered transcription activator-like (TAL) effector, or functional part thereof, to the catalytic domain of an endonuclease, such as, for example, FokI. The unique, modular TAL effector DNA binding domain allows for the design of proteins with potentially any given DNA recognition specificity. Thus, the DNA binding domains of the TAL effector nucleases can be engineered to recognize specific DNA target sites and thus, used to make double-strand breaks at desired target sequences. See WO 2010/079430; Morbitzer et al. (2010) PNAS 10.1073/pnas.1013133107; Scholze & Boch (2010) *Virulence* 1:428-432; Christian et al. *Genetics* (2010) 186:757-761; Li et al. (2010) *Nuc. Acids Res.* (2010) doi:10.1093/nar/gkq704; and Miller et al. (2011) *Nature Biotechnology* 29:143-148.

[0145] Examples of suitable TAL nucleases, and methods for preparing suitable TAL nucleases, are disclosed, e.g., in US 2011/0239315 A1, US 2011/0269234 A1, US 2011/0145940 A1, US 2003/0232410 A1, US 2005/0208489 A1, US 2005/0026157 A1, US 2005/0064474 A1, US 2006/0188987 A1, and US 2006/0063231 A1. In various embodiments, TAL effector nucleases are engineered that cut in or near a target nucleic acid sequence in, e.g., a locus of interest or a genomic locus of interest, wherein the target nucleic acid sequence is at or near a sequence to be modified by a targeting vector. The TAL nucleases suitable for use with the various methods and compositions provided herein include those that are specifically designed to bind at or near target nucleic acid sequences to be modified by targeting vectors as described herein.

[0146] In one embodiment, each monomer of the TALEN comprises 33-35 TAL repeats that recognize a single base pair via two hypervariable residues. In one embodiment, the nuclease agent is a chimeric protein comprising a TAL repeat-based DNA binding domain operably linked to an independent nuclease. In one embodiment, the independent nuclease is a FokI endonuclease. In one embodiment, the nuclease agent comprises a first TAL-repeat-based DNA binding domain and a second TAL-repeat-based DNA binding domain, wherein each of the first and the second TAL-repeat-based DNA binding domains is operably linked to a FokI nuclease, wherein the first and the second TAL-repeat-based DNA binding domains recognize two contiguous target DNA sequences in each strand of the target DNA sequence separated by a spacer sequence of varying length (12-20 bp), and wherein the FokI nuclease subunits dimerize to create an active nuclease that makes a double strand break at a target sequence.

[0147] The nuclease agent employed in the various methods and compositions disclosed herein can further comprise a zinc-finger nuclease (ZFN). In one embodiment, each monomer of the ZFN comprises 3 or more zinc finger-based DNA binding domains, wherein each zinc finger-based DNA binding domain binds to a 3 bp subsite. In other embodiments, the ZFN is a chimeric protein comprising a zinc finger-based DNA binding domain operably linked to an independent nuclease. In one embodiment, the independent endonuclease is a FokI endonuclease. In one embodiment, the nuclease agent comprises a first ZFN and a second ZFN, wherein each of the first ZFN and the second ZFN is operably linked to a FokI nuclease subunit, wherein the first and the second ZFN recognize two contiguous target DNA sequences in each strand of the target DNA sequence separated by about 5-7 bp spacer, and wherein the FokI nuclease subunits dimerize to create an active nuclease that makes a double strand break. See, for example, US20060246567; US20080182332; US20020081614; US20030021776; WO/2002/057308A2; US20130123484; US20100291048; WO/2011/017293A2; and Gaj et al. (2013) *Trends in Biotechnology*, 31(7):397-405.

[0148] In still another embodiment, the nuclease agent is a meganuclease. Meganucleases have been classified into four families based on conserved sequence motifs, the families are the LAGLIDADG, GIY-YIG, H-N-H, and His-Cys box families. These motifs participate in the coordination of metal ions and hydrolysis of phosphodiester bonds. Meganucleases are notable for their long recognition sites, and for tolerating some sequence polymorphisms in their DNA substrates. Meganuclease domains, structure and function are known, see for example, Guhan and Muniyappa (2003) *Crit Rev Biochem Mol Biol* 38:199-248; Lucas et al., (2001) *Nucleic Acids Res* 29:960-9; Jurica and Stoddard, (1999) *Cell Mol Life Sci* 55:1304-26; Stoddard, (2006) *Q Rev Biophys* 38:49-95; and Moure et al., (2002) *Nat Struct Biol* 9:764. In some

examples a naturally occurring variant, and/or engineered derivative meganuclease is used. Methods for modifying the kinetics, cofactor interactions, expression, optimal conditions, and/or recognition site specificity, and screening for activity are known, see for example, Epinat et al., (2003) *Nucleic Acids Res* 31:2952-62; Chevalier et al., (2002) *Mol Cell* 10:895-905; Gimble et al., (2003) *Mol Biol* 334:993-1008; Seligman et al., (2002) *Nucleic Acids Res* 30:3870-9; Sussman et al., (2004) *J Mol Biol* 342:31-41; Rosen et al., (2006) *Nucleic Acids Res* 34:4791-800; Chames et al., (2005) *Nucleic Acids Res* 33:e178; Smith et al., (2006) *Nucleic Acids Res* 34:e149; Gruen et al., (2002) *Nucleic Acids Res* 30:e29; Chen and Zhao, (2005) *Nucleic Acids Res* 33:e154; WO2005105989; WO2003078619; WO2006097854; WO2006097853; WO2006097784; and WO2004031346.

[0149] Any meganuclease can be used herein, including, but not limited to, I-SceI, I-SceII, I-SceIII, I-SceIV, I-SceV, I-SceVI, I-SceVII, I-CeuI, I-CeuAII, I-CreI, I-CrepsbII, I-CrepsbIIP, I-CrepsbIIV, I-TilI, I-PpoI, PI-Pspl, F-SceI, F-SceII, F-SuvI, F-TevI, F-TevII, I-Amal, I-Anil, I-Chul, I-Cmoel, I-Cpal, I-Cpall, I-Csml, I-Cvul, I-CvuAIP, I-Ddil, I-Ddill, I-Dirl, I-Dmol, I-Hmul, I-Hmull, I-HsNIP, I-Llal, I-Msol, I-Naal, I-NanI, I-NclI, I-NgrI, I-NitI, I-Njal, I-Nsp236IP, I-PakI, I-PbolP, I-PculP, I-PcuAI, I-PcuVI, I-PgrI, I-PobIP, I-PorI, I-PorIIP, I-PbpIP, I-SpBetaIP, I-ScaI, I-SexIP, I-SneIP, I-SpomI, I-SpomCP, I-SpomIP, I-SpomIIP, I-SquiP, I-Ssp6803I, I-SthPhiJP, I-SthPhiST3P, I-SthPhiSTe3bP, I-TdeIP, I-TevI, I-TevII, I-TevIII, I-UarAP, I-UarHGPAIP, I-UarHGPA13P, I-VinIP, I-ZbilP, PI-MtuI, PI-MtuHIP, PI-MtuHIIP, PI-Pful, PI-Pfull, PI-Pkol, PI-Pkoll, PI-Rma43812IP, PI-SpBetaIP, PI-SceI, PI-Tful, PI-Tfull, PI-Thyl, PI-TilI, PI-TiII, or any active variants or fragments thereof.

[0150] In one embodiment, the meganuclease recognizes double-stranded DNA sequences of 12 to 40 base pairs. In one embodiment, the meganuclease recognizes one perfectly matched target sequence in the genome. In one embodiment, the meganuclease is a homing nuclease. In one embodiment, the homing nuclease is a LAGLIDADG family of homing nuclease. In one embodiment, the LAGLIDADG family of homing nuclease is selected from I-SceI, I-CreI, and I-Dmol.

[0151] Nuclease agents can further comprise restriction endonucleases, which include Type I, Type II, Type III, and Type IV endonucleases. Type I and Type III restriction endonucleases recognize specific recognition sites, but typically cleave at a variable position from the nuclease binding site, which can be hundreds of base pairs away from the cleavage site (recognition site). In Type II systems the restriction activity is independent of any methylase activity, and cleavage typically occurs at specific sites within or near to the binding site. Most Type II enzymes cut palindromic sequences, however Type IIa enzymes recognize non-palindromic recognition sites and cleave outside of the recognition site, Type IIb enzymes cut sequences twice with both sites outside of the recognition site, and Type IIs enzymes recognize an asymmetric recognition site and cleave on one side and at a defined distance of about 1-20 nucleotides from the recognition site. Type IV restriction enzymes target methylated DNA. Restriction enzymes are further described and classified, for example in the REBASE database (webpage at rebase.neb.com; Roberts et al., (2003) *Nucleic Acids Res* 31:418-20), Roberts et al., (2003) *Nucleic Acids Res* 31:1805-12, and Belfort et al., (2002) in *Mobile DNA II*, pp. 761-783, Eds. Craigie et al., (ASM Press, Washington, DC).

[0152] The nuclease agent employed in the various methods and compositions can also comprise a Clustered Regularly Interspersed Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR)/CRISPR-associated (Cas) system or components of such a system. CRISPR/Cas systems include transcripts and other elements involved in the expression of, or directing the activity of, Cas genes. A CRISPR/Cas system can be a type I, a type II, or a type III system. The methods and compositions disclosed herein employ CRISPR/Cas systems by utilizing CRISPR complexes (comprising a guide RNA (gRNA) complexed with a Cas protein) for site-directed cleavage of nucleic acids.

[0153] Some CRISPR/Cas systems used in the methods disclosed herein are non-naturally occurring. A "non-naturally occurring" system includes anything indicating the involvement of the hand of man, such as one or more components of the system being altered or mutated from their naturally occurring state, being at least substantially free from at least one other component with which they are naturally associated in nature, or being associated with at least one other component with which they are not naturally associated. For example, some CRISPR/Cas systems employ non-naturally occurring CRISPR complexes comprising a gRNA and a Cas protein that do not naturally occur together.

[0154] Cas proteins generally comprise at least one RNA recognition or binding domain. Such domains can interact with guide RNAs (gRNAs, described in more detail below). Cas proteins can also comprise nuclease domains (e.g., DNase or RNase domains), DNA binding domains, helicase domains, protein-protein interaction domains, dimerization domains, and other domains. A nuclease domain possesses catalytic activity for nucleic acid cleavage. Cleavage includes the breakage of the covalent bonds of a nucleic acid molecule. Cleavage can produce blunt ends or staggered ends, and it can be single-stranded or double-stranded. A Cas protein can have full cleavage activity and create a double-strand break at a target genomic locus (e.g., a double-strand break with blunt ends), or it can be a nickase that creates a single-strand break at a target genomic locus.

[0155] Examples of Cas proteins include Cas1, Cas1B, Cas2, Cas3, Cas4, Cas5, Cas5e (CasD), Cas6, Cas6e, Cas6f, Cas7, Cas8a1, Cas8a2, Cas8b, Cas8c, Cas9 (Csn1 or Csx12), Cas10, CasI0d, CasF, CasG, CasH, Csy1, Csy2, Csy3, Cse1 (CasA), Cse2 (CasB), Cse3 (CasE), Cse4 (CasC), Csc1, Csc2, Csa5, Csn2, Csm2, Csm3, Csm4, Csm5, Csm6, Cmr1, Cmr3, Cmr4, Cmr5, Cmr6, Csb1, Csb2, Csb3, Csx17, Csx14, Csx10, Csx16, CsaX, Csx3, Csx1, Csx15, Csf1,

Csf2, Csf3, Csf4, and Cu1966, and homologs or modified versions thereof.

[0156] In some instances, a Cas protein is from a type II CRISPR/Cas system. For example, the Cas protein can be a Cas9 protein or be derived from a Cas9 protein. Cas9 proteins typically share four key motifs with a conserved architecture. Motifs 1, 2, and 4 are RuvC-like motifs, and motif 3 is an HNH motif. The Cas9 protein can be from, for example, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Streptococcus thermophilus*, *Streptococcus sp.*, *Nocardiopsis dassonvillei*, *Streptomyces pristinaespiralis*, *Streptomyces viridochromogenes*, *Streptomyces viridochromogenes*, *Streptosporangium roseum*, *Streptosporangium roseum*, *Alicyclobacillus acidocaldarius*, *Bacillus pseudomycolides*, *Bacillus selenitireducens*, *Exiguobacterium sibiricum*, *Lactobacillus delbrueckii*, *Lactobacillus salivarius*, *Microscilla marina*, *Burkholderiales bacterium*, *Polaromonas naphthalenivorans*, *Polaromonas sp.*, *Crocospaera watsonii*, *Cyanothece sp.*, *Microcystis aeruginosa*, *Synechococcus sp.*, *Acetohalobium arabaticum*, *Ammonifex degensii*, *Caldicelulosiruptor beccsii*, *Candidatus Desulfurudis*, *Clostridium botulinum*, *Clostridium difficile*, *Finegoldia magna*, *Natranaerobius thermophilus*, *Pelotomaculum thermopropionicum*, *Acidithiobacillus caldus*, *Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans*, *Allochrocatium vinosum*, *Marinobacter sp.*, *Nitrosococcus halophilus*, *Nitrosococcus watsoni*, *Pseudoalteromonas haloplanktis*, *Ktedonobacter racemifer*, *Methanohalobium evestigatum*, *Anabaena variabilis*, *Nodularia spumigena*, *Nostoc sp.*, *Arthrospira maxima*, *Arthrospira platensis*, *Arthrospira sp.*, *Lyngbya sp.*, *Microcoleus chthonoplastes*, *Oscillatoria sp.*, *Petrotoga mobilis*, *Thermosiphon africanus*, or *Acaryochloris marina*. Cas9 proteins can also be from *Staphylococcus aureus*. Additional examples of the Cas9 family members include those described in WO 2014/131833. In a specific example, the Cas9 protein is a Cas9 protein from *S. pyogenes* or is derived therefrom. The amino acid sequence of a Cas9 protein from *S. pyogenes* can be found, for example, in the SwissProt database under accession number Q99ZW2.

[0157] Cas proteins can be wild type proteins (i.e., those that occur in nature), modified Cas proteins (i.e., Cas protein variants), or fragments of wild type or modified Cas proteins. Cas proteins can also be active variants or fragments of wild type or modified Cas proteins. Active variants or fragments can comprise at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity to the wild type or modified Cas protein or a portion thereof, wherein the active variants retain the ability to cut at a desired cleavage site and hence retain nick-inducing or double-strand-break-inducing activity. Assays for nick-inducing or double-strand-break-inducing activity are known and generally measure the overall activity and specificity of the Cas protein on DNA substrates containing the cleavage site.

[0158] Cas proteins can be modified to increase or decrease nucleic acid binding affinity, nucleic acid binding specificity, and/or enzymatic activity. Cas proteins can also be modified to change any other activity or property of the protein, such as stability. For example, one or more nuclease domains of the Cas protein can be modified, deleted, or inactivated, or a Cas protein can be truncated to remove domains that are not essential for the function of the protein or to optimize (e.g., enhance or reduce) the activity of the Cas protein.

[0159] Some Cas proteins comprise at least two nuclease domains, such as DNase domains. For example, a Cas9 protein can comprise a RuvC-like nuclease domain and an HNH-like nuclease domain. The RuvC and HNH domains can each cut a different strand of double-stranded DNA to make a double-stranded break in the DNA. See, e.g., Jinek et al. (2012) *Science* 337:816-821.

[0160] One or both of the nuclease domains can be deleted or mutated so that they are no longer functional or have reduced nuclease activity. If one of the nuclease domains is deleted or mutated, the resulting Cas protein (e.g., Cas9) can be referred to as a nickase and can generate a single strand break at a target sequence within a double-stranded DNA but not a double strand break (i.e., it can cleave the complementary strand or the non-complementary strand, but not both). If both of the nuclease domains are deleted or mutated, the resulting Cas protein (e.g., Cas9) will have a reduced ability to cleave both strands of a double-stranded DNA (e.g., a nuclease-null Cas protein). An example of a mutation that converts Cas9 into a nickase is a D10A (aspartate to alanine at position 10 of Cas9) mutation in the RuvC domain of Cas9 from *S. pyogenes*. Likewise, H939A (histidine to alanine at amino acid position 839) or H840A (histidine to alanine at amino acid position 840) in the HNH domain of Cas9 from *S. pyogenes* can convert the Cas9 into a nickase. Other examples of mutations that convert Cas9 into a nickase include the corresponding mutations to Cas9 from *S. thermophilus*. See, e.g., Sapranaukas et al. (2011) *Nucleic Acids Research* 39:9275-9282 and WO 2013/141680. Such mutations can be generated using well-known methods such as site-directed mutagenesis, PCR-mediated mutagenesis, or total gene synthesis. Examples of other mutations creating nickases can be found, for example, in WO/2013/176772A1 and WO/2013/142578A1.

[0161] Cas proteins can also be fusion proteins. For example, a Cas protein can be fused to a cleavage domain, an epigenetic modification domain, a transcriptional activation domain, or a transcriptional repressor domain. See WO 2014/089290. Cas proteins can also be fused to a heterologous polypeptide providing increased or decreased stability. The fused domain or heterologous polypeptide can be located at the N-terminus, the C-terminus, or internally within the Cas protein.

[0162] One example of a Cas fusion protein is a Cas protein fused to a heterologous polypeptide that provides for subcellular localization. Such sequences can include, for example, a nuclear localization signal (NLS) such as the SV40 NLS for targeting to the nucleus, a mitochondrial localization signal for targeting to the mitochondria, an ER retention signal, and the like. See, e.g., Lange et al. (2007) *J. Biol. Chem.* 282:5101-5105. A Cas protein can comprise, for example,

one or more nuclear localization signals (e.g., two nuclear localization signals). Such subcellular localization signals can be located at the N-terminus, the C-terminus, or anywhere within the Cas protein. An NLS can comprise a stretch of basic amino acids, and can be a monopartite sequence or a bipartite sequence.

[0163] Cas proteins can also comprise a cell-penetrating domain. For example, the cell-penetrating domain can be derived from the HIV-1 TAT protein, the TLM cell-penetrating motif from human hepatitis B virus, MPG, Pep-1, VP22, a cell penetrating peptide from Herpes simplex virus, or a polyarginine peptide sequence. See, for example, WO 2014/089290. The cell-penetrating domain can be located at the N-terminus, the C-terminus, or anywhere within the Cas protein.

[0164] Cas proteins can also comprise a heterologous polypeptide for ease of tracking or purification, such as a fluorescent protein, a purification tag, or an epitope tag. Examples of fluorescent proteins include green fluorescent proteins (e.g., GFP, GFP-2, tagGFP, turboGFP, eGFP, Emerald, Azami Green, Monomeric Azami Green, CopGFP, AceGFP, ZsGreen1), yellow fluorescent proteins (e.g., YFP, eYFP, Citrine, Venus, YPet, PhiYFP, ZsYellow1), blue fluorescent proteins (e.g. eBFP, eBFP2, Azurite, mKalamal, GFPuv, Sapphire, T-sapphire), cyan fluorescent proteins (e.g. eCFP, Cerulean, CyPet, AmCyan1, Midoriishi-Cyan), red fluorescent proteins (mKate, mKate2, mPlum, DsRed monomer, mCherry, mRFP1, DsRed-Express, DsRed2, DsRed-Monomer, HcRed-Tandem, HcRed1, AsRed2, eqFP611, mRaspberry, mStrawberry, Jred), orange fluorescent proteins (mOrange, mKO, Kusabira-Orange, Monomeric Kusabira-Orange, mTangerine, tdTomato), and any other suitable fluorescent protein. Examples of tags include glutathione-S-transferase (GST), chitin binding protein (CBP), maltose binding protein, thioredoxin (TRX), poly(NANP), tandem affinity purification (TAP) tag, myc, AcV5, AU1, AU5, E, ECS, E2, FLAG, hemagglutinin (HA), nus, Softag 1, Softag 3, Strep, SBP, Glu-Glu, HSV, KT3, S, S1, T7, V5, VSV-G, histidine (His), biotin carboxyl carrier protein (BCCP), and calmodulin.

[0165] Cas proteins can be provided in any form. For example, a Cas protein can be provided in the form of a protein, such as a Cas protein complexed with a gRNA. Alternatively, a Cas protein can be provided in the form of a nucleic acid encoding the Cas protein, such as an RNA (e.g., messenger RNA (mRNA)) or DNA. Optionally, the nucleic acid encoding the Cas protein can be codon optimized for efficient translation into protein in a particular cell or organism. When a nucleic acid encoding the Cas protein is introduced into the cell, the Cas protein can be transiently, conditionally, or constitutively expressed in the cell.

[0166] Nucleic acids encoding Cas proteins can be stably integrated in the genome of the cell and operably linked to a promoter active in the cell. Alternatively, nucleic acids encoding Cas proteins can be operably linked to a promoter in an expression construct. Expression constructs include any nucleic acid constructs capable of directing expression of a gene or other nucleic acid sequence of interest (e.g., a Cas gene) and which can transfer such a nucleic acid sequence of interest to a target cell. For example, the nucleic acid encoding the Cas protein can be in a vector comprising a DNA encoding a gRNA. Alternatively, it can be in a vector or plasmid that is separate from the vector comprising the DNA encoding the gRNA. Promoters that can be used in an expression construct include, for example, promoters active in a pluripotent rat, eukaryotic, mammalian, non-human mammalian, human, rodent, mouse, or hamster cell. Examples of other promoters are described elsewhere herein.

[0167] A "guide RNA" or "gRNA" includes an RNA molecule that binds to a Cas protein and targets the Cas protein to a specific location within a target DNA. Guide RNAs can comprise two segments: a "DNA-targeting segment" and a "protein-binding segment." "Segment" includes a segment, section, or region of a molecule, such as a contiguous stretch of nucleotides in an RNA. Some gRNAs comprise two separate RNA molecules: an "activator-RNA" and a "targeter-RNA." Other gRNAs are a single RNA molecule (single RNA polynucleotide), which can also be called a "single-molecule gRNA," a "single-guide RNA," or an "sgRNA." See, e.g., WO/2013/176772A1, WO/2014/065596A1, WO/2014/089290A1, WO/2014/093622A2, WO/2014/099750A2, WO/2013142578A1, and WO 2014/131833A1. The terms "guide RNA" and "gRNA" are inclusive, including both double-molecule gRNAs and single-molecule gRNAs.

[0168] An exemplary two-molecule gRNA comprises a crRNA-like ("CRISPR RNA" or "targeter-RNA" or "crRNA" or "crRNA repeat") molecule and a corresponding tracrRNA-like ("trans-acting CRISPR RNA" or "activator-RNA" or "tracrRNA" or "scaffold") molecule. A crRNA comprises both the DNA-targeting segment (single-stranded) of the gRNA and a stretch of nucleotides that forms one half of the dsRNA duplex of the protein-binding segment of the gRNA.

[0169] A corresponding tracrRNA (activator-RNA) comprises a stretch of nucleotides that forms the other half of the dsRNA duplex of the protein-binding segment of the gRNA. A stretch of nucleotides of a crRNA are complementary to and hybridize with a stretch of nucleotides of a tracrRNA to form the dsRNA duplex of the protein-binding domain of the gRNA. As such, each crRNA can be said to have a corresponding tracrRNA.

[0170] The crRNA and the corresponding tracrRNA hybridize to form a gRNA. The crRNA additionally provides the single stranded DNA-targeting segment that hybridizes to a target sequence. If used for modification within a cell, the exact sequence of a given crRNA or tracrRNA molecule can be designed to be specific to the species in which the RNA molecules will be used. See, for example, Mali et al. (2013) Science 339:823-826; Jinek et al. (2012) Science 337:816-821; Hwang et al. (2013) Nat. Biotechnol. 31:227-229; Jiang et al. (2013) Nat. Biotechnol. 31:233-239; and Cong et al. (2013) Science 339:819-823.

[0171] The DNA-targeting segment (crRNA) of a given gRNA comprises a nucleotide sequence that is complementary

to a sequence in a target DNA. The DNA-targeting segment of a gRNA interacts with a target DNA in a sequence-specific manner via hybridization (i.e., base pairing). As such, the nucleotide sequence of the DNA-targeting segment may vary and determines the location within the target DNA with which the gRNA and the target DNA will interact. The DNA-targeting segment of a subject gRNA can be modified to hybridize to any desired sequence within a target DNA. Naturally occurring crRNAs differ depending on the Cas9 system and organism but often contain a targeting segment of between 21 to 72 nucleotides length, flanked by two direct repeats (DR) of a length of between 21 to 46 nucleotides (see, e.g., WO2014/131833). In the case of *S. pyogenes*, the DRs are 36 nucleotides long and the targeting segment is 30 nucleotides long. The 3' located DR is complementary to and hybridizes with the corresponding tracrRNA, which in turn binds to the Cas9 protein.

[0172] The DNA-targeting segment can have a length of from about 12 nucleotides to about 100 nucleotides. For example, the DNA-targeting segment can have a length of from about 12 nucleotides (nt) to about 80 nt, from about 12 nt to about 50 nt, from about 12 nt to about 40 nt, from about 12 nt to about 30 nt, from about 12 nt to about 25 nt, from about 12 nt to about 20 nt, or from about 12 nt to about 19 nt. Alternatively, the DNA-targeting segment can have a length of from about 19 nt to about 20 nt, from about 19 nt to about 25 nt, from about 19 nt to about 30 nt, from about 19 nt to about 35 nt, from about 19 nt to about 40 nt, from about 19 nt to about 45 nt, from about 19 nt to about 50 nt, from about 19 nt to about 60 nt, from about 19 nt to about 70 nt, from about 19 nt to about 80 nt, from about 19 nt to about 90 nt, from about 19 nt to about 100 nt, from about 20 nt to about 25 nt, from about 20 nt to about 30 nt, from about 20 nt to about 35 nt, from about 20 nt to about 40 nt, from about 20 nt to about 45 nt, from about 20 nt to about 50 nt, from about 20 nt to about 60 nt, from about 20 nt to about 70 nt, from about 20 nt to about 80 nt, from about 20 nt to about 90 nt, or from about 20 nt to about 100 nt.

[0173] The nucleotide sequence of the DNA-targeting segment that is complementary to a nucleotide sequence (target sequence) of the target DNA can have a length at least about 12 nt. For example, the DNA-targeting sequence (i.e., the sequence within the DNA-targeting segment that is complementary to a target sequence within the target DNA) can have a length at least about 12 nt, at least about 15 nt, at least about 18 nt, at least about 19 nt, at least about 20 nt, at least about 25 nt, at least about 30 nt, at least about 35 nt, or at least about 40 nt. Alternatively, the DNA-targeting sequence can have a length of from about 12 nucleotides (nt) to about 80 nt, from about 12 nt to about 50 nt, from about 12 nt to about 45 nt, from about 12 nt to about 40 nt, from about 12 nt to about 35 nt, from about 12 nt to about 30 nt, from about 12 nt to about 25 nt, from about 12 nt to about 20 nt, from about 12 nt to about 19 nt, from about 19 nt to about 20 nt, from about 19 nt to about 25 nt, from about 19 nt to about 30 nt, from about 19 nt to about 35 nt, from about 19 nt to about 40 nt, from about 19 nt to about 45 nt, from about 19 nt to about 50 nt, from about 19 nt to about 60 nt, from about 20 nt to about 25 nt, from about 20 nt to about 30 nt, from about 20 nt to about 35 nt, from about 20 nt to about 40 nt, from about 20 nt to about 45 nt, from about 20 nt to about 50 nt, or from about 20 nt to about 60 nt. In some cases, the DNA-targeting sequence can have a length of at about 20 nt.

[0174] TracrRNAs can be in any form (e.g., full-length tracrRNAs or active partial tracrRNAs) and of varying lengths. They can include primary transcripts or processed forms. For example, tracrRNAs (as part of a single-guide RNA or as a separate molecule as part of a two-molecule gRNA) may comprise or consist of all or a portion of a wild-type tracrRNA sequence (e.g., about or more than about 20, 26, 32, 45, 48, 54, 63, 67, 85, or more nucleotides of a wild-type tracrRNA sequence). Examples of wild-type tracrRNA sequences from *S. pyogenes* include 171-nucleotide, 89-nucleotide, 75-nucleotide, and 65-nucleotide versions. See, for example, Deltcheva et al. (2011) Nature 471:602-607; WO 2014/093661. Examples of tracrRNAs within single-guide RNAs (sgRNAs) include the tracrRNA segments found within +48, +54, +67, and +85 versions of sgRNAs, where "+n" indicates that up to the +n nucleotide of wild-type tracrRNA is included in the sgRNA. See US 8,697,359.

[0175] The percent complementarity between the DNA-targeting sequence and the target sequence within the target DNA can be at least 60% (e.g., at least 65%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%). In some cases, the percent complementarity between the DNA-targeting sequence and the target sequence within the target DNA is at least 60% over about 20 contiguous nucleotides. In one example, the percent complementarity between the DNA-targeting sequence and the target sequence within the target DNA is 100% over the 14 contiguous nucleotides at the 5' end of the target sequence within the complementary strand of the target DNA and as low as 0% over the remainder. In such a case, the DNA-targeting sequence can be considered to be 14 nucleotides in length. In another example, the percent complementarity between the DNA-targeting sequence and the target sequence within the target DNA is 100% over the seven contiguous nucleotides at the 5' end of the target sequence within the complementary strand of the target DNA and as low as 0% over the remainder. In such a case, the DNA-targeting sequence can be considered to be 7 nucleotides in length.

[0176] The protein-binding segment of a gRNA can comprise two stretches of nucleotides that are complementary to one another. The complementary nucleotides of the protein-binding segment hybridize to form a double stranded RNA duplex (dsRNA). The protein-binding segment of a subject gRNA interacts with a Cas protein, and the gRNA directs the bound Cas protein to a specific nucleotide sequence within target DNA via the DNA-targeting segment.

[0177] Guide RNAs can include modifications or sequences that provide for additional desirable features (e.g., modified

or regulated stability; subcellular targeting; tracking with a fluorescent label; a binding site for a protein or protein complex; and the like). Examples of such modifications include, for example, a 5' cap (e.g., a 7-methylguanylate cap (m7G)); a 3' polyadenylated tail (i.e., a 3' poly(A) tail); a riboswitch sequence (e.g., to allow for regulated stability and/or regulated accessibility by proteins and/or protein complexes); a stability control sequence; a sequence that forms a dsRNA duplex (i.e., a hairpin); a modification or sequence that targets the RNA to a subcellular location (e.g., nucleus, mitochondria, chloroplasts, and the like); a modification or sequence that provides for tracking (e.g., direct conjugation to a fluorescent molecule, conjugation to a moiety that facilitates fluorescent detection, a sequence that allows for fluorescent detection, etc.); a modification or sequence that provides a binding site for proteins (e.g., proteins that act on DNA, including transcriptional activators, transcriptional repressors, DNA methyltransferases, DNA demethylases, histone acetyltransferases, histone deacetylases, and the like); and combinations thereof.

[0178] Guide RNAs can be provided in any form. For example, the gRNA can be provided in the form of RNA, either as two molecules (separate crRNA and tracrRNA) or as one molecule (sgRNA), and optionally in the form of a complex with a Cas protein. The gRNA can also be provided in the form of DNA encoding the gRNA. The DNA encoding the gRNA can encode a single RNA molecule (sgRNA) or separate RNA molecules (e.g., separate crRNA and tracrRNA). In the latter case, the DNA encoding the gRNA can be provided as separate DNA molecules encoding the crRNA and tracrRNA, respectively. Alternatively, the DNA encoding the gRNA can be provided as one DNA molecule.

[0179] When a DNA encoding a gRNA is introduced into a cell, the gRNA can be transiently, conditionally, or constitutively expressed in the cell. DNAs encoding gRNAs can be stably integrated in the genome of the cell and operably linked to a promoter active in the cell. Alternatively, DNAs encoding gRNAs can be operably linked to a promoter in an expression construct. For example, the DNA encoding the gRNA can be in a vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a Cas protein. Alternatively, it can be in a vector or a plasmid that is separate from the vector comprising the nucleic acid encoding the Cas protein. Promoters that can be used in such expression constructs include promoters active, for example, in a pluripotent rat, eukaryotic, mammalian, non-human mammalian, human, rodent, mouse, or hamster cell. Such promoters can be, for example, conditional promoters, inducible promoters, constitutive promoters, or tissue-specific promoters. In some instances, the promoter is an RNA polymerase III promoter, such as a human U6 promoter.

[0180] Alternatively, gRNAs can be prepared by various other methods. For example, gRNAs can be prepared by *in vitro* transcription using, for example, T7 RNA polymerase (see, e.g., WO 2014/089290 and WO 2014/065596). Guide RNAs can also be a synthetically produced molecule prepared by chemical synthesis.

[0181] A target sequence for a CRISPR/Cas system includes nucleic acid sequences present in a target DNA to which a DNA-targeting segment of a gRNA will bind, provided sufficient conditions for binding exist. For example, target sequences include sequences to which a guide RNA is designed to have complementarity, where hybridization between a target sequence and a DNA targeting sequence promotes the formation of a CRISPR complex. Full complementarity is not necessarily required, provided there is sufficient complementarity to cause hybridization and promote formation of a CRISPR complex. Target sequences also include cleavage sites for Cas proteins, described in more detail below. A target sequence can comprise any polynucleotide, which can be located, for example, in the nucleus or cytoplasm of a cell or within an organelle of a cell, such as a mitochondrion or chloroplast.

[0182] The target sequence within a target DNA can be targeted by (i.e., be bound by, or hybridize with, or be complementary to) a Cas protein or a gRNA. Suitable DNA/RNA binding conditions include physiological conditions normally present in a cell. Other suitable DNA/RNA binding conditions (e.g., conditions in a cell-free system) are known in the art (see, e.g., *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 3rd Ed. (Sambrook et al., Harbor Laboratory Press 2001)). The strand of the target DNA that is complementary to and hybridizes with the Cas protein or gRNA can be called the "complementary strand," and the strand of the target DNA that is complementary to the "complementary strand" (and is therefore not complementary to the Cas protein or gRNA) can be called "noncomplementary strand" or "template strand."

[0183] The Cas protein can cleave the nucleic acid at a site within or outside of a nucleic acid sequence present in a target DNA to which a DNA-targeting segment of a gRNA will bind. The "cleavage site" includes the position of a nucleic acid at which a Cas protein produces a single-strand break or a double-strand break. For example, formation of a CRISPR complex (comprising a gRNA hybridized to a target sequence and complexed with a Cas protein) can result in cleavage of one or both strands in or near (e.g., within 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 50, or more base pairs from) the nucleic acid sequence present in a target DNA to which a DNA-targeting segment of a gRNA will bind. If the cleavage site is outside of the nucleic acid sequence present in a target DNA to which a DNA-targeting segment of a gRNA will bind, the cleavage site is still considered to be within the "target sequence." The cleavage site can be on only one strand or on both strands of a nucleic acid. Cleavage sites can be at the same position on both strands of the nucleic acid (producing blunt ends) or can be at different sites on each strand (producing staggered ends (i.e., overhangs)). Staggered ends can be produced, for example, by using two Cas proteins which produce a single-strand break at different cleavage sites on different strands, thereby producing a double-strand break. For example, a first nickase can create a single strand break on the first strand of double stranded DNA (dsDNA), while a second nickase can create a single strand break on the second strand of dsDNA such that overhanging sequences are created. In some cases, the target sequence of the nickase on

the first strand is separated from the target sequence of the nickase on the second strand by at least 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 75, 100, 250, 500, or 1,000 base pairs.

[0184] Site-specific cleavage of target DNA by Cas9 can occur at locations determined by both (i) base-pairing complementarity between the gRNA and the target DNA and (ii) a short motif, called the protospacer adjacent motif (PAM), in the target DNA. The PAM can flank the target sequence. Optionally, the target sequence can be flanked on the 3' end by the PAM. For example, the cleavage site of Cas9 can be about 1 to about 10 or about 2 to about 5 base pairs (e.g., 3 base pairs) upstream or downstream of the PAM sequence. In some cases (e.g., when Cas9 from *S. pyogenes* or a closely related Cas9 is used), the PAM sequence of the non-complementary strand can be 5'-N₁GG-3', where N₁ is any DNA nucleotide and is immediately 3' of the target sequence of the non-complementary strand of the target DNA. As such, the PAM sequence of the complementary strand would be 5'-CCN₂-3', where N₂ is any DNA nucleotide and is immediately 5' of the target sequence of the complementary strand of the target DNA. In some such cases, N₁ and N₂ can be complementary and the N₁-N₂ base pair can be any base pair (e.g., N₁=C and N₂=G; N₁=G and N₂=C; N₁=A and N₂=T; or N₁=T, and N₂=A).

[0185] Examples of target sequences include a DNA sequence complementary to the DNA-targeting segment of a gRNA, or such a DNA sequence in addition to a PAM sequence. One example of a target sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence of GNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNGG (GN₁₋₂₀ GG; SEQ ID NO: 1). The guanine at the 5' end can facilitate transcription by RNA polymerase in cells. Other examples of target sequences can include two guanine nucleotides at the 5' end to facilitate efficient transcription by T7 polymerase *in vitro*. See, e.g., WO 2014/065596. Other target sequences can have between 4-22 nucleotides in length of SEQ ID NO: 1, including the 5' G and the 3' GG. Yet other target sequences can have between 14 and 20 nucleotides in length of SEQ ID NO: 1.

[0186] The target sequence can be any nucleic acid sequence endogenous or exogenous to a cell. The target sequence can be a sequence coding a gene product (e.g., a protein) or a non-coding sequence (e.g., a regulatory sequence or junk DNA) or can include both.

[0187] Active variants and fragments of nuclease agents (i.e. an engineered nuclease agent) are also provided. Such active variants can comprise at least 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity to the native nuclease agent, wherein the active variants retain the ability to cut at a desired recognition site and hence retain nick or double-strand-break-inducing activity. For example, any of the nuclease agents described herein can be modified from a native endonuclease sequence and designed to recognize and induce a nick or double-strand break at a recognition site that was not recognized by the native nuclease agent. Thus, in some embodiments, the engineered nuclease has a specificity to induce a nick or double-strand break at a recognition site that is different from the corresponding native nuclease agent recognition site. Assays for nick or double-strand-break-inducing activity are known and generally measure the overall activity and specificity of the endonuclease on DNA substrates containing the recognition site.

[0188] The nuclease agent may be introduced into the pluripotent cell by any means known in the art. The polypeptide encoding the nuclease agent may be directly introduced into the cell. Alternatively, a polynucleotide encoding the nuclease agent can be introduced into the cell. When a polynucleotide encoding the nuclease agent is introduced into the cell, the nuclease agent can be transiently, conditionally, or constitutively expressed within the cell. Thus, the polynucleotide encoding the nuclease agent can be contained in an expression cassette and be operably linked to a conditional promoter, an inducible promoter, a constitutive promoter, or a tissue-specific promoter. Alternatively, the nuclease agent is introduced into the cell as an mRNA encoding a nuclease agent.

[0189] In specific embodiments, the polynucleotide encoding the nuclease agent is stably integrated in the genome of the cell and operably linked to a promoter active in the cell. In other embodiments, the polynucleotide encoding the nuclease agent is in the same targeting vector comprising the nucleic acid insert, while in other instances the polynucleotide encoding the nuclease agent is in a vector or a plasmid that is separate from the targeting vector comprising the nucleic acid insert.

[0190] When the nuclease agent is provided to the cell through the introduction of a polynucleotide encoding the nuclease agent, such a polynucleotide encoding a nuclease agent can be modified to substitute codons having a higher frequency of usage in the cell of interest, as compared to the naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence encoding the nuclease agent. For example, the polynucleotide encoding the nuclease agent can be modified to substitute codons having a higher frequency of usage in a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell, including a bacterial cell, a yeast cell, a human cell, a non-human cell, a mammalian cell, a rodent cell, a mouse cell, a rat cell, a hamster cell, or any other host cell, as compared to the naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence.

[0191] The various methods set forth above can be sequentially repeated to allow for the targeted integration of any number of nucleic acid inserts into a given targeted genomic locus on a chromosome. Thus, the various methods provide for the insertion of at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or more nucleic acid inserts into the target genomic locus on a chromosome. In particular embodiments, such sequential tiling methods allow for the reconstruction of large genomic regions from an animal cell or from a mammalian cell (i.e., a human, a non-human, a rodent, a mouse, a monkey, a rat, a hamster, a domesticated mammal or an agricultural animal) into a targeted genomic

locus on a chromosome. In such instances, the transfer and reconstruction of genomic regions that include both coding and non-coding regions allow for the complexity of a given region to be preserved by retaining, at least in part, the coding regions, the non-coding regions and the copy number variations found within the native genomic region. Thus, the various methods provide, for example, methods to generate "heterologous" or "exogenous" genomic regions within a cell.

IV. Selection Markers

[0192] The various methods and compositions provided herein can employ the nuclease agents and their corresponding recognition sites in combination with selection markers. As discussed herein, the position of the recognition site in the polynucleotide encoding the selection marker allows for an efficient method by which to identify integration events at the target locus. Moreover, various methods are provided herein wherein alternating selection markers having the nuclease recognition site are employed to improve the efficiency and efficacy through which multiple polynucleotides of interest are integrated within a given targeted locus.

[0193] Various selection markers can be used in the methods and compositions disclosed herein. Such selection markers can, for example, impart resistance to an antibiotic such as G418, hygromycin, blasticidin, neomycin, or puromycin. Such selection markers include neomycin phosphotransferase (*neo^r*), hygromycin B phosphotransferase (*hyg^r*), puromycin-N-acetyltransferase (*puro^r*), and blasticidin S deaminase (*bsr^r*). In still other embodiments, the selection marker is operably linked to an inducible promoter and the expression of the selection marker is toxic to the cell. Non-limiting examples of such selection markers include xanthine/guanine phosphoribosyl transferase (*gpt*), hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase (HGPRT) or herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (HSV-TK).

[0194] In one embodiment, the nuclease recognition site is positioned within a gene encoding a selection marker. In a specific embodiment, the nuclease recognition site is positioned within a hygromycin gene.

[0195] The polynucleotide encoding the selection markers are operably linked to a promoter active in the cell. Such expression cassettes and their various regulatory components are discussed in further detailed elsewhere herein.

V. Promoters

[0196] Various nucleic acid sequences described herein can be operably linked to promoters. Such promoters can be active, for example, in a pluripotent, eukaryotic, mammalian, non-human mammalian, human, rodent, mouse, or hamster cell. A promoter can be, for example, a constitutively active promoter, a conditional promoter, an inducible promoter, a temporally restricted promoter (e.g., a developmentally regulated promoter), or a spatially restricted promoter (e.g., a cell-specific or tissue-specific promoter). Examples of promoters can be found, for example, in WO 2013/176772.

[0197] Examples of inducible promoters include, for example, chemically regulated promoters and physically-regulated promoters. Chemically regulated promoters include, for example, alcohol-regulated promoters (e.g., an alcohol dehydrogenase (*alcA*) gene promoter), tetracycline-regulated promoters (e.g., a tetracycline-responsive promoter, a tetracycline operator sequence (*tetO*), a *tet-On* promoter, or a *tet-Off* promoter), steroid regulated promoters (e.g., a rat glucocorticoid receptor, a promoter of an estrogen receptor, or a promoter of an ecdysone receptor), or metal-regulated promoters (e.g., a metalloprotein promoter). Physically regulated promoters include, for example temperature-regulated promoters (e.g., a heat shock promoter) and light-regulated promoters (e.g., a light-inducible promoter or a light-repressible promoter).

[0198] Tissue-specific promoters can be, for example, neuron-specific promoters, glia-specific promoters, muscle cell-specific promoters, heart cell-specific promoters, kidney cell-specific promoters, bone cell-specific promoters, endothelial cell-specific promoters, or immune cell-specific promoters (e.g., a B cell promoter or a T cell promoter).

[0199] Developmentally regulated promoters include, for example, promoters active only during an embryonic stage of development, or only in an adult cell.

[0200] A promoter can also be selected based on cell type. For example, various known promoters find use in a eukaryotic cell, a mammalian cell, a non-human cell, a non-human mammalian cell, a pluripotent cell, a non-human pluripotent cell, a human pluripotent cell, a human ES cell, a human adult stem cell, a developmentally-restricted human progenitor cell, a human iPS cell, a human cell, a rodent cell, a rat cell, a mouse cell, a hamster cell, a fibroblast, or a CHO cell.

VI. Expression Cassettes

[0201] Provided herein are polynucleotides or nucleic acid molecules comprising the various components of the targeting system provided herein (i.e. nuclease agents, recognition sites, nucleic acid inserts, polynucleotides of interest, targeting vectors (i.e., LTVECs), selection markers and other components).

[0202] Further provided are recombinant polynucleotides comprising the various components of the targeting system. The terms "recombinant polynucleotide" and "recombinant DNA construct" are used interchangeably herein. A recom-

binant construct comprises an artificial or heterologous combination of nucleic acid sequences, e.g., regulatory and coding sequences that are not found together in nature. In other embodiments, a recombinant construct may comprise regulatory sequences and coding sequences that are derived from different sources, or regulatory sequences and coding sequences derived from the same source, but arranged in a manner different than that found in nature. Such a construct may be used by itself or may be used in conjunction with a vector. If a vector is used, then the choice of vector is dependent upon the method that is used to transform the host cells as is well known to those skilled in the art. For example, a plasmid vector can be used. Genetic elements required to successfully transform, select, and propagate host cells and comprising any of the isolated nucleic acid fragments are provided herein. Screening may be accomplished by Southern analysis of DNA, Northern analysis of mRNA expression, immunoblotting analysis of protein expression, or phenotypic analysis, among others.

[0203] In specific embodiments, one or more of the components of the targeting system described herein can be provided in an expression cassette for expression in a prokaryotic cell, a eukaryotic cell, a bacterial, a yeast cell, a mammalian cell or other organism or cell type of interest. The cassette can include 5' and 3' regulatory sequences operably linked to a polynucleotide provided herein. When used to refer to the joining of two protein coding regions, operably linked means that the coding regions are in the same reading frame. In another instance, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein may be operably linked to regulatory sequences (e.g., promoter, enhancer, silencer sequence, etc.) so as to retain proper transcriptional regulation.

[0204] The cassette may additionally contain at least one additional polynucleotide of interest to be co-introduced into the organism. Alternatively, the additional polynucleotide of interest can be provided on multiple expression cassettes. Such an expression cassette is provided with a plurality of restriction sites and/or recombination sites for insertion of a recombinant polynucleotide to be under the transcriptional regulation of the regulatory regions. The expression cassette may additionally contain selection marker genes.

[0205] The expression cassette can include in the 5'-3' direction of transcription, a transcriptional and translational initiation region (i.e., a promoter), a recombinant polynucleotide provided herein, and a transcriptional and translational termination region (i.e., termination region) functional in mammalian cell or a host cell of interest. The regulatory regions (i.e., promoters, transcriptional regulatory regions, and translational termination regions) and/or a polynucleotide provided herein may be native/analogous to the host cell or to each other. Alternatively, the regulatory regions and/or a polynucleotide provided herein may be heterologous to the host cell or to each other. For example, a promoter operably linked to a heterologous polynucleotide is from a species different from the species from which the polynucleotide was derived, or, if from the same/analogous species, one or both are substantially modified from their original form and/or locus, or the promoter is not the native promoter for the operably linked polynucleotide. Alternatively, the regulatory regions and/or a recombinant polynucleotide provided herein may be entirely synthetic.

[0206] The termination region may be native with the transcriptional initiation region, may be native with the operably linked recombinant polynucleotide, may be native with the host cell, or may be derived from another source (i.e., foreign or heterologous) to the promoter, the recombinant polynucleotide, the host cell, or any combination thereof.

[0207] In preparing the expression cassette, the various DNA fragments may be manipulated, so as to provide for the DNA sequences in the proper orientation. Toward this end, adapters or linkers may be employed to join the DNA fragments or other manipulations may be involved to provide for convenient restriction sites, removal of superfluous DNA, removal of restriction sites, or the like. For this purpose, in vitro mutagenesis, primer repair, restriction, annealing, resubstitutions, e.g., transitions and transversions, may be involved.

[0208] A number of promoters can be used in the expression cassettes provided herein. The promoters can be selected based on the desired outcome. It is recognized that different applications can be enhanced by the use of different promoters in the expression cassettes to modulate the timing, location and/or level of expression of the polynucleotide of interest. Such expression constructs may also contain, if desired, a promoter regulatory region (e.g., one conferring inducible, constitutive, environmentally- or developmentally-regulated, or cell- or tissue-specific/selective expression), a transcription initiation start site, a ribosome binding site, an RNA processing signal, a transcription termination site, and/or a polyadenylation signal.

[0209] The expression cassette containing the polynucleotides provided herein can also comprise a selection marker gene for the selection of transformed cells. Selection marker genes are utilized for the selection of transformed cells or tissues.

[0210] Where appropriate, the sequences employed in the methods and compositions (i.e., the polynucleotide of interest, the nuclease agent, etc.) may be optimized for increased expression in the cell. That is, the genes can be synthesized using codons preferred in a given cell of interest including, for example, mammalian-preferred codons, human-preferred codons, rodent-preferred codon, mouse-preferred codons, rat-preferred codons, etc. for improved expression.

[0211] In one embodiment, the nuclease agent is expressed from an expression construct comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a nuclease and the nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter active in the cell.

VII. Methods of Making Genetically Modified Non-Human Animals (Part of the description which does not describe the invention)

[0212] Genetically modified non-human animals can be generated employing the various methods disclosed herein. In some cases, the method of producing a genetically modified non-human animal comprises: (1) modifying the genome of a pluripotent non-human cell using the methods described herein; (2) selecting the genetically modified pluripotent cell; (3) introducing the genetically modified pluripotent cell into a non-human host embryo; and (4) implanting the host embryo comprising the genetically modified pluripotent cell into a surrogate mother. A progeny from the genetically modified pluripotent cell is generated. The donor cell can be introduced into a non-human host embryo at any stage, such as the blastocyst stage or the pre-morula stage (i.e., the 4 cell stage or the 8 cell stage). Progeny that are capable of transmitting the genetic modification through the germline are generated. The pluripotent cell can be an ES cell (e.g., a mouse ES cell or a rat ES cell. See, for example, U.S. Patent No. 7,294,754.

[0213] Nuclear transfer techniques can also be used to generate the non-human mammalian animals. Briefly, methods for nuclear transfer can include the steps of: (1) enucleating an oocyte or providing an enucleated oocyte; (2) isolating or providing a non-human donor cell or nucleus to be combined with the enucleated non-human oocyte; (3) inserting the cell or nucleus into the enucleated oocyte to form a reconstituted cell; (4) implanting the reconstituted cell into the womb of a non-human animal to form an embryo; and (5) allowing the embryo to develop. In such methods, oocytes are generally retrieved from deceased animals, although they may be isolated also from either oviducts and/or ovaries of live animals. Oocytes can be matured in a variety of media known to those of ordinary skill in the art prior to enucleation. Enucleation of the oocyte can be performed in a number of manners well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Insertion of the donor cell or nucleus into the enucleated oocyte to form a reconstituted cell can be by microinjection of a donor cell under the zona pellucida prior to fusion. Fusion may be induced by application of a DC electrical pulse across the contact/fusion plane (electrofusion), by exposure of the cells to fusion-promoting chemicals, such as polyethylene glycol, or by way of an inactivated virus, such as the Sendai virus. A reconstituted cell can be activated by electrical and/or non-electrical means before, during, and/or after fusion of the nuclear donor and recipient oocyte. Activation methods include electric pulses, chemically induced shock, penetration by sperm, increasing levels of divalent cations in the oocyte, and reducing phosphorylation of cellular proteins (as by way of kinase inhibitors) in the oocyte. The activated reconstituted cells, or non-human embryos, can be cultured in medium well known to those of ordinary skill in the art and then transferred to the womb of an animal. See, for example, US20080092249, WO/1999/005266A2, US20040177390, WO/2008/017234A1, and US Patent No. 7,612,250.

[0214] The methods can further comprise methods of producing an F0 generation non-human animal comprising: (1) identifying a non-human ES cell comprising the targeted modification; (2) introducing the non-human ES cell comprising the targeted modification into a non-human host embryo; and (3) gestating the non-human host embryo in a surrogate mother. The surrogate mother can then produce the F0 generation non-human animal comprising the targeted modification. The host embryo comprising the genetically modified pluripotent or totipotent cell (e.g., a non-human ES cell) can be incubated until the blastocyst stage and then implanted into a surrogate mother to produce an F0 animal. Animals bearing the genetically modified genomic locus can be identified via a modification of allele (MOA) assay as described herein.

[0215] The various methods provided herein allow for the generation of a genetically modified non-human F0 animal wherein the cells of the genetically modified F0 animal that comprise the targeted modification. It is recognized that depending on the method used to generate the F0 animal, the number of cells within the F0 animal that have the targeted genetic modification will vary. The introduction of the donor ES cells into a pre-morula stage embryo from a corresponding organism (e.g., an 8-cell stage mouse embryo) via for example, the VELOCIMOUSE® method allows for a greater percentage of the cell population of the F0 animal to comprise cells having the targeted genetic modification. In specific instances, at least 50%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% of the cellular contribution of the non-human F0 animal comprises a cell population having the targeted modification. In other instances, at least one or more of the germ cells of the F0 animal have the targeted modification.

[0216] In some instances, the cells of the genetically modified F0 animal are heterozygous or compound heterozygous for the targeted modification. For example, the cells of the genetically modified F0 animal can be hemizygous for the targeted modification. In other instances, the cells of the genetically modified F0 animal are homozygous for the targeted modification.

[0217] In some cases, the F0 animal generated by the methods and compositions disclosed herein can be bred to a wild-type animal to generate an F1 generation that is heterozygous for the targeted modification. Animals from the F1 generation can then be bred to each other to generate an F2 animal homozygous for the targeted modification. The F1 progeny can be genotyped using specific primers and/or probes to determine if the targeted genetic modification is present.

VIII. Methods of Introducing Nucleic Acids and Proteins into Cells

[0218] Various methods and compositions are provided herein to allow for introduction of a nucleic acid into a cell. In some cases, the system employed for introducing the nucleic acid allows for the targeted integration at a specific genomic locus. Such systems employ a variety of components and for ease of reference, the term "targeted genomic integration system" generically includes all the components required for an integration event (e.g., one or more of nuclease agents, nuclease cleavage sites, nucleic acid inserts, targeting vectors, target genomic loci, and polynucleotides of interest).

[0219] The methods provided herein can comprise introducing into a cell one or more polynucleotides or polypeptide constructs comprising one or more components of a targeted genomic integration system. "Introducing" includes presenting to the cell the sequence (polypeptide or polynucleotide) in such a manner that the sequence gains access to the interior of the cell. The methods provided herein do not depend on a particular method for introducing a nucleic acid or protein into the cell, only that the nucleic acid or protein gains access to the interior of a least one cell. Methods for introducing nucleic acids and proteins into various cell types are known in the art and include, for example, stable transfection methods, transient transfection methods, and virus-mediated methods.

[0220] In some cases, the cells employed in the methods and compositions have a DNA construct stably incorporated into their genome. "Stably incorporated" or "stably introduced" includes the introduction of a polynucleotide into the cell such that the nucleotide sequence integrates into the genome of the cell and is capable of being inherited by progeny thereof. Any protocol may be used for the stable incorporation of the DNA constructs or the various components of the targeted genomic integration system.

[0221] Transfection protocols as well as protocols for introducing polypeptides or polynucleotide sequences into cells may vary. Transfection methods include chemical-based transfection methods using liposomes; nanoparticles; calcium phosphate (Graham et al. (1973) *Virology* 52 (2): 456-67, Bacchetti et al. (1977) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 74 (4): 1590-4, and Kriegler, M (1991). *Transfer and Expression: A Laboratory Manual*. New York: W. H. Freeman and Company. pp. 96-97); dendrimers; or cationic polymers such as DEAE-dextran or polyethylenimine. Non-chemical methods include electroporation, Sono-poration, and optical transfection. Particle-based transfection includes the use of a gene gun, or magnet-assisted transfection (Bertram (2006) *Current Pharmaceutical Biotechnology* 7, 277-28). Viral methods can also be used for transfection.

[0222] In some cases, the introduction of nucleic acids or proteins into a cell is mediated by electroporation, by intracytoplasmic injection, by viral infection, by adenovirus, by lentivirus, by retrovirus, by transfection, by lipid-mediated transfection, or by Nucleofection™.

[0223] The introduction of nucleic acids or proteins into the cell can be performed one time or multiple times over a period of time. For example, the introduction can be performed at least two times over a period of time, at least three times over a period of time, at least four times over a period of time, at least five times over a period of time, at least six times over a period of time, at least seven times over a period of time, at least eight times over a period of time, at least nine times over a period of times, at least ten times over a period of time, at least eleven times, at least twelve times over a period of time, at least thirteen times over a period of time, at least fourteen times over a period of time, at least fifteen times over a period of time, at least sixteen times over a period of time, at least seventeen times over a period of time, at least eighteen times over a period of time, at least nineteen times over a period of time, or at least twenty times over a period of time.

[0224] When both nuclease agents and targeting vectors (e.g., LTVECs) are introduced into the cell, they can be introduced simultaneously. Alternatively, the nuclease agent can be introduced separately from the targeting vectors. For example, the nuclease agent can be introduced prior to the introduction of the targeting vectors, or it can be introduced following introduction of the targeting vectors. When two or more LTVECs are introduced into the cell, they can be introduced simultaneously, or alternatively, they can be introduced separately.

IX. Cells and Animals

[0225] Various compositions and methods provided herein employ cells, such as cells from an animal. Such cells can be non-human cells or can be from a non-human animal. In accordance with the methods of the invention, such cells are eukaryotic cells, in particular mammalian cells. A mammalian cell can be, for example, a non-human mammalian cell, a human cell, a rodent cell, a rat cell, a mouse cell, a hamster cell, a fibroblast, or a CHO cell. The eukaryotic cell can be a totipotent cell, a pluripotent cell, such as a non-human pluripotent cell (e.g., a mouse embryonic stem (ES) cell or a rat ES cell) or a human pluripotent cell, or a non-pluripotent cell. Totipotent cells include undifferentiated cells that can give rise to any cell type, and pluripotent cells include undifferentiated cells that possess the ability to develop into more than one differentiated cell type. Such pluripotent and/or totipotent cells can be, for example, embryonic stem (ES) cells or ES-like cells, such as an induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. Embryonic stem cells include non-human embryo-derived totipotent or pluripotent cells that are capable of contributing to any tissue of the developing embryo upon introduction into a non-human embryo. Non-human ES cells can be derived from the inner cell mass of a blastocyst and

are capable of differentiating into cells of any of the three vertebrate germ layers (endoderm, ectoderm, and mesoderm). Such cells can also be hematopoietic stem cells or neuronal stem cells.

[0226] A eukaryotic cell can also be a cell that is not a primary somatic cell. Somatic cells can include any cell that is not a gamete, germ cell, gametocyte, or undifferentiated stem cell.

[0227] Eukaryotic cells also include primary cells. Primary cells include cells or cultures of cells that have been isolated directly from an organism, organ, or tissue. Primary cells include cells that are neither transformed nor immortal. They include any cell obtained from an organism, organ, or tissue which was not previously passed in tissue culture or has been previously passed in tissue culture but is incapable of being indefinitely passed in tissue culture. Such cells can be isolated by conventional techniques and include, for example, somatic cells, hematopoietic cells, endothelial cells, epithelial cells, fibroblasts, mesenchymal cells, keratinocytes, melanocytes, monocytes, mononuclear cells, adipocytes, preadipocytes, neurons, glial cells, hepatocytes, skeletal myoblasts, and smooth muscle cells. For example, primary cells can be derived from connective tissues, muscle tissues, nervous system tissues, or epithelial tissues.

[0228] Eukaryotic cells also include immortalized cells. Immortalized cells include cells from a multicellular organism that would normally not proliferate indefinitely but, due to mutation or alteration, have evaded normal cellular senescence and instead can keep undergoing division. Such mutations or alterations can occur naturally or be intentionally induced. Examples of immortalized cells include Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, human embryonic kidney cells (e.g., HEK 293 cells), and mouse embryonic fibroblast cells (e.g., 3T3 cells). Numerous types of immortalized cells are well known in the art.

[0229] Immortalized or primary cells include cells that are typically used for culturing or for expressing recombinant genes or proteins.

[0230] The term "animal," in reference to cells, pluripotent and/or totipotent cells, ES cells, donor cells, and/or host embryos, includes mammals, fishes, and birds. Mammals include, for example, humans, non-human primates, monkeys, apes, cats, dogs, horses, bulls, deer, bison, sheep, rodents (e.g., mice, rats, hamsters, guinea pigs), livestock (e.g., bovine species such as cows, steer, etc.; ovine species such as sheep, goats, etc.; and porcine species such as pigs and boars). Birds include, for example, chickens, turkeys, ostrich, geese, ducks, etc. Domesticated animals and agricultural animals are also included. The term "non-human animal" excludes humans.

[0231] Mouse pluripotent and/or totipotent cells can be from a 129 strain, a C57BL/6 strain, a mix of 129 and C57BL/6, a BALB/c strain, or a Swiss Webster strain. Examples of 129 strains include 129P1, 129P2, 129P3, 129X1, 129S1 (e.g., 129S1/SV, 129S1/SvIm), 129S2, 129S4, 129S5, 129S9/SvEvH, 129S6 (129/SvEvTac), 129S7, 129S8, 129T1, and 129T2. See, for example, Festing et al. (1999) *Mammalian Genome* 10:836). Examples of C57BL strains include C57BL/A, C57BL/An, C57BL/GrFa, C57BL/Kal_wN, C57BL/6, C57BL/6J, C57BL/6ByJ, C57BL/6NJ, C57BL/10, C57BL/10ScSn, C57BL/10Cr, and C57BL/Ola. Mouse pluripotent and/or totipotent cells can also be from a mix of an aforementioned 129 strain and an aforementioned C57BL/6 strain (e.g., 50% 129 and 50% C57BL/6). Likewise, mouse pluripotent and/or totipotent calls can be from a mix of aforementioned 129 strains or a mix of aforementioned BL/6 strains (e.g., the 129S6 (129/SvEvTac) strain). A specific example of a mouse ES cell is a VGF1 mouse ES cell. See, for example, Auerbach et al. (2000) *Biotechniques* 29, 1024-1028, 1030, 1032.

[0232] A rat pluripotent and/or totipotent cell can be from any rat strain, including, for example, an ACI rat strain, a Dark Agouti (DA) rat strain, a Wistar rat strain, a LEA rat strain, a Sprague Dawley (SD) rat strain, or a Fischer rat strain such as Fisher F344 or Fisher F6. Rat pluripotent and/or totipotent cells can also be obtained from a strain derived from a mix of two or more strains recited above. For example, the rat pluripotent and/or totipotent cell can be from a DA strain or an ACI strain. The ACI rat strain is characterized as having black agouti, with white belly and feet and an *RT1^{av1}* haplotype. Such strains are available from a variety of sources including Harlan Laboratories. An example of a rat ES cell line from an ACI rat is an ACI.G1 rat ES cell. The Dark Agouti (DA) rat strain is characterized as having an agouti coat and an *RT1^{av1}* haplotype. Such rats are available from a variety of sources including Charles River and Harlan Laboratories. Examples of a rat ES cell line from a DA rat are the DA.2B rat ES cell line and the DA.2C rat ES cell line. In some cases, the rat pluripotent and/or totipotent cells are from an inbred rat strain. See, e.g., U.S. 2014/0235933 A1, filed on February 20, 2014, and U.S. 2014/0310828 A1, filed on April 16, 2014. entirety.

[0233] Examples of human pluripotent cells include human ES cells, human adult stem cells, developmentally restricted human progenitor cells, and human induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells, such as primed human iPS cells and naive human iPS cells. See, e.g., U.S. Patent Application Number 14/515,503, filed on October 15, 2014. Induced pluripotent stem cells include pluripotent stem cells that can be derived directly from a differentiated adult cell. Human iPS cells can be generated by introducing specific sets of reprogramming factors into a cell which can include, for example, Oct3/4, Sox family transcription factors (e.g., Sox1, Sox2, Sox3, Sox15), Myc family transcription factors (e.g., c-Myc, 1-Myc, n-Myc), Krüppel-like family (KLF) transcription factors (e.g., KLF1, KLF2, KLF4, KLF5), and/or related transcription factors, such as NANOG, LIN28, and/or Glis1. Human iPS cells can also be generated, for example, by the use of miRNAs, small molecules that mimic the actions of transcription factors, or lineage specifiers. Human iPS cells are characterized by their ability to differentiate into any cell of the three vertebrate germ layers, e.g., the endoderm, the ectoderm, or the mesoderm. Human iPS cells are also characterized by their ability propagate indefinitely under suitable

in vitro culture conditions. See, e.g., Takahashi and Yamanaka (2006) Cell 126:663-676. Primed human ES cells and primed human iPS cells include cells that express characteristics similar to those of post-implantation epiblast cells and are committed for lineage specification and differentiation. Naive human ES cells and naive human iPS cells include cells that express characteristics similar to those of ES cells of the inner cell mass of a pre-implantation embryo and are not committed for lineage specification. See, e.g., Nichols and Smith (2009) Cell Stem Cell 4:487-492.

[0234] Cells that have been implanted into a non-human host embryo can be referred to as "donor cells." The genetically modified pluripotent and/or totipotent cell can be from the same strain as the host embryo or from a different strain. Likewise, the surrogate mother can be from the same strain as the genetically modified pluripotent and/or totipotent cell and/or the host embryo, or the surrogate mother can be from a different strain as the genetically modified pluripotent and/or totipotent cell and/or the host embryo.

[0235] A variety of non-human host embryos can be employed in the methods and compositions disclosed herein. For example, the pluripotent and/or totipotent cells having the targeted genetic modification can be introduced into a pre-morula stage non-human embryo (e.g., an 8-cell stage embryo) from a corresponding organism. See, e.g., US 7,576,259, US 7,659,442, US 7,294,754, and US 2008/0078000 A1. In other cases, the donor ES cells may be implanted into a non-human host embryo at a pre-morula stage, e.g., 2-cell stage, 4-cell stage, 8-cell stage, 16-cell stage, 32-cell stage, or 64-cell stage. The non-human host embryo can also be a blastocyst or can be a pre-blastocyst embryo, a pre-morula stage embryo, a morula stage embryo, an uncompacted morula stage embryo, or a compacted morula stage embryo. When employing a mouse embryo, the host embryo stage can be a Theiler Stage 1 (TS1), a TS2, a TS3, a TS4, a TS5, and a TS6, with reference to the Theiler stages described in Theiler (1989) "The House Mouse: Atlas of Mouse Development," Springer-Verlag, New York. For example, the Theiler Stage can be selected from TS1, TS2, TS3, and TS4. In some cases, the non-human host embryo comprises a zona pellucida, and the donor cell is an ES cell that is introduced into the host embryo through a hole in the zona pellucida. In other cases, the non-human host embryo is a zona-less embryo. In yet other cases, the morula-stage non-human host embryo is aggregated.

X. Methods of Identifying Cells with a Modified Target Genomic Locus

[0236] Some of the above methods further comprise identifying a cell having a modified target genomic locus (e.g., a modified genome). Various methods can be used to identify cells having a targeted modification, such as a deletion or an insertion. Such methods can comprise identifying one cell having the targeted modification at a target locus. Screening can be done to identify such cells with modified genomic loci.

[0237] The screening step can comprise a quantitative assay for assessing modification of allele (MOA) of a parental chromosome. For example, the quantitative assay can be carried out via a quantitative PCR, such as a real-time PCR (qPCR). The real-time PCR can utilize a first primer set that recognizes the target locus and a second primer set that recognizes a non-targeted reference locus. The primer set can comprise a fluorescent probe that recognizes the amplified sequence.

[0238] In other instances, cells having the targeted genetic modification are selected using methods that include, for example, Southern blot analysis, DNA sequencing, PCR analysis, or phenotypic analysis. Such cells are then employed in the various methods and compositions described herein.

[0239] Other examples of suitable quantitative assays include fluorescence-mediated in situ hybridization (FISH), comparative genomic hybridization, isothermal DNA amplification, quantitative hybridization to an immobilized probe(s), Invader Probes®, MMP assays®, TAQMAN® Molecular Beacon, or Eclipse™ probe technology (see, for example, US2005/0144655).

[0240] The screening step generally also comprises arm-specific assays, which are assays used to distinguish between correct targeted insertions of a nucleic acid insert into a target genomic locus from random transgenic insertions of the nucleic acid insert into genomic locations outside of the target genomic locus and are also used to detect correct assembly of two or more overlapping LTVECs into a single construct. Conventional assays for screening for targeted modifications, such as long-range PCR or Southern blotting, link the inserted targeting vector to the targeted locus. Because of their large homology arm sizes, however, LTVECs do not permit screening by such conventional assays. To screen LTVEC targeting, modification-of-allele (MOA) assays including loss-of-allele (LOA) and gain-of-allele (GOA) assays can be used (see, e.g., US 2014/0178879 and Frendewey et al. (2010) Methods Enzymol. 476:295-307). The loss-of-allele (LOA) assay inverts the conventional screening logic and quantifies the number of copies of the native locus to which the mutation was directed. In a correctly targeted cell clone, the LOA assay detects one of the two native alleles (for genes not on the X or Y chromosome), the other allele being disrupted by the targeted modification. The same principle can be applied in reverse as a gain-of-allele (GOA) assay to quantify the copy number of the inserted targeting vector. For example, the combined use of GOA and LOA assays will reveal a correctly targeted heterozygous clone as having lost one copy of the native target gene and gained one copy of the drug resistance gene or other inserted marker.

[0241] As an example, quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) can be used as the method of allele quantification, but any method that can reliably distinguish the difference between zero, one, and two copies of the target gene

or between zero, one, and two copies of the nucleic acid insert can be used to develop a MOA assay. For example, TAQMAN® can be used to quantify the number of copies of a DNA template in a genomic DNA sample, especially by comparison to a reference gene (see, e.g., US 6,596,541). The reference gene is quantitated in the same genomic DNA as the target gene(s) or locus(loci). Therefore, two TAQMAN® amplifications (each with its respective probe) are performed. One TAQMAN® probe determines the "Ct" (Threshold Cycle) of the reference gene, while the other probe determines the Ct of the region of the targeted gene(s) or locus(loci) which is replaced by successful targeting (i.e., a LOA assay). The Ct is a quantity that reflects the amount of starting DNA for each of the TAQMAN® probes, i.e. a less abundant sequence requires more cycles of PCR to reach the threshold cycle. Decreasing by half the number of copies of the template sequence for a TAQMAN® reaction will result in an increase of about one Ct unit. TAQMAN® reactions in cells where one allele of the target gene(s) or locus(loci) has been replaced by homologous recombination will result in an increase of one Ct for the target TAQMAN® reaction without an increase in the Ct for the reference gene when compared to DNA from non-targeted cells. For a GOA assay, another TAQMAN® probe can be used to determine the Ct of the nucleic acid insert that is replacing the targeted gene(s) or locus(loci) by successful targeting.

[0242] It can be useful augment standard LOA and GOA assays to verify correct targeting by LTVECs. For example, LOA and GOA assays alone may not distinguish correctly targeted cell clones from clones in which a Cas-induced deletion of the target genomic locus coincides with random integration of a LTVEC elsewhere in the genome. Because the selection pressure in the targeted cell is based on the selection cassette, random transgenic integration of the LTVEC elsewhere in the genome will generally include the selection cassette and adjacent regions of the LTVEC but may exclude more distal regions of the LTVEC. For example, if a portion of an LTVEC is randomly integrated into the genome, and the LTVEC comprises a nucleic acid insert of around 5 kb or more in length with a selection cassette adjacent to the 3' homology arm, in some cases the 3' homology arm but not the 5' homology arm will be transgenically integrated with the selection cassette. Alternatively, if the selection cassette adjacent to the 5' homology arm, in some cases the 5' homology arm but not the 3' homology arm will be transgenically integrated with the selection cassette. As an example, if LOA and GOA assays are used to assess targeted integration of the LTVEC, and the GOA assay utilizes probes against the selection cassette or any other unique (non-arm) region of the LTVEC, a heterozygous deletion at the target genomic locus combined with a random transgenic integration of the LTVEC will give the same readout as a heterozygous targeted integration of the LTVEC at the target genomic locus. To verify correct targeting by the LTVEC, arm-specific assays can be used in conjunction with LOA and/or GOA assays.

[0243] Arm-specific assays determine copy numbers of a DNA template in LTVEC homology arms. Such homology arms can include a homology arm of an LTVEC that does not overlap with another LTVEC but corresponds with a target sequence in the cell (e.g., homology arm overlapping with genomic target sequence in a mouse cell (mArm)). Such homology arms can also include an overlapping homology arm present in two overlapping LTVECs (e.g., overlapping human sequence in 3' homology arm of a first LTVEC and 5' homology arm of a second LTVEC (hArm)). For experiments in which multiple overlapping LTVECs are introduced into a cell, screening generally comprises LOA assays, GOA assays for all unique inserted sequences, and arm-specific assays for all regions of homology (i.e., between LTVEC and target sequence in cell and between two different overlapping LTVECs). As an example, in the case of three overlapping LTVECs introduced into a mouse cell to humanize a wild type mouse target locus, the expected copy numbers for heterozygous targeted insertion would be as follows: 2 copies of 5' mArm (homology arm overlapping with 5' mouse target sequence), 1 copy of hArm1 (overlapping sequence between LTVECs 1 and 2), 1 copy of hArm2 (overlapping sequence between LTVECs 2 and 3), and 2 copies of 3' mArm (homology arm overlapping with 3' mouse target sequence). In the above example, mArm copy numbers greater than two would generally indicate transgenic LTVEC integration randomly outside of the target genomic locus rather than at the target genomic locus, which is undesirable. Correctly targeted clones would retain mArm copy numbers of two. In addition, mArm copy numbers of less than two in such arm-specific assays would generally indicate large Cas-mediated deletions extending beyond the region targeted for deletion, which are also undesirable. Likewise, for heterozygous targeted modifications, copy numbers of 1 for hArm1 and hArm2 would generally indicate that all three LTVECs have been assembled into a single construct.

[0244] If different versions of a sequence are associated with an accession number at different times, the version associated with the accession number at the effective filing date of this application is meant. The effective filing date means the earlier of the actual filing date or filing date of a priority application referring to the accession number if applicable. Likewise, if different versions of a publication, website or the like are published at different times, the version most recently published at the effective filing date of the application is meant unless otherwise indicated. Any feature, step, element, embodiment, or aspect of the invention can be used in combination with any other unless specifically indicated otherwise. Although the present invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity and understanding, it will be apparent that certain changes and modifications may be practiced.

EXAMPLES

[0245] The following examples are put forth so as to provide those of ordinary skill in the art with a complete disclosure

and description of how to make and use the present invention. Efforts have been made to ensure accuracy with respect to numbers used (e.g., amounts, temperature, etc.) but some experimental errors and deviations should be accounted for. Unless indicated otherwise, parts are parts by weight, molecular weight is weight average molecular weight, temperature is in degrees Centigrade, and pressure is at or near atmospheric.

Example 1: Targeting the TCR Alpha Locus with Two LTVECs in Combination with Zinc Finger Nucleases

[0246] A double targeting system was designed such that two large targeting vectors (LTVECs) modify a genomic locus in a single targeting step. As depicted in **FIG. 1**, a cell having a heterozygous modification of the TCR alpha locus on mouse chromosome 14 comprising a hygromycin selection cassette was targeted by the double targeting system to generate ES cells comprising additional Igκ variable gene segments.

[0247] This double targeting approach, summarized in **FIG. 1**, involves double targeting or co-electroporation of two different large targeting vectors (LTVECs) together with nucleotide sequences that encode an endonuclease (e.g., zinc finger nucleases) that creates a double strand break at or near the target locus into ES cells.

[0248] In this approach, the first large targeting vector (labeled as MAID 1710) comprised a 3' 30 kb homology arm that included the sequence of the human Vκ1-5 and Vκ1-6 gene segments, a 120 kb sequence that comprised the human Vκ3-7 to Vκ3-15 gene segments, and a 5' 20 kb region ("overlap region") that comprised the human Vκ1-16 gene segment. The second large targeting vector (labeled as MAID 6600) comprised a 3' 20 kb overlap region (region comprising the human Vκ1-16 gene segment, same as in the first vector), a 140 kb sequence comprising the human Vκ1-17 to Vκ2-30 gene segments, a FRT-Ub-Neo-FRT selection cassette and a 15.5 kb 3' mouse TCR A homology arm.

[0249] Zinc finger nucleases (ZFN) were designed that recognize and cleave a target sequence within the hygromycin resistance gene in order to promote homologous recombination of the two LTVECs at the target TCR A locus. The ES cells generated in **FIG. 1** (MAID 6548, heterozygous for all human Jκ segments and four functional human Vκ gene segments) were electroporated with the two large targeting vectors (MAID6600 and MAID 1700-trimmed) described above and two plasmids that express each half of the ZFN (1/2), which bind to recognition sequences in the hygromycin resistance gene and catalyze a double-strand break at the target site (TGCGATCGCTGCGGCCGAtcttagCCAGAC-GAGCGGGTTCGG (SEQ ID NO: 2); with cleavage site in lower case letters) (see **Table 1**). Two additional ZFNs were designed to target hygromycin: ZFN(3/4) that targets the hygromycin gene at nucleotide sequence CGCTGCG-GCCGATCTtagccaGACGAGCGGGTTCGG (SEQ ID NO: 3); and ZFN(5/6) that targets the hygromycin gene at nucleotide sequence AGCGTGTCCGACCTGATGcagctcTCGGAGGGCGAAGAA (SEQ ID NO: 4) (see **Table 1**).

Table 1: Hygromycin Zinc Finger Nuclease Binding and Cleavage Sites

(complementary strand not shown)

Zinc Finger Nuclease	Zinc Finger Half	Binding Sequence (5'-3')	Cleavage Site (5'-3')
Hyg-ZFN(1,2)	Hyg-ZF1 Hvg-ZF2	TGCGATCGCTGCGGCCGA (SEQ ID NO: 5) CCGAACCCGCTCGTCTGG (SEQ ID NO: 6)	TCTTAG (SEQ ID NO: 11)
Hyg-ZFN(3,4)	Hyg-ZF3 Hyg-ZF4	CGCTGCGGCCGATCT (SEQ ID NO: 7) CCGAACCCGCTCGTC (SEQ ID NO: 8)	TAGCCA (SEQ ID NO: 12)
Hyg-ZFN(5,6)	Hyg-ZF5 Hyg-ZF6	AGCGTGTCCGACCTGATG (SEQ ID NO: 9) TTCTTCGCCCTCCGA (SEQ ID NO: 10)	CAGCTC (SEQ ID NO: 13)

[0250] The two large targeting vectors were inserted by homologous recombination into the DNA sequence replacing the region containing and surrounding the Hyg selection cassette. The resulting ES cells contained at the endogenous TCR A locus a human immunoglobulin variable domain comprising human Jκ1 to Jκ5 and Vκ4-1 to Vκ2-30 gene segments. Successful incorporation of the two large targeting vectors was confirmed using the TAQMAN@ assays described above (Lie and Petropoulos, 1998. Curr. Opin. Biotechnology 9:43-48), using probes and primers indicated in **FIG. 1** and listed in **Table 2** below (GOA= gain of allele; LOA=loss of allele; copy number = check for copy number of sequence to trace transgenic integration vs. targeted integration; hArm1 = 30 kb 3' homology arm of the first large targeting vector (MAID 1710); hArm2 = 20 kb overlap of the first (MAID 1710) and the second (MAID 6600) large targeting vectors, mArm = 15.5 kb 5' homology arm of the second targeting vector (MAID 6600), WT mouse control - sequences present at the mouse TCR A locus). Real-time PCR assays recognizing sequences in the homology arms of the LTVECs, referred to as arm-specific assays, were used to verify correct targeting of the LTVEC into the mouse genome. Determining the copy number of these arm-specific assays provided further clarification to help distinguish correctly targeted ES clones, which retain, e.g., an mArm copy number of two, from clones in which a Cas9-induced deletion of the target

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mouse locus coincides with random integration of the LTVECs elsewhere in the genome, in which case the mArm copy number would be three (or more).

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Table 2: TAQMAN Primers and Probes

Gene	Assay	Forward Primer	Probe	Reverse Primer
HYG	LOA	TGCGGCCGATCTTA GCC (SEQ ID NO: 14)	ACGAGCGGTTTCG GCCCATTC (SEQ ID NO: 15)	TTGACCGATTCTTT GCGG (SEQ ID NO: 16)
HYG-U	LOA	CGACGTCTGTCTGA GAAATTTCTG (SEQ ID NO: 17)	AGTTCGACAGCGT GTCCGACCTGA (SEQ ID NO: 18)	CACGCCCTCCTACA TCGAA (SEQ ID NO: 19)
Hyg-D	LOA	TGTCGGGCGGTACA CAAAATCG (SEQ ID NO: 20)	CCGTCTGGACCGAT GGCTGTGT (SEQ ID NO: 21)	GGCGTCTGGTTTCC ACTATC (SEQ ID NO: 22)
PGKp1 (Hyg Promoter)	LOA	CAAAATGGAAGTAG CACGTCTCACT (SEQ ID NO: 23)	CTCGTGCAGATGG ACAGCACCGC (SEQ ID NO: 24)	CCGCTGCCCCAAA GG (SEQ ID NO 25)
hlgK6	Copy number of hAm1	GTCAAAGCACTGCT GGCACAC (SEQ ID NO: 26)	AACCTTGTGCTAT TGAATTGCTATGCT GTCAG (SEQ ID NO: 27)	TGTTGTAGACCCCTC CGCCAC (SEQ ID NO: 28)
hlgK12 (MAID 1710 insert)	GOA	TTGCCTTTCTCACA CCTGCAG (SEQ ID NO: 29)	CAGCCCATCCTGTC ACTTCGCTGGA (SEQ ID NO: 30)	TGGCCCAACAGTA CAGCTCAG (SEQ ID NO :31)
hlgK13	Copy number of hAm2	TCAGTCAATCACCT TTCCCAGC (SEQ ID NO: 32)	TCCCCAGGTAGCCT CATGAACCAATGTT (SEQ ID NO: 33)	CACATTACTGAGTC CCCACAGGG (SEQ ID NO: 34)
hlgK14	Copy number of hAm2	CATTGTCAAAAGAA GCACTGGAAATG (SEQ ID NO: 35)	ACCATTCAGTTTA CCCACGGTTAGGA TTTTT (SEQ ID NO: 36)	TCTTGCAATGGGAT CATCAGATG (SEQ ID NO: 37)
Neo	GOA	GGTGGAGAGGCTA TTCGGC (SEQ ID NO: 38)	TGGGCACAACAGA CAATCGGCTG (SEQ ID NO: 39)	GAACACGGCGGCA TCAG (SEQ ID NO: 40)

(continued)

Gene	Assay	Forward Primer	Probe	Reverse Primer
hlgK15	GOA	CAGGTGCAAAAGGT GACCAACAG (SEQ ID NO: 41)	TGGTCTCTGCCCATT CCATGCA (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GGCAGCCTGAGTG TCAGAGC (SEQ ID NO: 43)
hlgK25	GOA	GTTCAGGCCCCAC AGACTCTC (SEQ ID NO: 44)	TCCTCTCTGGAGCA ACCATGAAGTTCCCC T (SEQ ID NO: 45)	CCTGAAGCCCATGA GGGCAG (SEQ ID NO: 46)
hUbC-D (Neo Promoter)	GOA	AGGGTAGGCTCTC CTGAATCG (SEQ ID NO: 47)	ACAGGCGCCGGAC CTCTGGT (SEQ ID NO: 48)	CCAAAGAAACTGA CGCCTCAC (SEQ ID NO: 49)
TCRA Arm4	Copy number of mArm	GCGCCACATGAAT TTGACCCAG (SEQ ID NO: 50)	TGTACCCCAATCTTC CAAAGAAAGAGCT G (SEQ ID NO: 51)	GGCATCCTGTCTCTC CCTTC (SEQ ID NO: 52)
Parental 1540m1	WT mouse control	CAGTAAGGGAAGA GACTACAACAGCA T (SEQ ID NO: 53)	TGCACACTGCTCAC CACTGCAAGCTAT (SEQ ID NO: 54)	TGCTGGTGGCCCCCA TCT (SEQ ID NO: 55)
Parental 1540m3	WT mouse control	GAAGTCAGCTATG ATAGTGTGCAATGT A (SEQ ID NO: 56)	CAGCCCAGCAGCT GTGGGTTCTC (SEQ ID NO: 57)	GCTCAGGGAGAAC ACAGAACTTAGA (SEQ ID NO: 58)
hlgK5	MAID 6548 sequence	CCCCGTCCTCCTCC TTTTTC (SEQ ID NO: 59)	TCATGTCCATTAAAC CCATTACCTTTTG CCCA (SEQ ID NO: 60)	TGCAAGTGCTGCCA GCAAG (SEQ ID NO: 61)

[0251] The resulting targeted locus in ES cells had the following junction sequences, where mouse sequences are in parentheses, human sequences are in normal font, multiple cloning sites are bolded, and Frt sequences are italicized (**Table 3**).

Table 3: Junction Sequences of Locus Resulting from Double ES Cell Targeting

Junction	Seq ID No	Sequence
mouse Tcra/5' Frt	62	(GTCTTTTTTGTTCCTTCACAGTTGAGCTTCA TCAAAGTCACATGGGTAAACTCTATGGAG TAGTCAGAACACACTCTTCA) GAAGGGACTC CTGATTTC <i>CAAAGGGTACCGAAGTTCCTATT</i> <i>CCGAAGTTCCTATTCTCTAGAAAGTATAGGAACTTC</i>
3' Frt/human IgK	63	<i>GAAGTTCCTATTCCGAAGTTCCTATTCTCTAG</i> <i>AAAGTATAGGAACTTCCTAGGGTTTCACCG</i> GTGGCGCGCCTAACAGAGAGGAAAGTCAAA TTATAAAGAATATGAGATTCAGAATTCTGA TTAACTGTGG
Human IgK/mouse Tcra	64	GATAAATTATTTTGTTCAGACAACAATAA AAATCAATAGCACGCCCTAAGAG CGGCC GCCACCGCGGTGGAGCTC (AGGTTTCCG GTACTTAACAACAGAGCACAGATTTAGT GGTGAGGGACTCT)

[0252] Modification of allele (MOA) screening of isolated ES cell colonies resulted in the identification of 27 correctly targeted clones among 960 colonies screened, for a targeting efficiency of 2.81%.

[0253] An alternative strategy for generating TCR A loci comprising additional immunoglobulin variable region gene segments involves serial targeting with successive large targeting vectors (see, e.g., **FIG. 2**). As such, ES cells heterozygous for all human J κ gene segments and four functional human V κ gene segments (MAID 6548) were electroporated with a large targeting vector comprising, from 5' to 3': a 15.5 kb 5' mouse homology arm, an Frt-Ub-Neo-Frt selection cassette, an 120 kb fragment comprising the V κ 3-7 to V κ 3-15 gene segments, and a 30 kb 3' human homology arm comprising the V κ 1-5 and V κ 1-6 gene segments (also present in MAID 6548 sequence). Successful incorporation was confirmed with TAQMAN[®] assays described above, using primers and probes that are listed in **Table 2** above and indicated in **FIG. 2**: Hyg, hlgK5, hlgK6, hlgK12, Neo, parental 1540m3, parental 1540m1. In particular, the TCRA Arm4 and hlgK6 probes were used as arm-specific probes to validate correct genomic targeting of the LTVEC. An additional set of primers and probe, hlgK10, can also be used to confirm successful incorporation: **Forward Primer** - CGATTATGACTGGTTAGGTAGAAAGGTG (SEQ ID NO: 65); **Probe** - GCCACTGGTTTCTCCAAATGTTTCAATCCAT (SEQ ID NO: 66); **Reverse Primer** - GGGAGTACTTGGAGATCCCTAAGC (SEQ ID NO: 67).

[0254] The resulting targeted locus in ES cells had the following junction sequences, where mouse sequences are in parentheses, human sequences are in normal font, multiple cloning sites are bolded, and Frt sequences are italicized (**Table 4**).

Table 4: Junction Sequence of Locus Resulting from Single ES Cell Targeting

Junction	Seq ID No	Sequence
mouse Tcra/5' Frt	68	(TTGAGCTTCATCAAAGTCACATGGGTAAA CTCTATGGAGTAGTCAGAACACACTCTTCA) GAAGGGACTCCTGATTTC <i>CAAAGGGTACC</i> <i>GAAGTTCCTATTCCGAAGTTCCTATTCTCTAGAA</i> <i>AGTATAGGAACTTC</i>

(continued)

Junction	Seq ID No	Sequence
3' Frt/human IgK	69	GAAGTTCCTATTCCGAAGTTCCTATTCTCTAG AAAGTATAGGAACCTTCCTAGGGTTTCACCG GTGGCGCGCCAGGACCCAGGCTCTGACACT CAGGCTGCCAATACAATTGCCATGAAGACA GATGTTGATG
Human IgK/mouse Tcra	64	GATAAATTATTTTGTGTCAGACAACAATAA AAATCAATAGCACGCCCTAAGAGCGGCC GCCACCGCGGTGGAGCTC(AGGTTTCCG GTACTTAACAACAGAGCACAGATTAGT GGTGAGGGACTCT)

[0255] MOA screening of isolated colonies resulted in the identification of 5 correctly targeted clones among 440 colonies screened (LTVEC alone), for a targeting efficiency of 1.1%. Results for screening of isolated colonies targeted with LTVEC + ZFN or LTVEC + CRISPR-Cas9 are shown in **Table 9**.

[0256] Upon completion of the single targeting depicted in **FIG. 2**, the ES cells may be successively targeted with large targeting vectors comprising additional V_κ in order to add up to the entire repertoire of functional human immunoglobulin V_κ gene segments.

[0257] In yet other alternative strategies, double or single targeting of successive additional human Ig V_κ gene segments may be accomplished using double (two large targeting vectors) or single (one large targeting vector) targeting schemes that involve zinc finger nuclease- or CRISPR-mediated destruction of a selection (e.g., hygromycin) cassette(s).

[0258] Targeted ES cells described above are used as donor ES cells and introduced into a pre-morula stage embryo, e.g., an 8-cell stage mouse embryo, by the VELOCIMOUSE® method (see, e.g., US 7,576,259, US 7,659,442, US 7,294,754, and US 2008-0078000 A1). The mouse embryo comprising the donor ES cells is incubated until blastocyst stage and then implanted into a surrogate mother to produce an F0 mouse fully derived from the donor ES cells. F0 mice fully derived from the donor ES cell independently bearing a chimeric human IgK V- mouse Tcra C gene are identified by genotyping using a modification of allele assay that detects the presence of the unique gene sequences.

Example 2: Targeting Hygromycin Gene with Two LTVECs in Combination with CRISPR/Cas System

[0259] The double targeting methods described in Example 1 utilizing zinc finger nucleases were also performed with a CRISPR/Cas9 system.

[0260] Various guide RNAs (gRNAs) were designed to recognize various target sequences within the hygromycin resistance gene (CRISPR recognition sequence). The CRISPR recognition sequences within the hygromycin gene were as follows: gRNA#1: ACGAGCGGGTTCGGCCCATTCGG (SEQ ID NO: 70); gRNA#6: CTTAGCCAGACGAGCGGGTTCGG (SEQ ID NO: 71); gRNA#10: GCCGATCTTAGCCAGACGAGCGG (SEQ ID NO: 72); and gRNA#16: CGACCTGATGCAGCTCTCGGAGG (SEQ ID NO: 73). The locations of the recognition sequences within the hygromycin gene are depicted in **FIG. 3**, which depicts CRISPR/Cas-mediated destruction of the hygromycin in targeting vector MAID 1545. gRNA#1, gRNA#6, gRNA#10 and gRNA#16 were screened and were confirmed to specifically target the hygromycin gene (see **FIG. 3**). The results from primary screening using the various hygromycin specific gRNAs are provided in **Table 5**.

Table 5. Primary Screening Results Using Hygromycin-Specific gRNAs.

gRNA/ZFN	Total # of Primary Candidates (2 Plates/ Electroporation)	Positively Reconfirmed Candidates / Total Reconfirmed
gRNA1	5	2/2
gRNA6	6	1/1
gRNA10	19	5/5
gRNA16	91	8/8
ZFN 1/2	10	4/4

[0261] ES cells, for example, the ES cell generated in **FIG. 1** (MAID 6548, heterozygous for all human J κ segments and four functional human V κ gene segments) were electroporated with two large targeting vectors (described in Example 1), together with a single vector or with multiple vectors that encode Cas9 and a gRNA (for example, gRNA#1, gRNA#6, gRNA#10, or gRNA#16), which recognize and cleave a target site within the hygromycin resistance gene.

[0262] Two large targeting vectors were inserted by homologous recombination into the DNA sequence replacing the region containing and surrounding the Hyg selection cassette. Successful incorporation of the two large targeting vectors was confirmed using TAQMAN® assays.

[0263] The targeted ES cells described above will be used as donor ES cells and introduced into a pre-morula stage embryo, e.g., an 8-cell stage mouse embryo, by the VELOCIMOUSE® method (see, e.g., US 7,576,259, US 7,659,442, US 7,294,754, and US 2008-0078000 A1). The mouse embryo comprising the genetically modified ES cells is incubated until blastocyst stage and then implanted into a surrogate mother to produce an F0 mouse fully derived from the donor ES cells. F0 mice fully derived from the donor ES cells will be identified by genotyping using a modification of allele assay that detects the presence of unique gene sequences.

Example 3: Targeting the TCR Alpha Locus with Three LTVECs in Combination with Zinc Finger Nucleases

[0264] A triple targeting system was designed such that three large targeting vectors (LTVECs) modify a genomic locus in a single targeting step. As depicted in **FIG. 4**, a cell having a heterozygous modification of the TCR alpha locus on mouse chromosome 14 comprising a hygromycin selection cassette was targeted by the triple targeting system to generate ES cells comprising additional Ig κ variable gene segments.

[0265] This triple targeting approach, summarized in **FIG. 4**, involves triple targeting or co-electroporation of three different large targeting vectors (LTVECs) (MAID 6647, MAID 6600, and MAID 1710) together with nucleotide sequences that encode an endonuclease (e.g., zinc finger nucleases or Cas9 and gRNAs) that creates a double strand break at or near the target locus into ES cells.

[0266] In this approach, the first large targeting vector (labeled as MAID 1710) comprised a 3' 30 kb homology arm that includes the sequence of human V κ 1-5 and V κ 1-6 gene segments, a 120 kb sequence that comprised human V κ 3-7 to V κ 3-15 gene segments, and a 5' 20 kb region ("overlap region") that comprised human V κ 1-16 gene segment. The second large targeting vector (labeled as MAID 6600) comprised a 3' 20 kb overlap region (region comprising human V κ 1-16 gene segment, same as in the first vector), a 140 kb sequence comprising human V κ 1-17 to V κ 2-24 gene segments, and a 5' 60 kb region ("overlap region") that comprised human V κ 3-25 to V κ 2-30. The third large targeting vector (labeled as MAID 6647) comprised a 3' 60 kb overlap region (region comprising human V κ 3-25 to V κ 2-30, same as in the second vector), a 90 kb sequence comprising human V κ 3-31 to V κ 2-40, a FRT-Ub-Neo-FRT selection cassette and a 15.5 kb 5' mouse TCR A homology arm.

[0267] Zinc finger nucleases (ZFN) were designed that recognize and cleave a target sequence within the hygromycin resistance gene in order to promote homologous recombination of three LTVECs at the target TCR A locus. The ES cells generated in **FIG. 4** (MAID 6548, heterozygous for all human J κ segments and four functional human V κ gene segments) were electroporated with the three large targeting vectors (MAID6600-trimmed, MAID1700-trimmed and MAID6647) described above and two plasmids that express each half of the ZFN (1/2), which bind to recognition sequences in the hygromycin resistance gene and catalyze a double-strand break at the target site (TGCGATCGCTGCG-GCCGAtcttagCCAGACGAGCGGGTTCGG (SEQ ID NO: 2); with cleavage site in lower case letters) (see **Table 1**).

[0268] The three large targeting vectors were inserted by homologous recombination into the DNA sequence replacing the region containing and surrounding the Hyg selection cassette. The resulting ES cells contained at the endogenous TCR A locus a human immunoglobulin variable domain comprising human J κ 1 to J κ 5 and V κ 4-1 to V κ 2-40 gene segments. Successful incorporation of the three large targeting vectors was confirmed using the TAQMAN® assays described above (Lie and Petropoulos, 1998. Curr. Opin. Biotechnology 9:43-48), using probes and primers indicated in **FIG. 4** and listed in **Table 2** above and in **Table 6** below (GOA= gain of allele; LOA=loss of allele; copy number = check for copy number of sequence to trace transgenic integration vs. targeted integration; hArm1 = 30 kb 3' homology arm of the first large targeting vector (MAID 1710); hArm2 = 20 kb overlap of the first (MAID 1710) and the second (MAID 6600) large targeting vectors, hArm3 = 60 kb overlap of the second (MAID 6600) and the third (MAID6647) targeting vectors, mArm = 15.5 kb 5' homology arm of the third targeting vector (MAID 6647), WT mouse control - sequences present at the mouse TCR A locus). Real-time PCR assays recognizing sequences in the homology arms of the LTVECs, referred to as arm-specific assays, were used to verify correct targeting of the LTVEC into the mouse genome. Determining the copy number of these arm-specific assays provided further clarification to help distinguish correctly targeted ES clones, which retained a copy number of two for the mouse probe (mArm) and a copy number of one for the human probe (hArm1), from clones in which a Cas9-induced deletion of the target mouse locus coincides with random integration of the LTVECs elsewhere in the genome, in which case there would be a copy number of three (or more) for the mouse probe (mArm) and a copy number of two (or more) for the human probe (hArm1). To detect the correct assembly of the three LTVECs by homologous recombination into the desired locus, we utilized arm-specific TAQMAN® assays. The

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expected copy numbers, 1 for hArm2 and hArm3, indicated that all three LTVECs have been assembled into a single construct.

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Table 6: TAQMAN Primers and Probes

Gene	Assay	Forward Primer	Probe	Reverse Primer
HYG	LOA	TGCGGCCGATCTTAG CC (SEQ ID NO: 14)	ACGAGCGGGTTCGGCC CATTC (SEQ ID NO: 15)	TTGACCGATTCTCTTG CGG (SEQ ID NO: 16)
HYG-U	LOA	CGACGTCTGTCTGAGA AGTTTCTG (SEQ ID NO: 17)	AGTTCGACAGCGTGTC CGACCTGA (SEQ ID NO: 18)	CACGCCCTCCTACAT CGAA (SEQ ID NO: 19)
Hyg-D	LOA	TGTCGGGCGTACACA AATCG (SEQ ID NO: 20)	CCGTCTGGACCGATGG CTGTGT (SEQ ID NO: 21)	GGGCGTCGGTTTCCA CTATC (SEQ ID NO: 22)
hlgK6	Copy number of hArm1	GTC AAGCACTGCTGG CACAC (SEQ ID NO: 26)	AACCCCTTGCTATTG AATTGCTATGCTGTCA G (SEQ ID NO: 27)	TGTTGTAGACCCCTCC GCCAC (SEQ ID NO: 28)
hlgK12 (MAID 1710 insert)	GOA	TTGCCCTTCTCACAC CTGCAG (SEQ ID NO: 29)	CAGCCCATCTCTGTAC TTCGCTGGA (SEQ ID NO:30)	TGGCCCAACAGTACA GCTCAG (SEQ ID NO: 31)
hlgK13	Copy number of hArm2	TCAGTCAATCACCTT TCCCAGC (SEQ ID NO: 32)	TCCCCAGGTAGCCTCA TGAACCAATGTT (SEQ ID NO: 33)	CACATTACTGAGTCC CCACAGGG (SEQ ID NO: 34)
hlgK14	Copy number of hArm2	CATTGTCAAAGAAGC ACTGGAATG (SEQ ID NO: 35)	ACCATTCGAGTTTACC CACGGTTAGGATTTT (SEQ ID NO: 36)	TCCTTGCAATGGGATC ATCAGATG (SEQ ID NO: 37)
Neo	GOA	GGTGGAGAGGCTATT CGGC (SEQ ID NO: 38)	TGGGCACAACAGACA ATCGGCTG (SEQ ID NO: 39)	GAACACGGCGGCATC AG (SEQ ID NO: 40)
hlgK15	GOA	CAGGTGCAAAGGTG ACCACAG (SEQ ID NO: 41)	TGGGTCTCTGCCCATCC ATGCA (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GGCAGCCTGAGTGT AGAGC (SEQ ID NO: 43)
hlgK25	Copy number of hArm3	GTTCAGGCCCCACAG ACTCTC (SEQ ID NO: 44)	TCCTCTCTGGAGCAAC CATGAAGTCCCT (SEQ ID NO: 45)	CCTGAAGCCATGAGG GCAG (SEQ ID NO: 46)

(continued)

Gene	Assay	Forward Primer	Probe	Reverse Primer
TCRA Arm4	Copy number of mArm	GCGCCACATGAATTT GACCAG (SEQ ID NO: 50)	TGTACCCAAATCTTCCA AAGAAAGAGCTG (SEQ ID NO: 51)	GGCATCCTGTCTCCTCC CTTC (SEQ ID NO: 52)
Parental 1540m1	WT mouse control	CAGTAAGGGAAGAG ACTACAACAGCAT (SEQ ID NO: 53)	TGCACACTGCTCACCA CTGCAAGCTAT (SEQ ID NO: 54)	TGCTGGTGGCCCCCAT CT (SEQ ID NO: 55)
Parental 1540m3	WT mouse control	GAACCTCAGCTATGAT AGTGTCGAATGTA (SEQ ID NO: 56)	CAGCCCAGCAGCTGTG GGTCTC (SEQ ID NO: 57)	GCTCAGGGAGAACAC AGAACTTAGA (SEQ ID NO: 58)
hlgK5	MAID 6548 sequence (see Table 2)	CCCCGTCTCTCTCCT TTTTC (SEQ ID NO: 59)	TCATGTCCATTAAACCC ATTACCTTTTGCCCCA (SEQ ID NO: 60)	TGCAAGTGTGCTGCCAG CAAG (SEQ ID NO: 61)
hlgK22	Copy number of hArm3	TGGCTCCAAGAACA GTTTGCC (SEQ ID NO: 74)	CCCTGACTTTGCTGCT CAACTCACAGCC (SEQ ID NO: 75)	GGTCCAGTGGAAATCT GCCATG (SEQ ID NO: 76)
hlgK21	GOA	CATTGGCTACATAT CAAAGCCG (SEQ ID NO: 77)	CCTGAGCCCAGGGAAC AGCCCACTGATA (SEQ ID NO: 78)	ACATGGCTGAGGCAG ACACC (SEQ ID NO: 79)
hlgK26	GOA	TGGGCCGTTATGCTA GTACCA (SEQ ID NO: 80)	TGGCTTTACCCCTTTT GAAGGGCCC (SEQ ID NO: 81)	CACAGCTGAAGCAGG ATGAGC (SEQ ID NO: 82)
hlgK30	GOA	TCTCTGAGCAGCCAT CCCC (SEQ ID NO: 83)	TTCTCCTTTGGTGTAG AGGGCACCAGC (SEQ ID NO: 84)	ACCAGGCATGGCAGA AAGG (SEQ ID NO: 85)

[0269] The resulting targeted locus in ES cells had the following junction sequences, where mouse sequences are in parentheses, human sequences are in normal font, multiple cloning sites are bolded, and Frt sequences are italicized (**Table 7**).

Table 7: Junction Sequences of Locus Resulting from Triple ES Cell Targeting

Junction	Seq ID No	Sequence
mouse Tcra/5' Frt	62	(GTCTTTTTTGTTCCTTCACAGTTGAGCTTCA TCAAAGTCACATGGGTAAACTCTATGGAG TAGTCAGAACACACTCTTCA) GAAGGGACTC CTGATTTC AAAGGGTACCGAAGTTCCTATT CCGAAGTTCCTATTCTCTAGAAAGTATAGGA ACTTC
3' Frt/human IgK	86	GAAGTTCCTATTCCGAAGTTCCTATTCTCTAG AAAGTATAGGA ACTTCCTAGGGTTTCACCGGTG GCGCGCCTGAGTAGTGCTTTAGGTGTGTAATCA CCAAAGATTTAGTGAAGTCCCTGTGCAAGGAG
Human IgK/mouse Tcra	64	GATAAATTATTTTGTGACACAACAATAA AAATCAATAGCACGCCCTAAGAG GCGGCC GCCACCGCGGTGGAGCTC (AGGTTTCCG GTACTTAACAACAGAGCACAGATTTAGT GGTGAGGGACTCT)

[0270] Modification of allele (MOA) screening of isolated ES cell colonies resulted in a targeting efficiency of 0.4% (see **Table 8**).

Table 8. Modification of Allele (MOA) Screening Results for Targeting with 3 LTVECs

# LTVECs	Nuclease	Delete	Insert	Efficiency
3 LTVECs	ZFN	hyg	370 kb human	0.4%
3 LTVECs	gRNA#16/Cas9	hyg	370 kb human	0.4%
3 LTVECs	none	hvg	370 kb human	0%

[0271] Targeted ES cells described above are used as donor ES cells and introduced into, a pre-morula stage embryo, e.g., an 8-cell stage mouse embryo by the VELOCIMOUSE® method (see, e.g., US 7,576,259, US 7,659,442, US 7,294,754, and US 2008-0078000 A1). The mouse embryo comprising the donor ES cells is incubated until blastocyst stage and then implanted into a surrogate mother to produce an F0 mouse fully derived from the donor ES cells. F0 mice fully derived from the donor ES cell independently bearing a chimeric human IgK V- mouse Tcra C gene are identified by genotyping using a modification of allele assay that detects the presence of the unique gene sequences.

Example 4: Targeting Hygromycin Gene with Three LTVECs in Combination with CRISPR/Cas System

[0272] The triple targeting methods described in Example 3 utilizing zinc finger nucleases was also performed with a CRISPR/Cas9 system.

[0273] Various guide RNAs (gRNAs) were designed to recognize various target sequences within the hygromycin resistance gene (CRISPR recognition sequence). The CRISPR recognition sequences within the hygromycin gene are as follows: gRNA#1:

ACGAGCGGGTTCGGCCCATTCGG (SEQ ID NO: 70); gRNA#6:

CTTAGCCAGACGAGCGGGTTCGG (SEQ ID NO: 71); gRNA#10:

GCCGATCTTAGCCAGACGAGCGG (SEQ ID NO: 72); and gRNA#16:

CGACCTGATGCAGCTCTCGGAGG (SEQ ID NO: 73). The locations of the recognition sequences within the hygromycin gene are depicted in **FIG. 3**. gRNA#1, gRNA#6, gRNA#10 and gRNA#16 were screened and were confirmed to specifically target the Hygromycin gene (see **FIG. 3** and **Table 5**).

[0274] MAID 6548 ES cells (heterozygous for all human J κ segments and four functional human V κ gene segments)

were electroporated with three large targeting vectors as described in Example 3, together with vectors that encode Cas9 and gRNA#16, which recognize and cleave a target site within the hygromycin resistance gene.

[0275] Three large targeting vectors were inserted by homologous recombination into the DNA sequence replacing the region containing and surrounding the Hyg selection cassette. Successful incorporation of the three large targeting vectors was confirmed using the TAQMAN® assays described in Example 3.

[0276] The resulting targeted locus in ES cells had the junction sequences shown in **Table 7**, where mouse sequences are in parentheses, human sequences are in normal font, multiple cloning sites are bolded, and Frt sequences are italicized.

[0277] Modification of allele (MOA) screening of isolated ES cell colonies resulted in a targeting efficiency of 0.4% (see **Table 8**).

[0278] The targeted ES cells described above will be used as donor ES cells and introduced into a pre-morula stage embryo, e.g., an 8-cell stage mouse embryo, by the VELOCIMOUSE® method (see, e.g., US 7,576,259, US 7,659,442, US 7,294,754, and US 2008-0078000 A1). The mouse embryo comprising the genetically modified ES cells is incubated until blastocyst stage and then implanted into a surrogate mother to produce an F0 mouse fully derived from the donor ES cells. F0 mice fully derived from the donor ES cells will be identified by genotyping using a modification of allele assay that detects the presence of unique gene sequences.

Example 5: Enhancement of LTVEC Targeting Via Overlapping Sequences Between Two LTVECs

[0279] The double targeting system described in Example 1 was employed to modify a genomic locus in a single targeting step using two large targeting vectors (LTVECs). As depicted in **FIG. 1**, a cell having a heterozygous modification of the TCR alpha locus on mouse chromosome 14 comprising a hygromycin selection cassette was targeted by the double targeting system to generate ES cells comprising additional Igκ variable gene segments. The two different LTVECs were co-electroporated together into mouse embryonic stem (ES) cells. Optionally, a nucleic acid encoding an endonuclease (either a zinc finger nuclease (ZFN) or CRISPR-Cas9) was co-electroporated to create a double strand break at or near the target locus.

[0280] As in Example 1, the LTVEC (labeled as MAID 1710) comprised a 3' 30 kb homology arm that included the sequence of human Vκ1-5 and Vκ1-6 gene segments, a 120 kb sequence that comprised human Vκ3-7 to Vκ3-15 gene segments, and a 5' 20 kb region ("overlap region") that comprised a human Vκ1-16 gene segment. The second LTVEC (labeled as MAID 6600) comprised a 3' 20 kb overlap region (region comprising human Vκ1-16 gene segment, same as in the first vector), a 140 kb sequence comprising human Vκ1-17 to Vκ2-30 gene segments, a FRT-Ub-Neo-FRT selection cassette, and a 15.5 kb 3' mouse TCR A homology arm.

[0281] Successful targeting resulted in insertion of the two LTVECs by homologous recombination into the DNA sequence replacing the region containing and surrounding the Hyg selection cassette. The resulting ES cells contained at the endogenous TCR A locus a human immunoglobulin variable domain comprising human Jκ1 to Jκ5 and Vκ4-1 to Vκ2-30 gene segments. Successful incorporation of the two large targeting vectors was confirmed using the TAQMAN assays described above (Lie and Petropoulos, 1998. Curr. Opin. Biotechnology 9:43-48), using the probes and primers indicated in **FIG. 1** and in **Table 2**.

[0282] As a comparison, the single LTVEC system described in Example 1 was also employed to modify the same genomic locus using a single LTVEC, either alone or in combination with a ZFN or CRISPR-Cas9 (see **FIG. 2**). Successful incorporation was confirmed by the TAQMAN assays described above, using primers and probes that are listed in **Table 2** above and indicated in **FIG. 2**.

[0283] **Table 9** compares the targeting efficiencies in targeting experiments using the single LTVEC (alone, with ZFN, or with Cas9), using the two LTVECs simultaneously (alone, with ZFN, or with Cas9), or using the two LTVECs plus a third LTVEC simultaneously (alone, with ZFN, or with Cas9). The targeting efficiencies presented in **Table 9** are the percentage of screened ESC clones that were determined to be correctly targeted through initial screening, confirmation screening, and reconfirmation screening using the TAQMAN primers and probes in **Table 2**. Targeting with a single LTVEC alone resulted in 1.1% correctly targeted clones. Cleavage with a ZFN increased the targeting efficiency of the single LTVEC to 4.4%, and cleavage with CRISPR-Cas9 increased the targeting efficiency of the single LTVEC to 5.5%. Surprisingly, targeting with 2 LTVECs having 20 kb in overlapping sequence resulted in a targeting efficiency of 1.4% even when no nuclease was used. The targeting efficiency increased to 2.81% when a ZFN was used and 1.6% when Cas9 was used.

Table 9: Targeting Efficiency of Co-Electroporated Tiled LTVECs

	MAID 6598: 2 nd Insertion			MAID 6600: 2 nd & 3 rd Insertions			MAID 6647: 2 nd , 3 rd , & 4 th Insertions		
	LTVEC Alone	LTVEC + ZFN	LTVEC + Cas9	2 LTVECs Alone	2 LTVECs + ZFN	2 LTVECs + Cas9	3 LTVECs Alone	3 LTVECs + ZFN	3 LTVECs + Cas9
Targeting Efficiency	5 / 440 (1.1%)	17 / 384 (4.4%)	21 1384 (5.5%)	13 / 960 (1.4%)	27 / 960 (2.8%)	15/ 960 (1.6%)	0 / 960 (0%)	4 / 960 (0.4%)	4 / 960 (0.4%)

Claims

1. A method for modifying a target genomic locus in a mammalian cell, comprising:

(a) introducing into the mammalian cell a nuclease agent or a polynucleotide encoding the nuclease agent, wherein the nuclease agent makes a single or double-strand break within the target genomic locus;
 (b) introducing into the mammalian cell a first large targeting vector (LTVEC) that is at least 10 kb in length and comprises a first nucleic acid insert flanked by a first 5' homology arm and a first 3' homology arm, and a second LTVEC that is at least 10 kb in length and comprises a second nucleic acid insert flanked by a second 5' homology arm and a second 3' homology arm, wherein the first 3' homology arm of the first LTVEC has a first overlapping sequence homologous to the second 5' homology arm of the second LTVEC, and the first 5' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the second 3' homology arm of the second LTVEC are homologous to corresponding genomic segments within the target genomic locus, wherein the first overlapping sequence is at least 1 kb, and wherein the target genomic locus is modified by integration of the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert between the corresponding genomic segments; and
 (c) selecting a targeted mammalian cell comprising the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert integrated into the target genomic locus.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first nucleic acid insert and/or the second nucleic acid insert comprise genomic DNA, optionally wherein the first nucleic acid insert and/or the second nucleic acid insert comprise a conditional allele, a polynucleotide encoding a selection marker, a reporter gene, one or more expression cassettes, or a nucleic acid flanked by site-specific recombination target sequences, optionally wherein the genomic DNA is homologous or orthologous to a sequence being targeted for deletion at the target genomic locus, and optionally wherein insertion of the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert results in replacement of a non-human nucleic acid sequence with a homologous or orthologous human nucleic acid sequence.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein:

(I) the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, or both are from a species that is different from the species of the mammalian cell; and/or
 (II) the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, or both are human nucleic acids.

4. The method of any one of claims 1-3, wherein:

(I) the combined size of the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert is from 50 kb to 500 kb; or
 (II) the targeted mammalian cell comprises genomic DNA comprising the first nucleic acid insert and the second nucleic acid insert together, which have a combined size ranging from 5 kb to 500 kb.

5. The method of any one of claims 1-4, wherein:

(I) the first overlapping sequence of the first LTVEC is identical to the first overlapping sequence of the second LTVEC; and/or
 (II) the size of the first overlapping sequence is from 1 kb to 70 kb; and/or
 (III) the size of the first overlapping sequence is at least 10 kb, optionally wherein the size of the first overlapping sequence is at least 20 kb,

6. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein integration of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, or both into the target genomic locus results in one or more of:

(I) an addition of an exogenous sequence at the target genomic locus;
 (II) a deletion of an endogenous sequence at the target genomic locus, optionally wherein the deletion is from 5 kb to 800 kb; and
 (III) a knock-in, a knockout, a point mutation, a domain swap, an exon swap, an intron swap, a regulatory sequence swap, a gene swap, or a combination thereof.

7. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein:

(I) the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the first LTVEC or the second LTVEC is from 10 kb to

150 kb; and/or

(II) the first LTVEC is at least 50 kb and the second LTVEC is at least 50 kb, optionally wherein the first LTVEC is at least 100 kb and the second LTVEC is at least 100 kb.

5 **8.** A method for modifying a target genomic locus in a mammalian cell, comprising:

(a) introducing into the mammalian cell a nuclease agent or a polynucleotide encoding the nuclease agent, wherein the nuclease agent makes a single or double-strand break within the target genomic locus;

10 (b) introducing into the mammalian cell a first large targeting vector (LTVEC) that is at least 10 kb in length and comprises a first nucleic acid insert flanked by a first 5' homology arm and a first 3' homology arm, a second LTVEC that is at least 10 kb in length and comprises a second nucleic acid insert flanked by a second 5' homology arm and a second 3' homology arm, and a third LTVEC that is at least 10 kb in length and comprises a third nucleic acid insert flanked by a third 5' homology arm and a third 3' homology arm, wherein the first 3' homology arm of the first LTVEC has a first overlapping sequence homologous to the second 5' homology arm of the second LTVEC, the second 3' homology arm of the second LTVEC has a second overlapping sequence homologous to the third 5' homology arm of the third LTVEC, and the first 5' homology arm of the first LTVEC and the third 3' homology arm of the third LTVEC are homologous to corresponding genomic segments within the target genomic locus, wherein the first overlapping sequence is at least 1 kb and the second overlapping sequence is at least 1 kb, and

20 wherein the target genomic locus is modified by integration of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert between the corresponding genomic segments; and

(c) selecting a targeted mammalian cell comprising the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert integrated into the target genomic locus.

25 **9.** The method of claim 8, wherein the first nucleic acid insert and/or the second nucleic acid insert and/or the third nucleic acid insert comprise genomic DNA, optionally wherein the first nucleic acid insert and/or the second nucleic acid insert and/or the third nucleic acid insert comprise a conditional allele, a polynucleotide encoding a selection marker, a reporter gene, one or more expression cassettes, or a nucleic acid flanked by site-specific recombination target sequences, optionally wherein the genomic DNA is homologous or orthologous to a sequence being targeted for deletion at the target genomic locus, and optionally wherein insertion of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert results in replacement of a non-human nucleic acid sequence with a homologous or orthologous human nucleic acid sequence.

35 **10.** The method of claim 8 or 9, wherein:

(I) one or more of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert are from a species that is different from the species of the mammalian cell; and/or

(II) one or more of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert are human nucleic acids.

40 **11.** The method of any one of claims 8-10, wherein:

(I) the combined size of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert is from 50 kb to 700 kb; or

45 (II) the targeted mammalian cell comprises genomic DNA comprising the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert together, which have a combined size ranging from 5 kb to 700 kb.

50 **12.** The method of any one of claims 8-11, wherein:

(I) the first overlapping sequence of the first LTVEC is identical to the first overlapping sequence of the second LTVEC, and/or the second overlapping sequence of the second LTVEC is identical to the second overlapping sequence of the third LTVEC; and/or

55 (II) the size of the first overlapping sequence is from 1 kb to 70 kb, and/or the size of the second overlapping sequence is from 1 kb to 70 kb; and/or

(III) the size of the first overlapping sequence is at least 10 kb, and/or the size of the second overlapping sequence is at least 10 kb, optionally wherein the size of the first overlapping sequence is at least 20 kb, and/or the size of the second overlapping sequence is at least 20 kb.

13. The method of any one of claims 8-12, wherein integration of one or more of the first nucleic acid insert, the second nucleic acid insert, and the third nucleic acid insert into the target genomic locus results in one or more of:

- (I) an addition of an exogenous sequence at the target genomic locus;
- (II) a deletion of an endogenous sequence at the target genomic locus, optionally wherein the deletion is from 5 kb to 800 kb; or
- (III) a knock-in, a knockout, a point mutation, a domain swap, an exon swap, an intron swap, a regulatory sequence swap, a gene swap, or a combination thereof.

14. The method of any one of claims 8-13, wherein:

- (I) the sum total of the 5' and the 3' homology arms of the first LTVEC, the second LTVEC, or the third LTVEC is from 10 kb to 150 kb; and/or
- (II) the first LTVEC is at least 50 kb, the second LTVEC is at least 50 kb, and the third LTVEC is at least 50 kb, optionally wherein the first LTVEC is at least 100 kb, the second LTVEC is at least 100 kb, and the third LTVEC is at least 100 kb.

15. The method of any one of claims 1-14, wherein the nuclease agent is a zinc finger nuclease (ZFN), a Transcription Activator-Like Effector Nuclease (TALEN), or a meganuclease.

16. The method of any one of claims 1-15, wherein the nuclease agent is a Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR)-associated (Cas) protein and a guide RNA (gRNA), optionally wherein the Cas protein is Cas9.

17. The method of any one of claims 1-16, wherein the mammalian cell is:

- (I) a human cell;
- (II) a non-human cell;
- (III) a rodent cell, optionally wherein the rodent is a mouse or rat;
- (IV) a pluripotent cell, optionally wherein the pluripotent cell is an embryonic stem (ES) cell or an induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell;
- (V) a hematopoietic stem cell;
- (VI) a neuronal stem cell; or
- (VII) a fibroblast cell.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the mammalian cell is a mouse ES cell or a rat ES cell, optionally further comprising introducing the mouse ES cell or rat ES cell into a non-human host embryo.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Modifizierung eines genomischen Ziellokus in einer Säugetierzelle, umfassend:

- (a) Einführen eines Nuklease-Mittels oder eines Polynukleotids, das für das Nuklease-Mittel kodiert, in die Säugetierzelle, wobei das Nuklease-Mittel einen Einzel- oder Doppelstrangbruch innerhalb des genomischen Ziellokus bewirkt;
- (b) Einführen in die Säugetierzelle einen ersten großen Targeting-Vektor (LTVEC), der mindestens 10 kb lang ist und ein erstes Nukleinsäure-Insert umfasst, das von einem ersten 5'-Homologiearm und einem ersten 3'-Homologiearm flankiert wird, und einen zweiten LTVEC, der mindestens 10 kb lang ist und ein zweites Nukleinsäure-Insert umfasst, das von einem zweiten 5'-Homologiearm und einem zweiten 3'-Homologiearm flankiert wird, wobei der erste 3'-Homologiearm des ersten LTVEC eine erste überlappende Sequenz aufweist, die homolog zu dem zweiten 5'-Homologiearm des zweiten LTVEC ist, und der erste 5'-Homologiearm des ersten LTVEC und der zweite 3'-Homologiearm des zweiten LTVEC zu entsprechenden genomischen Segmenten innerhalb des genomischen Ziellokus homolog sind, wobei die erste überlappende Sequenz mindestens 1 kb beträgt und wobei der genomische Ziellokus durch Integration des ersten Nukleinsäure-Inserts und des zweiten Nukleinsäure-Inserts zwischen die entsprechenden genomischen Segmente modifiziert wird; und
- (c) Selektion einer Säugetier-Zielzelle, die das erste Nukleinsäure-Insert und das zweite Nukleinsäure-Insert integriert in den genomischen Ziellokus umfasst.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei das erste Nukleinsäure-Insert und/oder das zweite Nukleinsäure-Insert genomische DNA umfassen, wobei das erste Nukleinsäure-Insert und/oder das zweite Nukleinsäure-Insert optional ein konditionelles Allel, ein Polynukleotid, das für einen Selektionsmarker kodiert, ein Reportergen, eine oder mehrere Expressionskassetten oder eine Nukleinsäure, die von ortsspezifischen Rekombinationszielsequenzen flankiert ist, umfassen, wobei die genomische DNA optional homolog oder ortholog zu einer Sequenz ist, auf die zur Deletion am genomischen Ziellokus abgezielt wird, und wobei die Insertion des ersten Nukleinsäure-Inserts und des zweiten Nukleinsäure-Inserts optional zum Austausch einer nicht-menschlichen Nukleinsäuresequenz gegen eine homologe oder orthologe menschliche Nukleinsäuresequenz führt.

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei

(I) das erste Nukleinsäure-Insert, das zweite Nukleinsäure-Insert oder beide von einer Spezies stammen, die sich von der Spezies der Säugetierzelle unterscheidet; und/oder

(II) das erste Nukleinsäure-Insert, das zweite Nukleinsäure-Insert oder beide menschliche Nukleinsäuren sind.

4. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei:

(I) die kombinierte Größe des ersten Nukleinsäure-Inserts und des zweiten Nukleinsäure-Inserts 50 kb bis 500 kb beträgt; oder

(II) die Säugetier-Ziellzelle genomische DNA umfasst, die das erste Nukleinsäure-Insert und das zweite Nukleinsäure-Insert zusammen umfasst, die zusammen eine Größe im Bereich von 5 kb bis 500 kb aufweisen.

5. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1-4, wobei:

(I) die erste überlappende Sequenz des ersten LTVEC identisch ist mit der ersten überlappenden Sequenz des zweiten LTVEC; und/oder

(II) die Größe der ersten überlappenden Sequenz zwischen 1 kb und 70 kb liegt; und/oder

(III) die Größe der ersten überlappenden Sequenz mindestens 10 kb beträgt, wobei die Größe der ersten überlappenden Sequenz optional mindestens 20 kb beträgt.

6. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, wobei die Integration des ersten Nukleinsäure-Inserts, des zweiten Nukleinsäure-Inserts oder beider in den genomischen Ziellokus zu einem oder mehreren der folgenden Ergebnisse führt:

(I) Hinzufügung einer exogenen Sequenz am genomischen Ziellokus;

(II) eine Deletion einer endogenen Sequenz am genomischen Ziellokus, wobei die Deletion optional zwischen 5 kb und 800 kb beträgt; und

(III) ein Knock-in, ein Knock-out, eine Punktmutation, ein Domänen-Swap, ein Exon-Swap, ein Intron-Swap, ein regulatorischer Sequenz-Swap, ein Gen-Swap oder eine Kombination davon.

7. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6, wobei:

(I) die Gesamtsumme des 5'- und des 3'-Homologiearms des ersten LTVEC oder des zweiten LTVEC zwischen 10 kb und 150 kb liegt; und/oder

(II) der erste LTVEC mindestens 50 kb und der zweite LTVEC mindestens 50 kb ist, wobei optional der erste LTVEC mindestens 100 kb und der zweite LTVEC mindestens 100 kb ist.

8. Verfahren zur Modifizierung eines genomischen Ziellokus in einer Säugetierzelle, umfassend:

(a) Einführen eines Nuklease-Mittels oder eines Polynukleotids, das für das Nuklease-Mittel kodiert, in die Säugetierzelle, wobei das Nuklease-Mittel einen Einzel- oder Doppelstrangbruch innerhalb des genomischen Ziellokus bewirkt;

(b) Einführen in die Säugetierzelle einen ersten großen Targeting-Vektor (LTVEC), der mindestens 10 kb lang ist und ein erstes Nukleinsäure-Insert umfasst, das von einem ersten 5'-Homologiearm und einem ersten 3'-Homologiearm flankiert wird, einen zweiten LTVEC, der mindestens 10 kb lang ist und ein zweites Nukleinsäure-Insert umfasst, das von einem zweiten 5'-Homologiearm und einem zweiten 3'-Homologiearm flankiert wird, und einen dritten LTVEC, der mindestens 10 kb lang ist und ein drittes Nukleinsäure-Insert umfasst, das von einem dritten 5'-Homologiearm und einem dritten 3'-Homologiearm flankiert wird, wobei der erste 3'-Homolo-

giearm des ersten LTVEC eine erste überlappende Sequenz aufweist, die zu dem zweiten 5'-Homologiearm des zweiten LTVEC homolog ist, der zweite 3'-Homologiearm des zweiten LTVEC eine zweite überlappende Sequenz aufweist, die zu dem dritten 5'-Homologiearm des dritten LTVEC homolog ist und der erste 5'-Homologiearm des ersten LTVEC und der dritte 3'-Homologiearm des dritten LTVEC zu entsprechenden genomischen Segmenten innerhalb des genomischen Ziellokus homolog sind, wobei die erste überlappende Sequenz mindestens 1 kb beträgt und die zweite überlappende Sequenz mindestens 1 kb beträgt, und wobei der genomische Ziellokus durch Integration des ersten Nukleinsäure-Inserts, des zweiten Nukleinsäure-Inserts und des dritten Nukleinsäure-Inserts zwischen den entsprechenden genomischen Segmenten modifiziert wird; und

(c) Selektion einer Säugetier-Zielzelle, die das erste Nukleinsäure-Insert, das zweite Nukleinsäure-Insert und das dritte Nukleinsäure-Insert integriert in den genomischen Ziellokus umfasst.

9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 8, wobei das erste Nukleinsäure-Insert und/oder das zweite Nukleinsäure-Insert und/oder das dritte Nukleinsäure-Insert genomische DNA umfassen, wobei optional das erste Nukleinsäure-Insert und/oder das zweite Nukleinsäure-Insert und/oder das dritte Nukleinsäure-Insert ein konditionelles Allel, ein Polynukleotid, das für einen Selektionsmarker kodiert, ein Reportergen, eine oder mehrere Expressionskassetten, oder eine Nukleinsäure, die von ortsspezifischen Rekombinations-Zielsequenzen flankiert ist, umfassen, wobei optional die genomische DNA homolog oder ortholog zu einer Sequenz ist, auf die zur Deletion am genomischen Ziellokus abgezielt wird, und wobei optional die Insertion des ersten Nukleinsäure-Inserts, des zweiten Nukleinsäure-Inserts und des dritten Nukleinsäure-Inserts zum Austausch einer nicht-menschlichen Nukleinsäuresequenz gegen eine homologe oder orthologe menschliche Nukleinsäuresequenz führt.

10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 8 oder 9, wobei:

(I) eine oder mehrere des ersten Nukleinsäure-Inserts, des zweiten Nukleinsäure-Inserts und des dritten Nukleinsäure-Inserts von einer Spezies stammen, die sich von der Spezies der Säugetierzelle unterscheidet; und/oder
(II) eine oder mehrere des ersten Nukleinsäure-Inserts, des zweiten Nukleinsäure-Inserts und des dritten Nukleinsäure-Inserts menschliche Nukleinsäuren sind.

11. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 8-10, wobei:

(I) die kombinierte Größe des ersten Nukleinsäure-Inserts, des zweiten Nukleinsäure-Inserts und des dritten Nukleinsäure-Inserts 50 kb bis 700 kb beträgt; oder
(II) die Säugetier-Zielzelle genomische DNA umfasst, die das erste Nukleinsäure-Insert, das zweite Nukleinsäure-Insert und das dritte Nukleinsäure-Insert zusammen umfasst, die zusammen eine Größe im Bereich von 5 kb bis 700 kb aufweisen.

12. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 8-11, wobei:

(I) die erste überlappende Sequenz des ersten LTVEC mit der ersten überlappenden Sequenz des zweiten LTVEC identisch ist und/oder die zweite überlappende Sequenz des zweiten LTVEC mit der zweiten überlappenden Sequenz des dritten LTVEC identisch ist; und/oder
(II) die Größe der ersten überlappenden Sequenz 1 kb bis 70 kb beträgt, und/oder die Größe der zweiten überlappenden Sequenz 1 kb bis 70 kb beträgt; und/oder
(III) die Größe der ersten überlappenden Sequenz mindestens 10 kb beträgt, und/oder die Größe der zweiten überlappenden Sequenz mindestens 10 kb beträgt, wobei optional die Größe der ersten überlappenden Sequenz mindestens 20 kb beträgt, und/oder die Größe der zweiten überlappenden Sequenz mindestens 20 kb beträgt.

13. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 8 bis 12, wobei die Integration eines oder mehrerer der ersten Nukleinsäure-Inserts, des zweiten Nukleinsäure-Inserts und des dritten Nukleinsäure-Inserts in den genomischen Ziellokus zu einem oder mehreren der folgenden Ergebnisse führt:

(I) Hinzufügung einer exogenen Sequenz am genomischen Ziellokus;
(II) eine Deletion einer endogenen Sequenz am genomischen Ziellokus, wobei optional die Deletion zwischen 5 kb und 800 kb beträgt; oder
(III) ein Knock-in, ein Knock-out, eine Punktmutation, ein Domänen-Swap, ein Exon-Swap, ein Intron-Swap, ein regulatorischer Sequenz-Swap, ein Gen-Swap oder eine Kombination davon.

14. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 8-13, wobei:

(I) die Gesamtsumme des 5'- und des 3'-Homologiearms des ersten LTVEC, des zweiten LTVEC oder des dritten LTVEC bei 10 kb bis 150 kb liegt; und/oder

(II) der erste LTVEC mindestens 50 kb ist, der zweite LTVEC mindestens 50 kb ist und die dritte LTVEC mindestens 50 kb ist, wobei optional der erste LTVEC mindestens 100 kb ist, der zweite LTVEC mindestens 100 kb ist und der dritte LTVEC mindestens 100 kb ist.

15. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 14, wobei das Nuklease-Mittel eine Zinkfinger-Nuklease (ZFN), eine Transkriptionsaktivator-ähnliche Effekturnuklease (TALEN) oder eine Meganuklease ist.

16. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 15, wobei das Nuklease-Mittel ein mit Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats- (CRISPR-) assoziiertes (Cas) Protein und eine Führungs-RNA (gRNA) ist, wobei optional das Cas-Protein Cas9 ist.

17. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1-16, wobei die Säugetierzelle ist:

(I) eine menschliche Zelle;

(II) eine nicht-menschliche Zelle;

(III) eine Nagetierzelle, wobei es sich optional bei dem Nagetier um eine Maus oder Ratte handelt;

(IV) eine pluripotente Zelle, wobei die pluripotente Zelle optional eine embryonale Stammzelle (ES) oder eine induzierte pluripotente Stammzelle (iPS) ist;

(V) eine hämatopoetische Stammzelle;

(VI) eine neuronale Stammzelle; oder

(VII) eine Fibroblastenzelle.

18. Verfahren nach Anspruch 17, wobei es sich bei der Säugetierzelle um eine Maus-ES-Zelle oder eine Ratten-ES-Zelle handelt, wobei das Verfahren optional ferner das Einführen der Maus-ES-Zelle oder der Ratten-ES-Zelle in einen nicht-menschlichen Wirtsembryo umfasst.

Revendications

1. Procédé pour modifier un locus génomique cible dans une cellule de mammifère, comprenant les étapes consistant à :

(a) introduire dans la cellule de mammifère un agent de nucléase ou un polynucléotide codant pour l'agent de nucléase, dans lequel l'agent de nucléase réalise une rupture mono ou bicaténaire à l'intérieur du locus génomique cible ;

(b) introduire dans la cellule de mammifère un premier grand vecteur de ciblage (LTVEC) qui présente une longueur d'au moins 10 kb et comprend un premier insert d'acide nucléique flanqué d'un premier bras d'homologie 5' et d'un premier bras d'homologie 3', et un second LTVEC qui présente une longueur d'au moins 10 kb et comprend un deuxième insert d'acide nucléique flanqué d'un deuxième bras d'homologie 5' et d'un deuxième bras d'homologie 3', dans lequel le premier bras d'homologie 3' du premier LTVEC présente une première séquence de chevauchement homologue au deuxième bras d'homologie 5' du deuxième LTVEC, et le premier bras d'homologie 5' du premier LTVEC et le deuxième bras d'homologie 3' du deuxième LTVEC sont homologues à des segments génomiques correspondants à l'intérieur du locus génomique cible, dans lequel la première séquence de chevauchement est d'au moins 1 kb, et dans lequel le locus génomique cible est modifié par intégration du premier insert d'acide nucléique et du deuxième insert d'acide nucléique entre les segments génomiques correspondants ; et

(c) sélectionner une cellule de mammifère ciblée comprenant le premier insert d'acide nucléique et le deuxième insert d'acide nucléique intégrés dans le locus génomique cible.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le premier insert d'acide nucléique et/ou le deuxième insert d'acide nucléique comprennent de l'ADN génomique, facultativement dans lequel le premier insert d'acide nucléique et/ou le deuxième insert d'acide nucléique comprennent un allèle conditionnel, un polynucléotide codant pour un marqueur de sélection, un gène rapporteur, une ou plusieurs cassettes d'expression, ou un acide nucléique flanqué de séquences cibles de recombinaison spécifiques à un site, facultativement dans lequel l'ADN génomique est homologue

ou orthologue à une séquence ciblée pour une délétion au niveau du locus génomique cible, et facultativement dans lequel l'insertion du premier insert d'acide nucléique et du deuxième insert d'acide nucléique entraîne le remplacement d'une séquence d'acide nucléique non humain par une séquence d'acide nucléique humain homologue ou orthologue.

3. Procédé selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel :

(I) le premier insert d'acide nucléique, le deuxième insert d'acide nucléique, ou les deux proviennent d'une espèce qui est différente de l'espèce de la cellule de mammifère ; et/ou

(II) le premier insert d'acide nucléique, le deuxième insert d'acide nucléique, ou les deux, sont des acides nucléiques humains.

4. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans lequel :

(I) la taille combinée du premier insert d'acide nucléique et du deuxième insert d'acide nucléique est comprise entre 50 kb et 500 kb ; ou

(II) la cellule de mammifère ciblée comprend de l'ADN génomique comprenant le premier insert d'acide nucléique et le deuxième insert d'acide nucléique ensemble, qui présentent une taille combinée allant de 5 kb à 500 kb.

5. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, dans lequel :

(I) la première séquence de chevauchement du premier LTVEC est identique à la première séquence de chevauchement du deuxième LTVEC ; et/ou

(II) la taille de la première séquence de chevauchement est de 1 kb à 70 kb ; et/ou

(III) la taille de la première séquence de chevauchement est d'au moins 10 kb, facultativement dans lequel la taille de la première séquence de chevauchement est d'au moins 20 kb.

6. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, dans lequel l'intégration du premier insert d'acide nucléique, du deuxième insert d'acide nucléique, ou des deux dans le locus génomique cible entraîne un ou plusieurs parmi :

(I) une addition d'une séquence exogène au niveau du locus génomique cible ;

(II) une délétion d'une séquence endogène au niveau du locus génomique cible, facultativement dans lequel la délétion est de 5 kb à 800 kb ; et

(III) une activation, une désactivation, une mutation ponctuelle, un échange de domaine, un échange d'exon, un échange d'intron, un échange de séquence régulatrice, un échange de gène, ou une combinaison de ceux-ci.

7. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6, dans lequel :

(iii) la somme totale des bras d'homologie 5' et 3' du premier LTVEC ou du deuxième LTVEC est de 10 kb à 150 kb ; et/ou

(II) le premier LTVEC est d'au moins 50 kb et le deuxième LTVEC est d'au moins 50 kb, facultativement dans lequel le premier LTVEC est d'au moins 100 kb et le deuxième LTVEC est d'au moins 100 kb.

8. Procédé pour modifier un locus génomique cible dans une cellule de mammifère, comprenant les étapes consistant à :

(a) introduire dans la cellule de mammifère un agent de nucléase ou un polynucléotide codant pour l'agent de nucléase, dans lequel l'agent de nucléase réalise une rupture mono ou bicaténaire à l'intérieur du locus génomique cible ;

(b) introduire dans la cellule de mammifère un premier grand vecteur de ciblage (LTVEC) qui présente une longueur d'au moins 10 kb et comprend un premier insert d'acide nucléique flanqué d'un premier bras d'homologie 5' et d'un premier bras d'homologie 3', un deuxième LTVEC qui présente une longueur d'au moins 10 kb et comprend un deuxième insert d'acide nucléique flanqué d'un deuxième bras d'homologie 5' et d'un deuxième bras d'homologie 3', et un troisième LTVEC qui présente une longueur d'au moins 10 kb et comprend un troisième insert d'acide nucléique flanqué d'un troisième bras d'homologie 5' et d'un troisième bras d'homologie 3', dans lequel le premier bras d'homologie 3' du premier LTVEC présente une première séquence de chevauchement homologue au deuxième bras d'homologie 5' du deuxième LTVEC, le deuxième bras d'homologie

3'du deuxième LTVEC présente une deuxième séquence de chevauchement homologue au troisième bras d'homologie 5' du troisième LTVEC, et le premier bras d'homologie 5' du premier LTVEC et le troisième bras d'homologie 3' du troisième LTVEC sont homologues à des segments génomiques correspondants à l'intérieur du locus génomique cible, dans lequel la première séquence de chevauchement est d'au moins 1 kb et la deuxième séquence de chevauchement est d'au moins 1 kb, et dans lequel le locus génomique cible est modifié par intégration du premier insert d'acide nucléique, du deuxième insert d'acide nucléique et du troisième insert d'acide nucléique entre les segments génomiques correspondants ; et

(c) sélectionner une cellule de mammifère ciblée comprenant le premier insert d'acide nucléique, le deuxième insert d'acide nucléique et le troisième insert d'acide nucléique intégrés dans le locus génomique cible.

9. Procédé selon la revendication 8, dans lequel le premier insert d'acide nucléique et/ou le deuxième insert d'acide nucléique et/ou le troisième insert d'acide nucléique comprennent de l'ADN génomique, facultativement dans lequel le premier insert d'acide nucléique et/ou le deuxième insert d'acide nucléique et/ou le troisième insert d'acide nucléique comprennent un allèle conditionnel, un polynucléotide codant pour un marqueur de sélection, un gène rapporteur, une ou plusieurs cassettes d'expression, ou un acide nucléique flanqué de séquences cibles de recombinaison spécifiques à un site, facultativement dans lequel l'ADN génomique est homologue ou orthologue d'une séquence ciblée pour délétion au niveau du locus génomique cible, et facultativement dans lequel l'insertion du premier insert d'acide nucléique, du deuxième insert d'acide nucléique et du troisième insert d'acide nucléique entraîne le remplacement d'une séquence d'acide nucléique non humain par une séquence d'acide nucléique humain homologue ou orthologue.

10. Procédé selon la revendication 8 ou 9, dans lequel :

(I) un ou plusieurs du premier insert d'acide nucléique, du deuxième insert d'acide nucléique et du troisième insert d'acide nucléique proviennent d'une espèce qui est différente de l'espèce de la cellule de mammifère ; et/ou
(II) un ou plusieurs parmi le premier insert d'acide nucléique, le deuxième insert d'acide nucléique et le troisième insert d'acide nucléique sont des acides nucléiques humains.

11. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 8 à 10, dans lequel :

(I) la taille combinée du premier insert d'acide nucléique, du deuxième insert d'acide nucléique et du troisième insert d'acide nucléique est de 50 kb à 700 kb ; ou
(II) la cellule de mammifère ciblée comprend de l'ADN génomique comprenant le premier insert d'acide nucléique, le deuxième insert d'acide nucléique et le troisième insert d'acide nucléique ensemble, qui présentent une taille combinée allant de 5 kb à 700 kb.

12. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 8 à 11, dans lequel :

(I) la première séquence de chevauchement de la première LTVEC est identique à la première séquence de chevauchement de la deuxième LTVEC, et/ou la seconde séquence de chevauchement du deuxième LTVEC est identique à la seconde séquence de chevauchement du troisième LTVEC ; et/ou
(II) la taille de la première séquence de chevauchement est de 1 kb à 70 kb, et/ou la taille de la seconde séquence de chevauchement est de 1 kb à 70 kb ; et/ou
(III) la taille de la première séquence de chevauchement est d'au moins 10 kb, et/ou la taille de la seconde séquence de chevauchement est d'au moins 10 kb, facultativement dans lequel la taille de la première séquence de chevauchement est d'au moins 20 kb, et/ou la taille de la seconde séquence de chevauchement est d'au moins 20 kb.

13. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 8 à 12, dans lequel l'intégration d'un ou plusieurs parmi le premier insert d'acide nucléique, le deuxième insert d'acide nucléique et le troisième insert d'acide nucléique dans le locus génomique cible entraîne un ou plusieurs parmi :

(I) une addition d'une séquence exogène au niveau du locus génomique cible ;
(II) une délétion d'une séquence endogène au locus génomique cible, facultativement dans lequel la délétion est de 5 kb à 800 kb ; ou
(III) une activation, une désactivation, une mutation ponctuelle, un échange de domaine, un échange d'exon, un échange d'intron, un échange de séquence régulatrice, un échange de gène, ou une combinaison de ceux-ci.

14. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 8 à 13, dans lequel :

(I) la somme totale des bras d'homologie 5' et 3' du premier LTVEC, du deuxième LTVEC ou du troisième LTVEC est de 10 kb à 150 kb ; et/ou

(II) le premier LTVEC est d'au moins 50 kb, le deuxième LTVEC est d'au moins 50 kb, et le troisième LTVEC est d'au moins 50 kb, facultativement dans lequel le premier LTVEC est d'au moins 100 kb, le deuxième LTVEC est d'au moins 100 kb, et le troisième LTVEC est d'au moins 100 kb.

15. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 14, dans lequel l'agent de nucléase est une nucléase à doigt de zinc (ZFN), une nucléase effectrice de type activateur de transcription (TALEN) ou une méganucléase.

16. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 15, dans lequel l'agent nucléase est une protéine associée à la protéine (Cas) à courtes répétitions en palindrome regroupées et régulièrement espacées (CRISPR) et un ARN guide (ARNg), facultativement dans lequel la protéine Cas est Cas9.

17. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 16, dans lequel le locus génomique cible :

(I) une cellule humaine ;

(II) une cellule non humaine ;

(III) une cellule de rongeur, facultativement dans lequel le rongeur est une souris ou un rat ;

(IV) une cellule pluripotente, facultativement dans lequel la cellule pluripotente est une cellule souche embryonnaire (ES) ou une cellule souche pluripotente induite (iPS) ;

(V) une cellule souche hématopoïétique ;

(VI) une cellule souche neuronale ; ou

(VII) une cellule de fibroblaste.

18. Procédé selon la revendication 17, dans lequel la cellule de mammifère est une cellule ES de souris ou une cellule ES de rat, comprenant en outre facultativement l'introduction de la cellule ES de souris ou de la cellule ES de rat dans un embryon hôte non humain.

FIG. 1

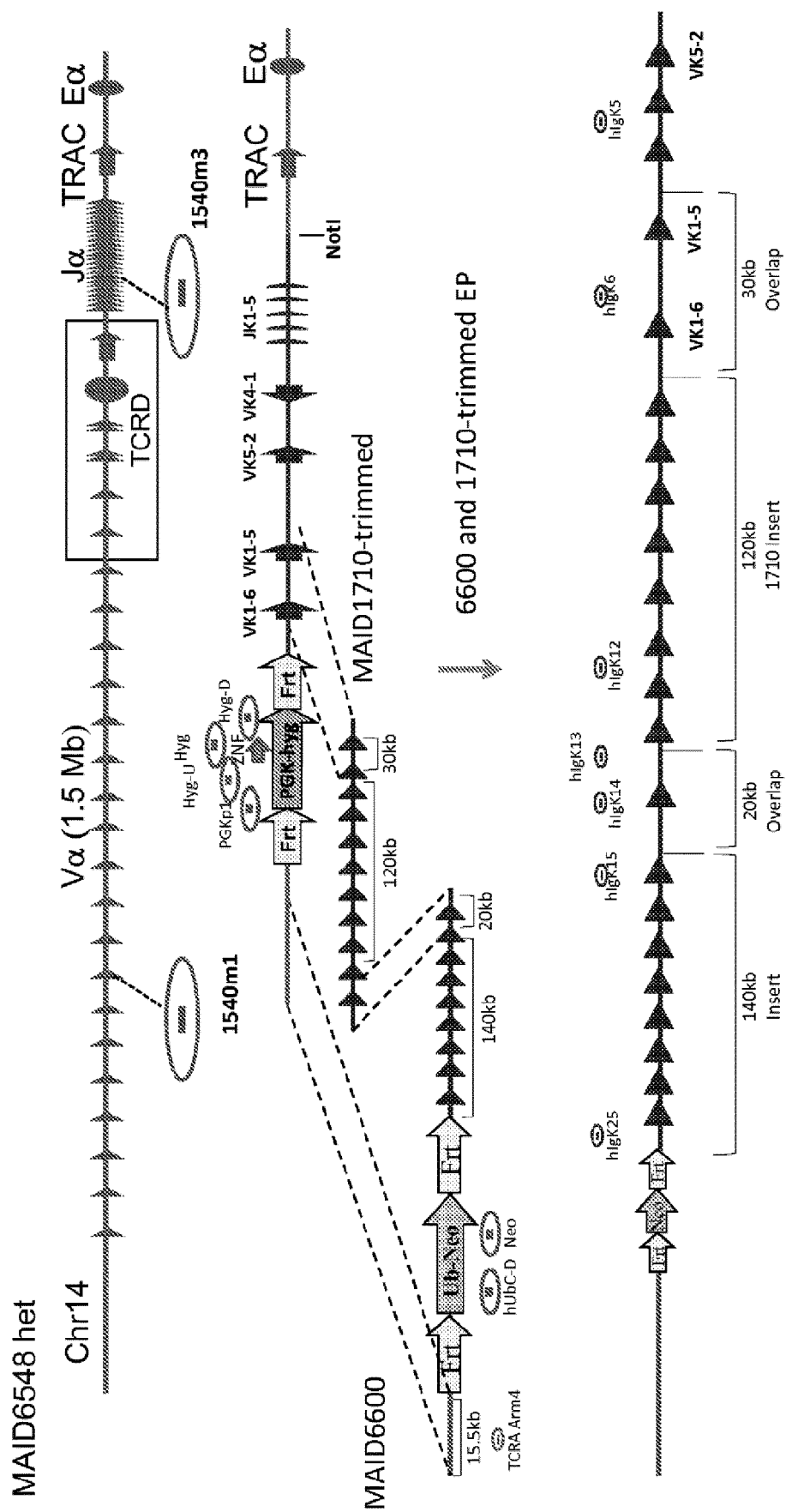


FIG. 2

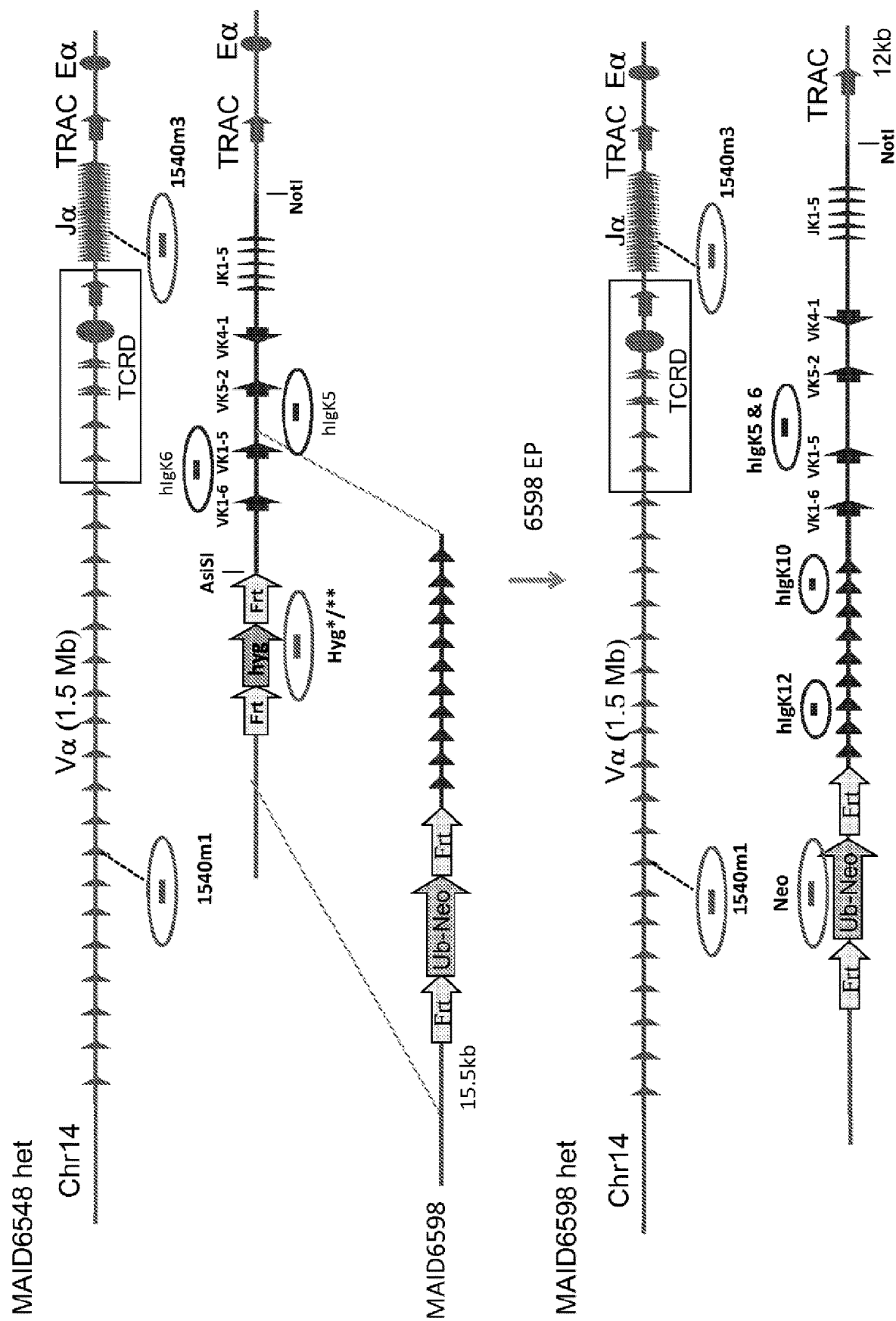


FIG. 3

CRISPR destruction of hygromycin in MAID 1545

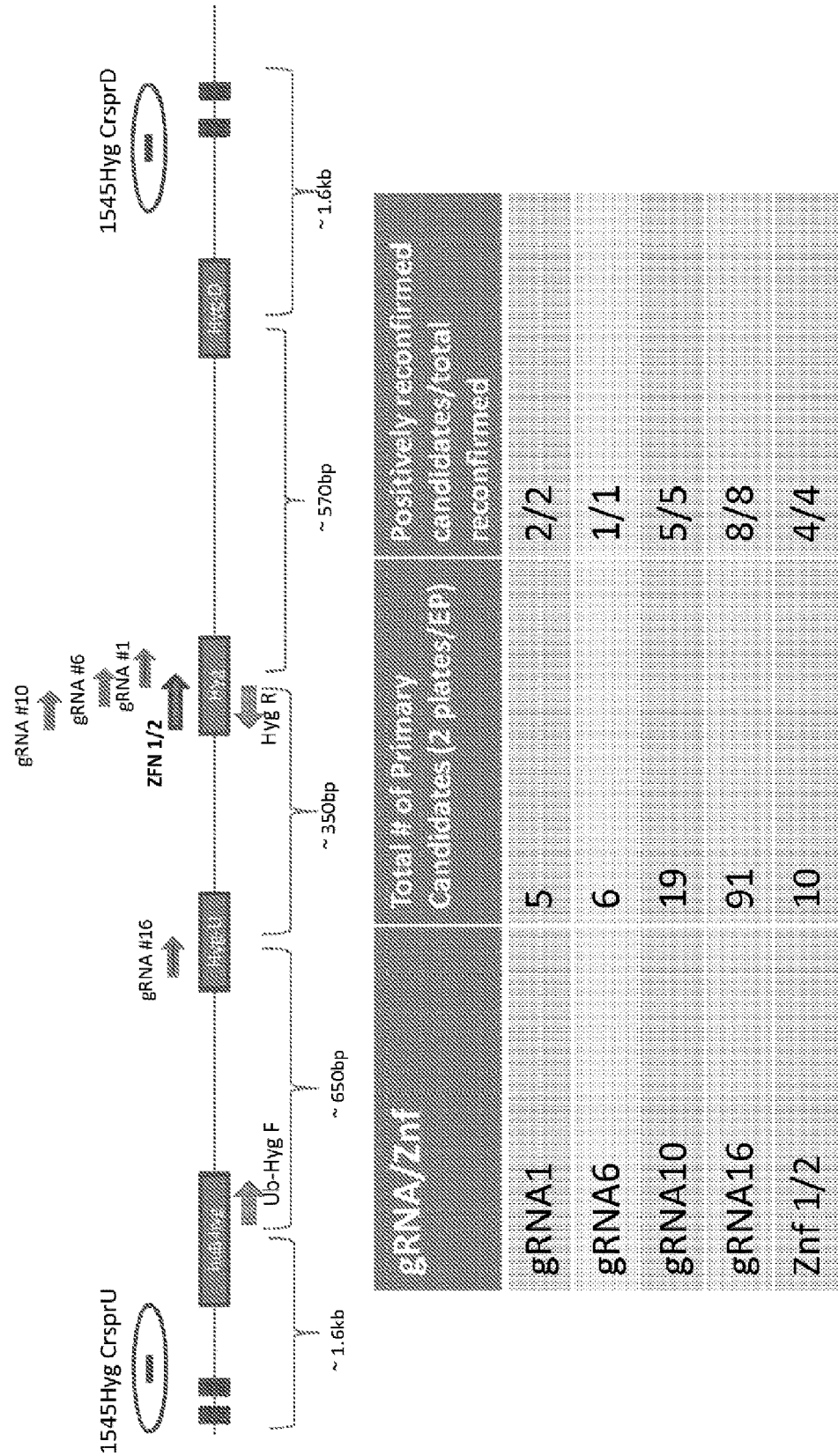
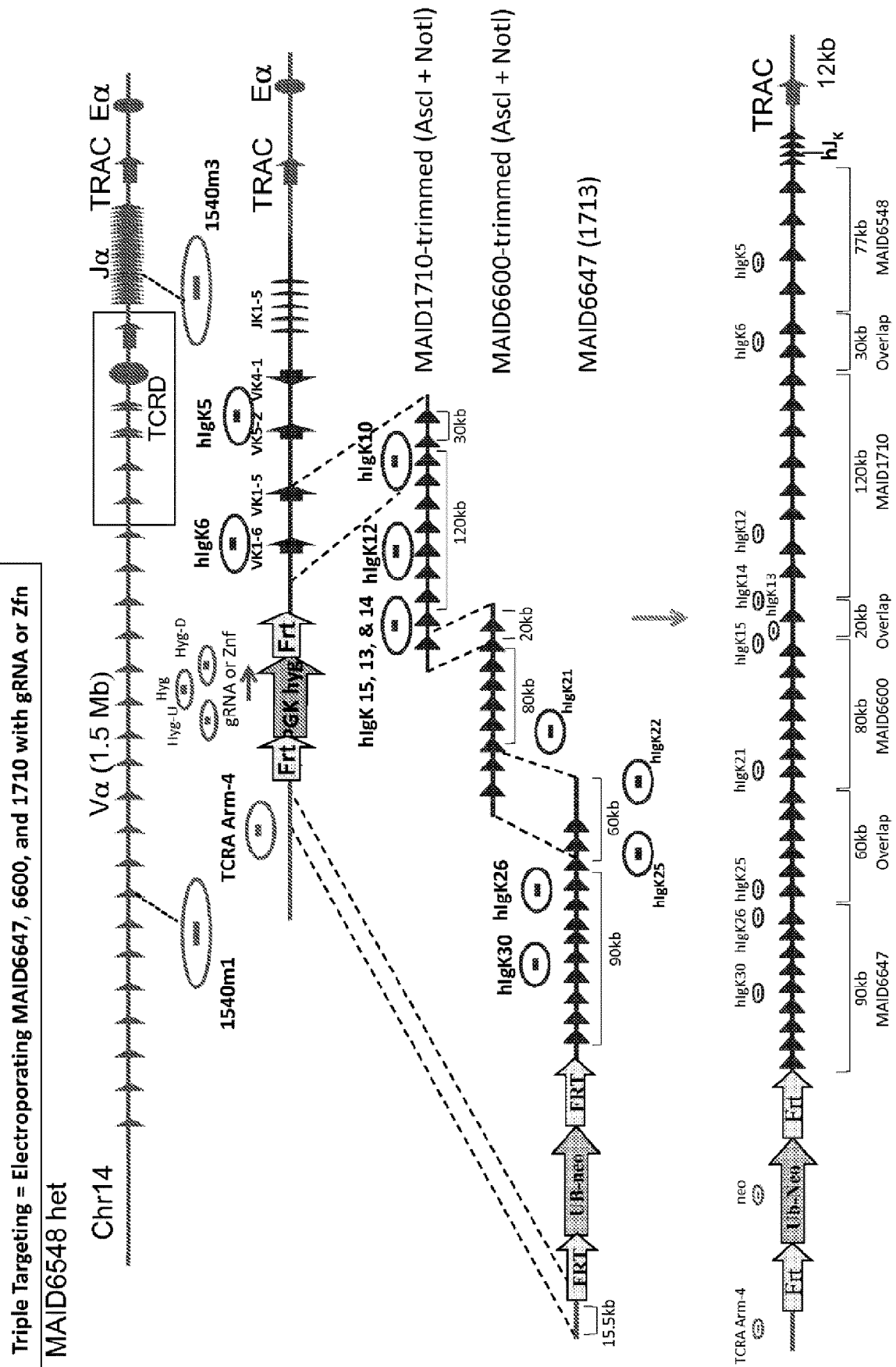


FIG. 4



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