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CRISPR/Cas9: From the Bacteria to Widespread Advanced Genome Editing Tools in Mammalian Cells

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Message from the Guest Editors

Initially described as a defense mechanism of bacteria against invading phage viruses, CRISPR/Cas9 is now a leading tool for editing and regulation of gene function in mammalian cell's genome, surpassing other gene editing technologies, such as TALEN and ZFN, in terms of versatility and ease of targeting virtually any genomic locus. This innovating technology holds the promise of achieving precise modifications in the genome, broadening the application fields of CRISPR/Cas9 from gene functional studies to disease models and therapeutic concepts. Implementing such technology for treatment of human diseases, and, in particular, for malignant disorders, is a goal for which great efforts have been made in recent years.

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