

# Efficient generation of germline chimeras in a non-rodent species using rabbit induced pluripotent stem cells

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### Efficient generation of germline chimeras in a non-rodent species using rabbit induced pluripotent stem cells

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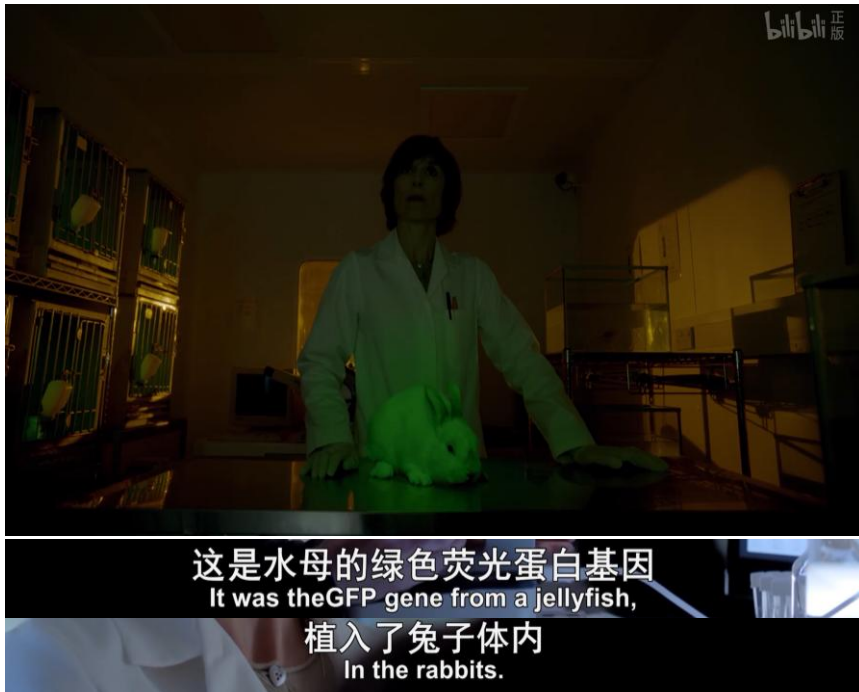


**Nathalie Beaujean**

French National Institute for Agricultural Research  
Department of Animal Physiology and Livestock Systems

## Background

### *How to create a green fluorescent rabbit?*



2012-01-01 *Sherlock S2E2*

1.



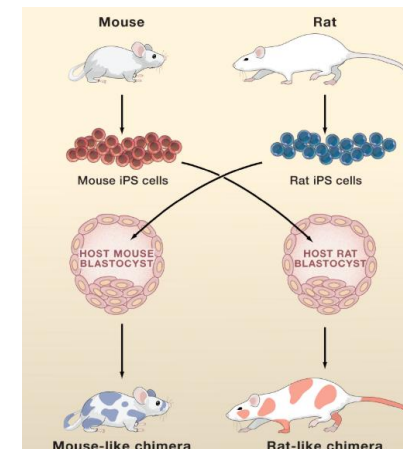
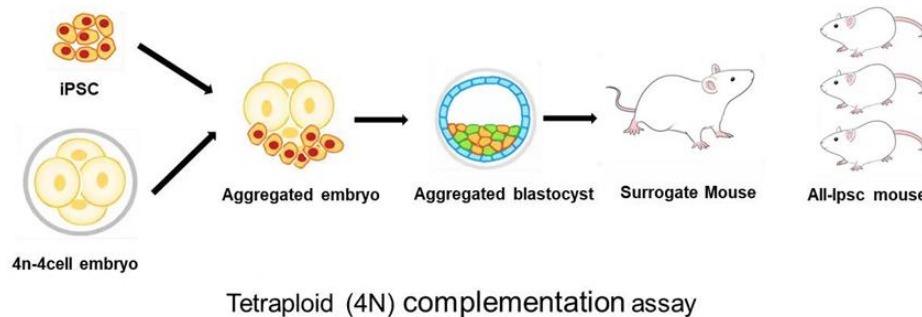
2.



3.

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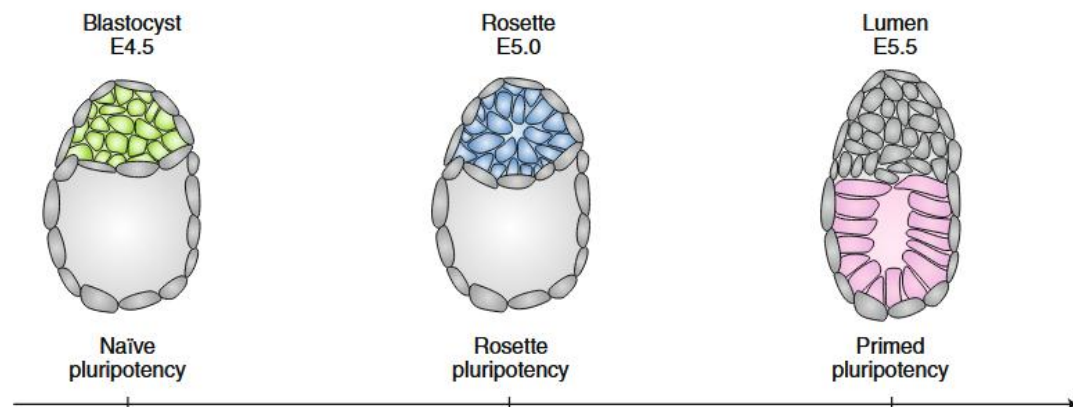
## Background



## Chimeras

### Naïve pluripotency

### Germline chimeras



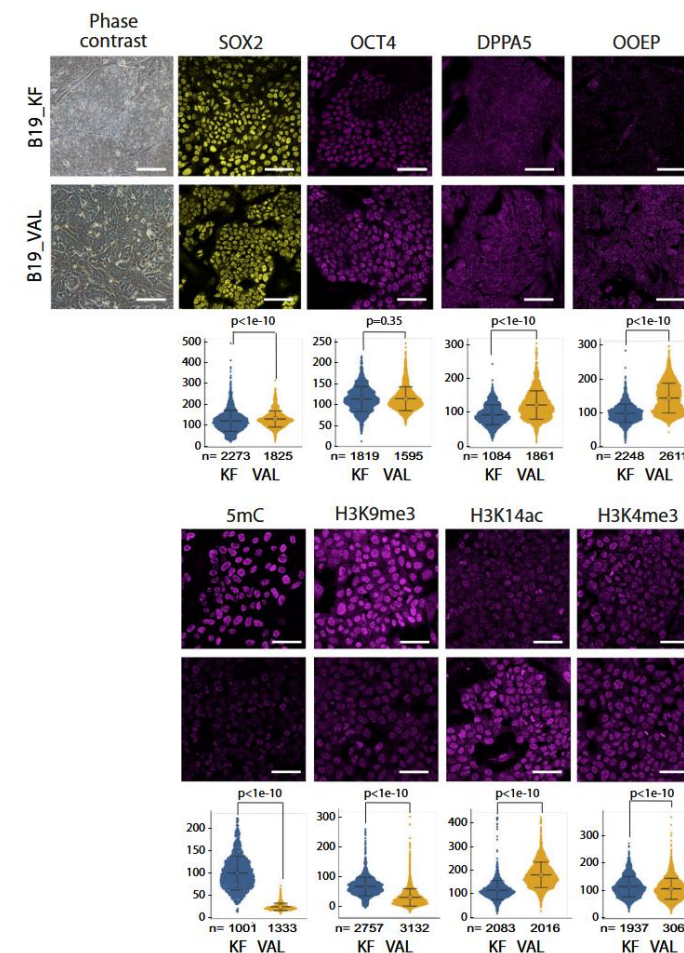
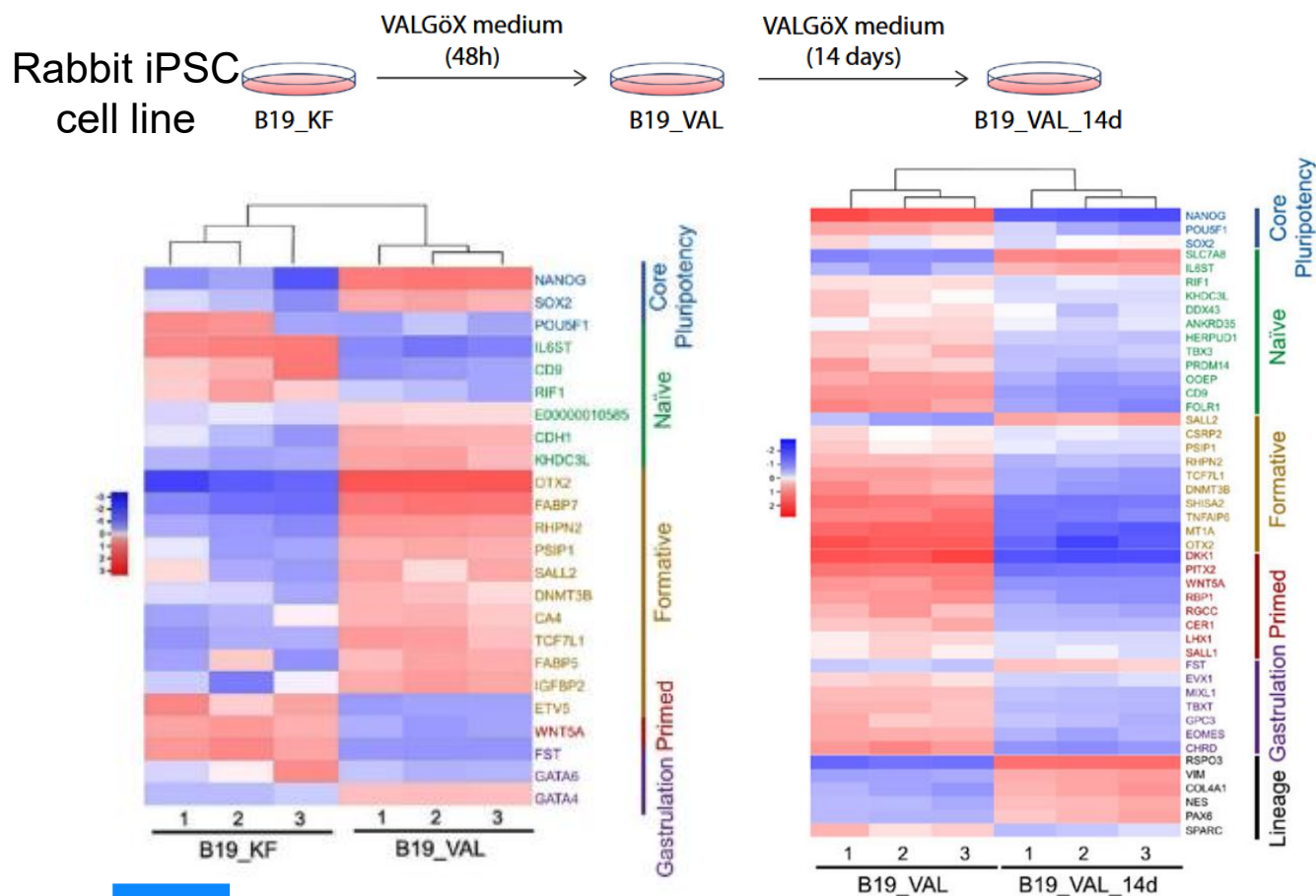
Dundes, C.E. and Loh, K.M. (2020)





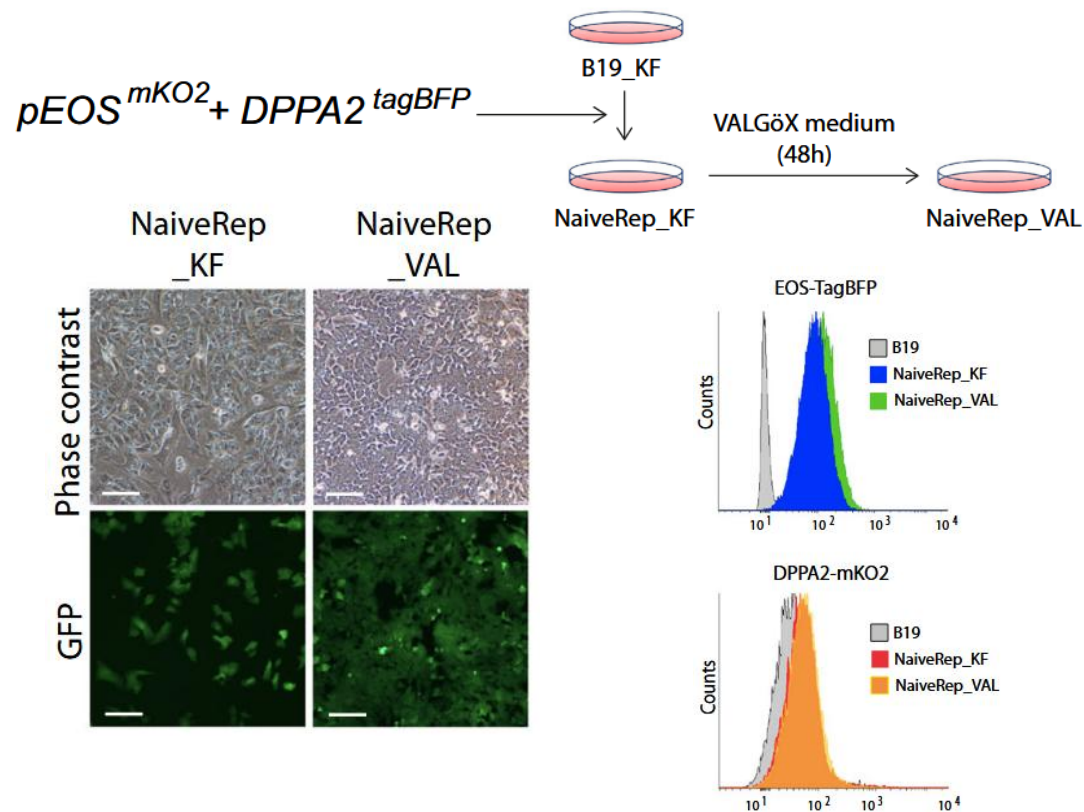
## Results 1. VALGöX culture regimen steers iPSCs toward the naïve state

- ❑ A new chemical cocktail medium called **VALGöX** (VAL, Gö6983, XAV939).
- ❑ Initiated the naïve pluripotency transition but couldn't maintain it long-term.

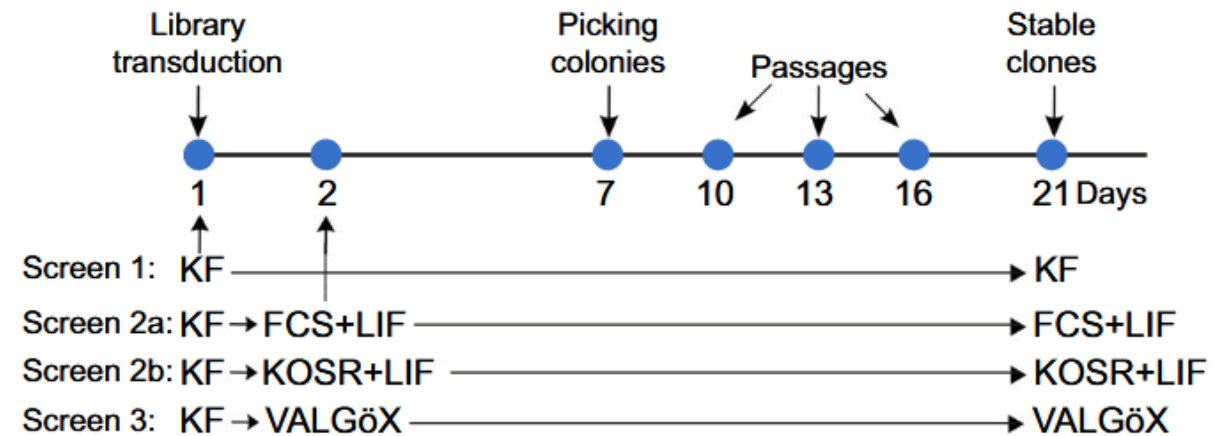


## Results 2. cDNA screening identifies genes supporting the naïve state

- Established a reporting system and conduct gene screening under different cultivation conditions

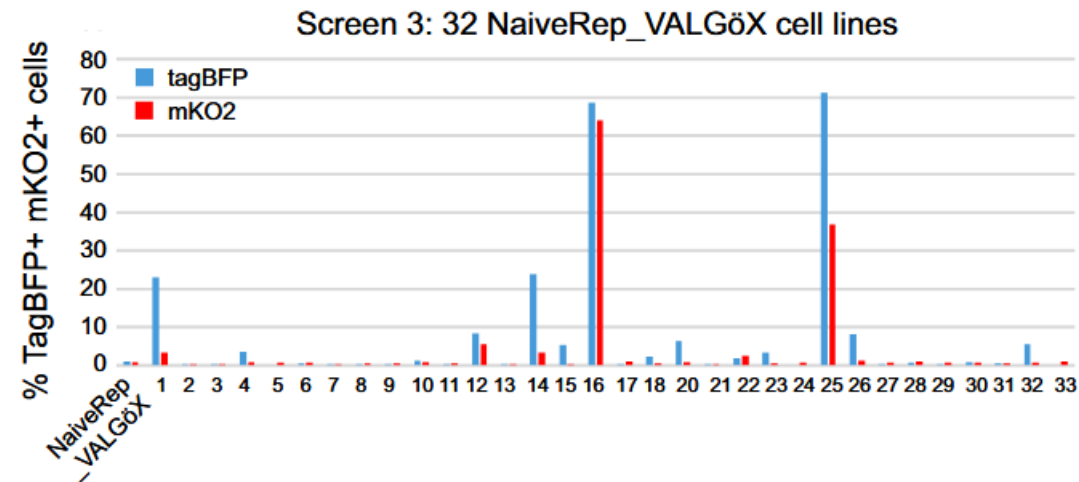
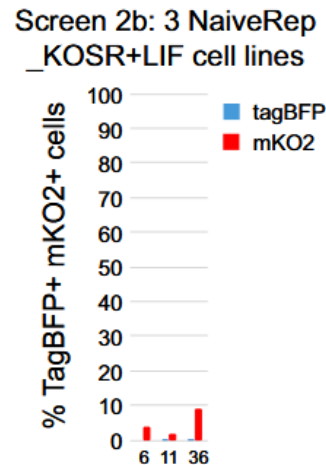
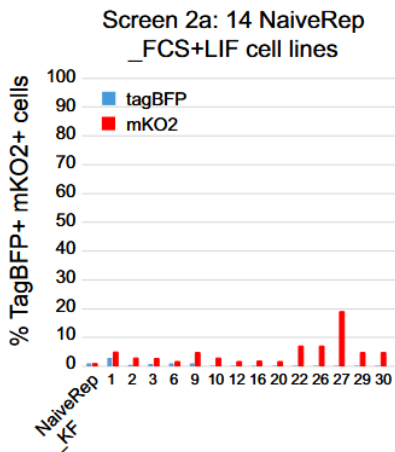
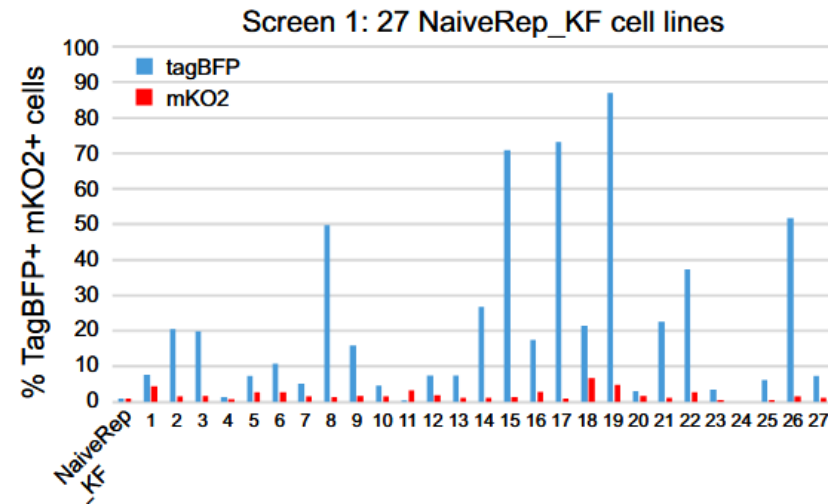


### cDNA library screens in NaiveRep cells



## Results 2. cDNA screening identifies genes supporting the naïve state

- The colonies selected under the VALGÖX cultivation conditions were superior to those obtained under other conditions.



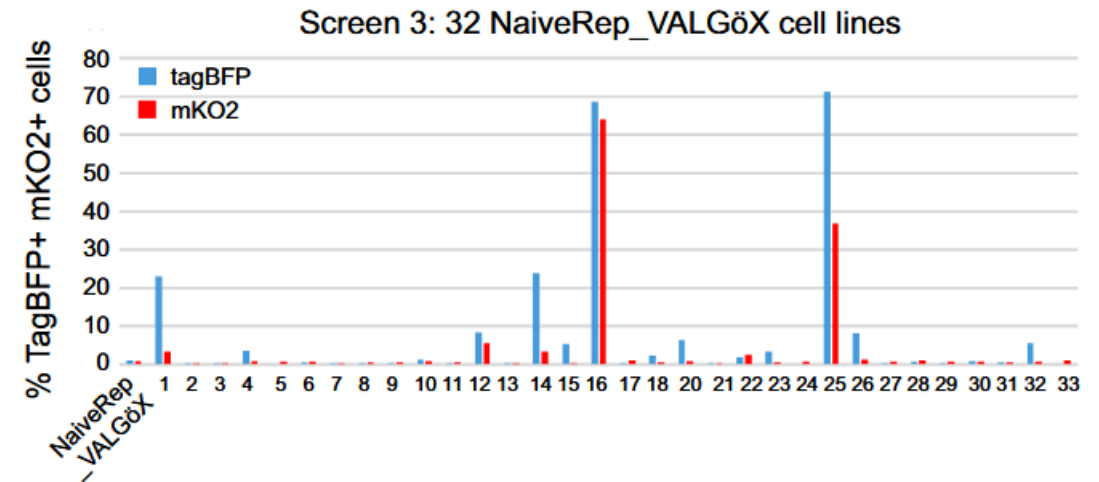
## Results 2. cDNA screening identifies genes supporting the naïve state

Screen 3: Genomic PCR of 21 NaiveRep\_VALGöX cell lines

Clones	1	3	4	6	7	8	10	12	13	14	16	17	20	21	22	25	26	27	30	31	32	Total
ERAS	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x		x	x	x	x	x		x	16
PRMT6	x	x	x		x			x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	15
BMI1			x		x					x			x		x		x	x				7
KLF2	x							x		x	x					x						5
TFCP2L1	x		x								x			x						x		5
USP21						x				x		x					x		x			5
SUV39H1													x			x		x			x	4
TRIM8				x					x	x				x								4
NANOG									x					x						x		3
CCNE1						x								x						x		3
MYC											x						x		x			3
KDM4d		x					x													x		3
DAX1											x					x				x		3
DPPA4						x										x	x					3
KLF4	x															x						2
SOX2							x		x													2
KAT2B		x		x																		2
KLF5											x				x							2
ESRRB		x								x												2
NR5A2											x										x	2
ESRRG					x				x													2
TBX3										x				x								2
KLF12									x													1
GBX2																x						1
GASC1										x												1
TFAP2C																x						1
DPPA2														x								1
OoEP																				x		1

- Three key genes: ERAS, PRMT6, and KLF2 (KEP), were identified as the key naïve pluripotent genes from the results of screen3.

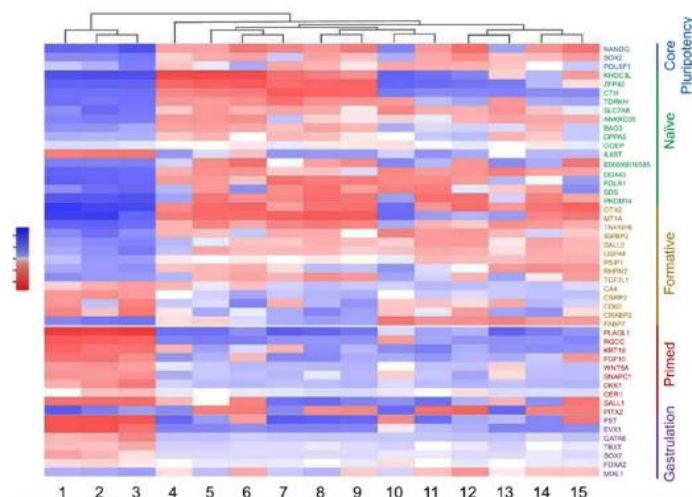
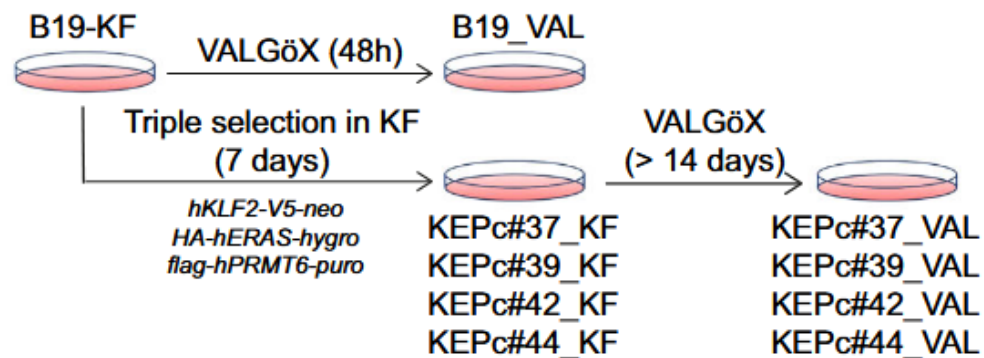
No occurrence for:  
LargeT  
E1A-12S  
GFI1  
SALL4  
KHDC1  
SMAD7  
KLF17  
DPPA5



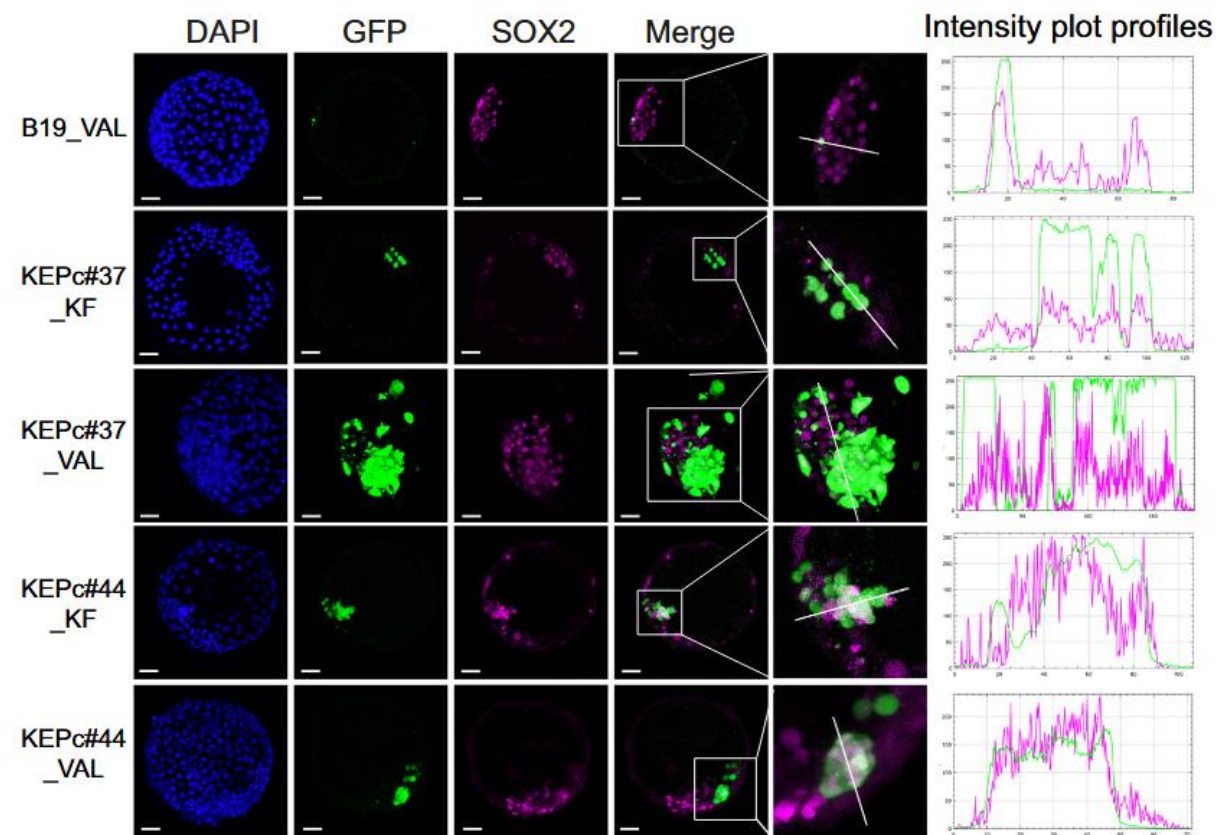


## Results 3. KLF2, ERAS, and PRMT6 stabilize iPSCs in a naïve-like state

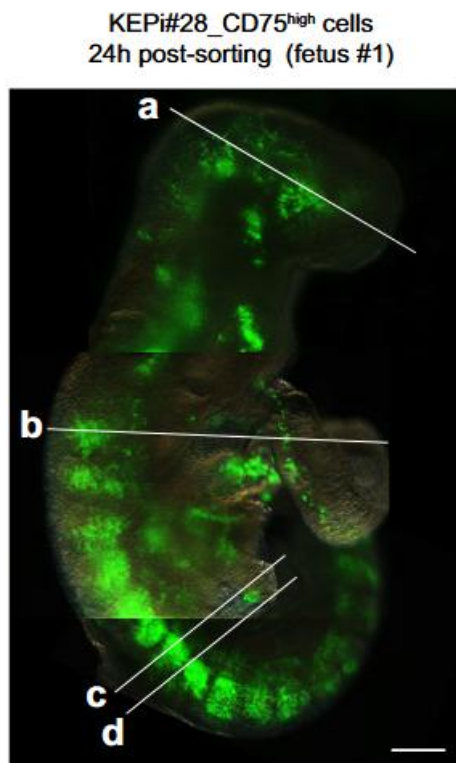
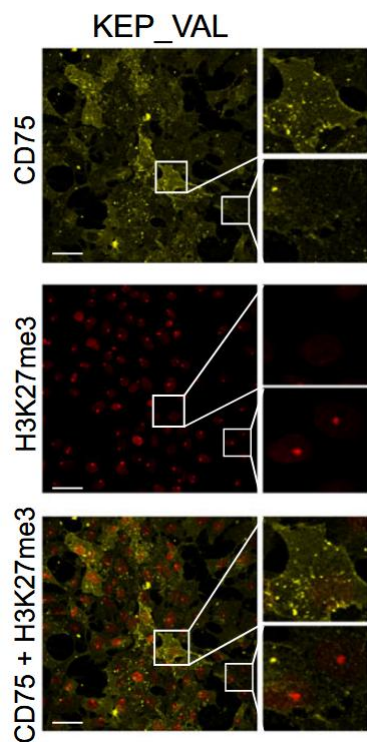
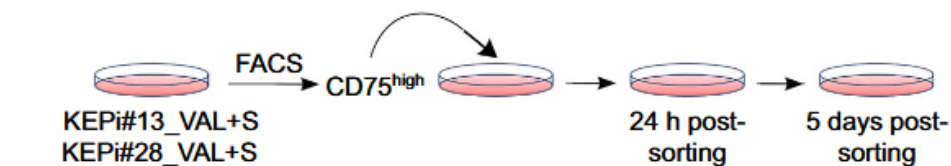
▣ The transduction of KEP enhanced the naïve pluripotency as well as embryo colonization capability of B19.



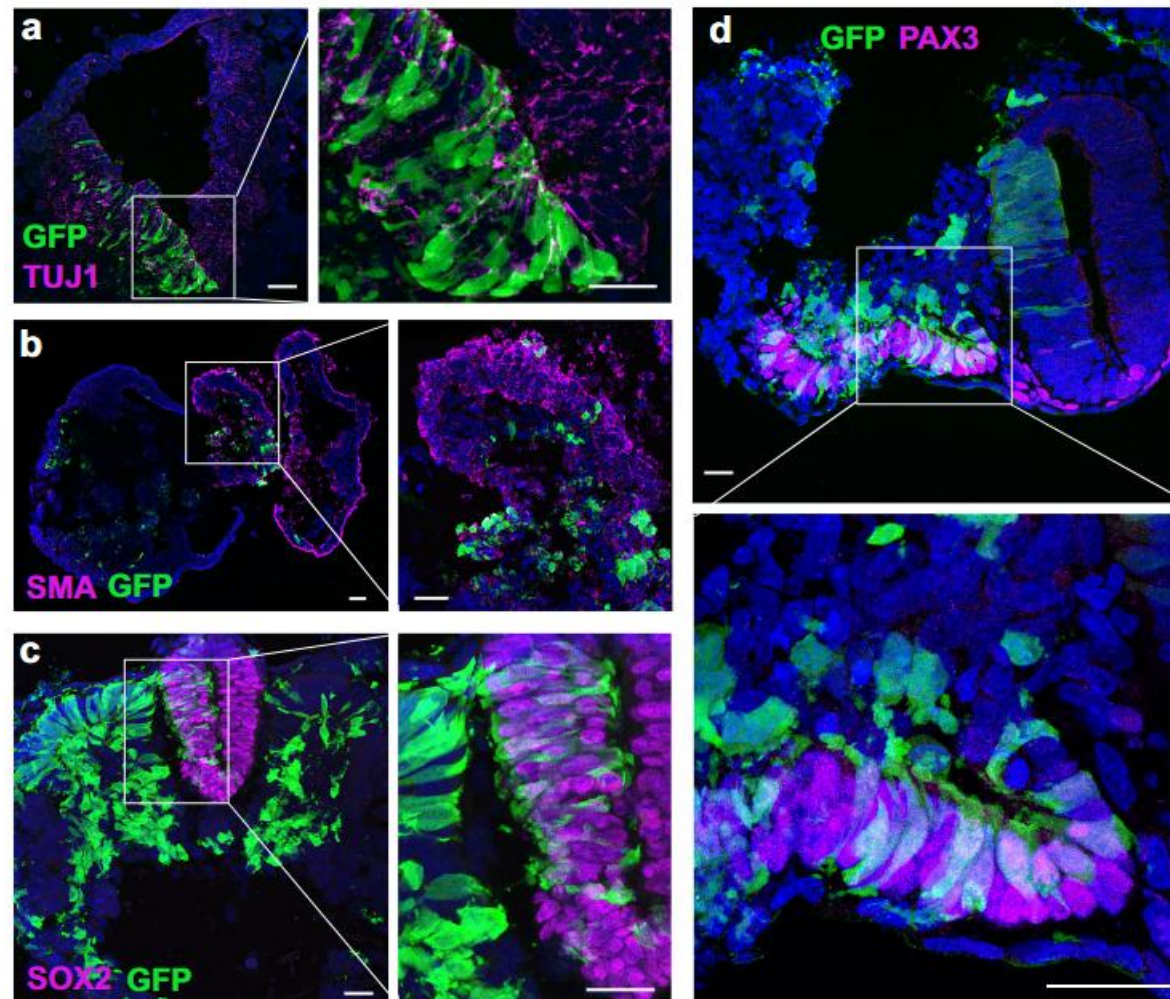
- 1: B19\_KF\_#3
- 2: B19\_KF\_#1
- 3: B19\_KF\_#2
- 4: KEPc#42\_VAL\_#1
- 5: KEPc#39\_VAL\_#3
- 6: KEPc#39\_VAL\_#1
- 7: KEPc#39\_VAL\_#2
- 8: KEPc#37\_VAL\_#1
- 9: KEPc#37\_VAL\_#2
- 10: KEPc#44\_VAL\_#1
- 11: KEPc#44\_VAL\_#2
- 12: KEPc#42\_VAL\_#2
- 13: KEPc#42\_VAL\_#3
- 14: KEPc#37\_VAL\_#3
- 15: KEPc#44\_VAL\_#3



## Results 4. High-CD75 KEP cells generate germline chimeras



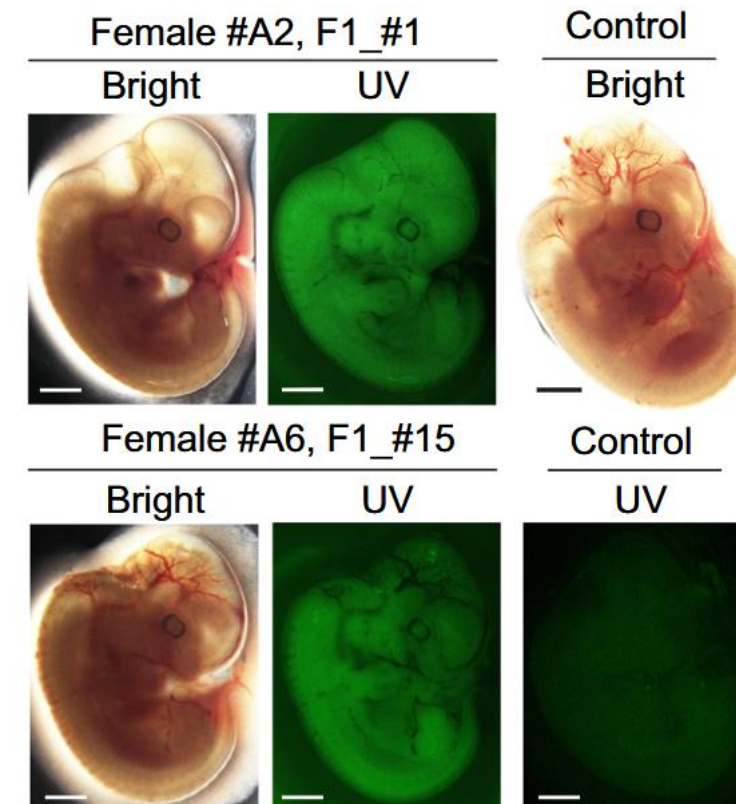
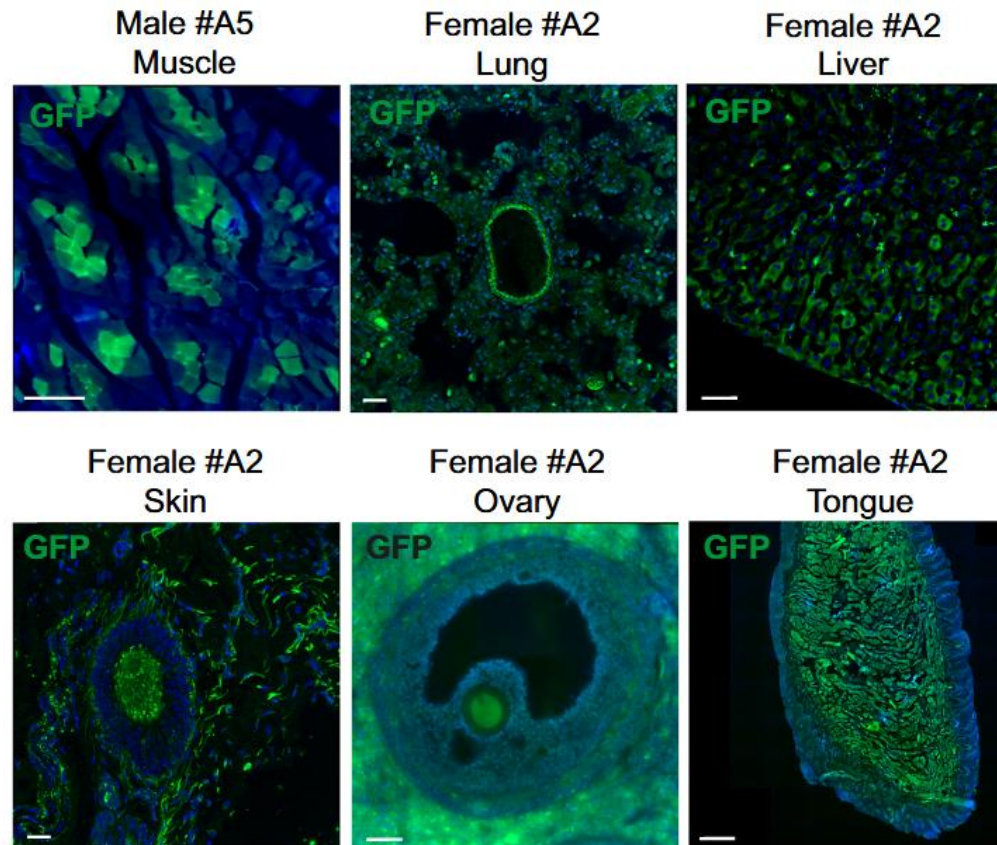
KEPi#28\_CD75<sup>high</sup> cells 24h post-sorting (fetus #1)





## Results 4. High-CD75 KEP cells generate germline chimeras

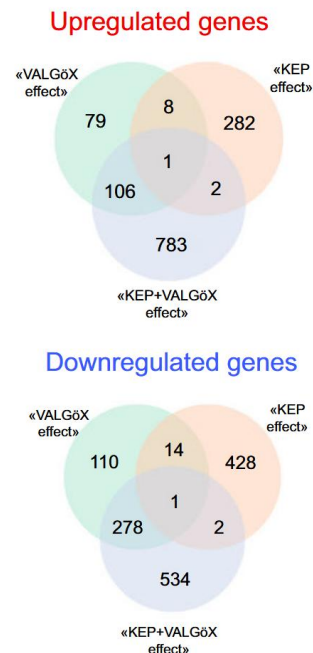
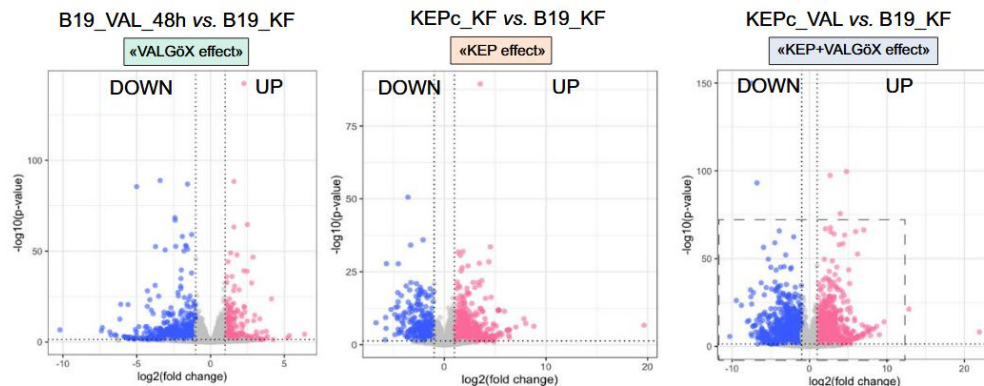
- Virtually all analyzed organs were positive for GFP, with chimerism rates ranging from 0.01 to 100%
- The stem cells successfully integrated into the developing embryo and contributed to the animal's tissues



## Results 5. Transcriptomic signature of enhanced embryonic colonization

- Transcriptome results emphasized the role of inhibiting the MAPK, WNT, HIPPO pathway in capturing and preserving naïve pluripotency.

$$\text{«KEP+VALGöX effect»} - (\text{«VALGöX effect»} + \text{«KEP effect»}) = \text{«Synergistic effect»}$$



KEGG pathway enrichment analysis

### Upregulated genes in «Synergistic effect»

**Glycine, serine and threonine metabolism (p-value = 8.27E-04)**

*SDS, GLDC, PSAT1, CTH, AMT, ALDH7A1, GNMT*

**Cysteine and methionine metabolism (p-value = 0.013)**

*SDS, PSAT1, GSS, CTH, DNMT3A, SMS*

**Arginine and proline metabolism (p-value = 0.045)**

*SMS, CKMT1B, PYCR2, LDH7A1, CNBP1*

**NF-kappa B signaling pathway (p-value = 0.051)**

*EDARADD, ZAP70, DDX58, BTK, LTA, CD14, LTBR, GADD45G*

### Downregulated genes in «Synergistic effect»

**Axon guidance (p-value = 8.14E-06)**

*EPHA7, FZD3, WNT5B, TRPC3, CXCR4, UNC5C, SSH3, NTN1, GNAI1, EFNB2, PPP3CA, EFNB3, DPYSL5, PLXNA2, LRRC4C, MYL9, EPHB3*

**Hippo signaling pathway (p-value = 3.27E-05)**

*FZD3, TGFB2, WNT5B, FZD4, WWC1, WNT8A, WNT8B, ID1, AXIN2, GDF6, TGFB2, RASSF2, LATS2, WNT11, PPP2R2B*

**Wnt signaling pathway (p-value = 4.05E-05)**

*TLE4, FZD3, WNT5B, FZD4, PRICKLE2, WNT8A, WNT8B, AXIN2, SFRP4, PPP3CA, PLCB4, WNT11, DAAM1, ROR1, GPC4*

**MAPK signaling pathway (p-value = 4.59E-05)**

*PDGFRB, DUSP2, TGFB2, ANGPT1, BDNF, ARAF, PDGFB, TGFA, VEGFC, EGFR, NFKB1, CDC25B, TGFB2, ELK4, PPP3CA, DUSP10, MAPKAPK2, MAP3K8, FLNC, CACNG4, FGF10*



## Summary & Discussion

- ❑ Building upon an optimized **VALGÖX culture medium** and a **naive pluripotency reporter system**, a cDNA library screen identified a critical combinatorial factor cocktail comprising KLF2, ERAS, and PRMT6.
- ❑ Establishing an inducible expression system and demonstrating the robust in vivo **chimeric competence** of naive pluripotent cells.
- ❑ **CD75 was identified** as an effective surface marker for enriching cells with high chimeric potential, enabling the efficient generation of chimeras through the enrichment of this naive pluripotent subpopulation.
- ❑ The transcriptomic results indicate a **synergistic effect** between the VALGöX culture regimen and KEP transgenes that enables rabbit iPSCs to enter a functional naive state.





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# THANKS



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Nov. **28**