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Jonathan B Weitzman
Email: jonathanweitzman@hotmail.com

The systematic deletion of all yeast ORFs, in the SaccharomycesGenome Deletion Project, provides a powerful resource for large-scale 'parallel deletion analysis'. In the October 23 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Geoff Birrell and colleagues at Stanford University School of Medicine describe a screen for sensitivity to a genome-damaging agent (*Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2001, **98:**12608-12613). They screened pools of 4,627 deletion strains for killing by ultraviolet (UV) irradiation and used oligonucleotide arrays to follow radiation sensitivity. They identified 25 known UV-sensitive deletions and found three new genes not previously linked with UV sensitivity. Two of these, *CaSm* and *AF9*, have human orthologs implicated in cancer, demonstrating how such a powerful approach can provide important insights into the mechanism of cytotoxicity by genotoxic agents.

References

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3. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, [http://www.pnas.org]

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5. The *Saccharomyces* repair genes at the end of the century.