Translating GWAS-identified loci for cardiac rhythm and rate using an *in vivo*
image- and CRISPR/Cas9-based approach

Benedikt von der Heyde[1,2#], Anastasia Emmanouilidou[1,2#], Eugenia Mazzaferro[1,2],
Silvia Vicenzi[1,2], Ida Höijer[1,2], Tiffany Klingström[2,3], Sitaf Jumaa[1,2], Olga
Dethlefsen[4,5], Harold Snieder[6], Eco de Geus[7], Adam Ameur[1,2,8], Erik Ingelsson[2,9,10,11],
Amin Allalou[2,12], Hannah L. Brooke[13], Marcel den Hoed[1,2*]

# denotes equal contribution

[1]The Beijer laboratory and Department of Immunology, Genetics and Pathology,
Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.
[2]Science for Life Laboratory, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.
[3]Department of Organismal Biology, Evolution and Developmental Biology, Uppsala
University, Uppsala, Sweden
[4]Science for Life Laboratory, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden.
[5]National Bioinformatics Infrastructure Sweden, Stockholm University, Stockholm,
Sweden.
[6]Department of Epidemiology, University of Groningen, University Medical Center
Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands.
[7]Department of Biological Psychology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam,
the Netherlands.
[8]Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University,
Melbourne, Australia.
[9]Department of Medical Sciences, Molecular Epidemiology, Uppsala University,
Uppsala, Sweden.
[10]Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Stanford University
School of Medicine, Stanford, CA, USA.
[11]Stanford Cardiovascular Institute, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305.
[12]Department of Information Technology, Division of Visual Information and
Interaction, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.
[13]Department of Public Health and Caring Sciences, Uppsala University, Uppsala,
Sweden.

*Correspondence and requests for material should be addressed to Marcel den Hoed
(marcel.den_hoed@igp.uu.se).

Abstract

A meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies (GWAS) identified eight loci

that are associated with heart rate variability (HRV), but candidate genes in these loci

remain uncharacterized. We developed an image- and CRISPR/Cas9-based pipeline to

systematically characterize candidate genes for HRV in live zebrafish embryos. Nine

zebrafish orthologues of six human candidate genes were targeted simultaneously in

eggs from fish that transgenically express GFP on smooth muscle cells

(Tg[*acta2:GFP*]), to visualize the beating heart. An automated analysis of repeated

30s recordings of beating atria in 381 live, intact zebrafish embryos at 2 and 5 days

post-fertilization highlighted genes that influence HRV (*hcn4* and *si:dkey-65j6.2*

[KIAA1755]); heart rate (*rgs6 and hcn4*); and the risk of sinoatrial pauses and arrests

(*hcn4*). Exposure to 10 or 25μM ivabradine – an open channel blocker of HCNs – for

24h resulted in a dose-dependent higher HRV and lower heart rate at 5 days post-

fertilization. Hence, our screen confirmed the role of established genes for heart rate

and rhythm (*RGS6* and *HCN4*); showed that ivabradine reduces heart rate and

increases HRV in zebrafish embryos, as it does in humans; and highlighted a novel

gene that plays a role in HRV (*KIAA1755*).

Introduction

Heart rate variability (HRV) reflects the inter-beat variation of the RR interval. HRV is controlled by the sinoatrial node, which receives input from the autonomic nervous system. Autonomic imbalance has been associated with work stress and other modifiable or non-modifiable risk factors[1], and is reflected in lower HRV. Lower HRV has been associated with higher cardiac morbidity and mortality[2], as well as with a higher risk of all-cause mortality[3]. HRV can be quantified non-invasively using an ECG, making HRV a useful clinical marker for perturbations of the autonomic nervous system. However, the mechanisms influencing HRV remain poorly understood.

Recently, we and others identified the first loci that are robustly associated with HRV, using a meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies (GWAS) with data from 53,174 participants[3]. Five of the identified loci had previously been associated with resting heart rate[4]. The heart rate associated loci in turn are associated with altered cardiac conduction and risk of sick sinus syndrome[5]. *In silico* functional annotation of the five loci that are associated with both HRV[3] and heart rate[4] resulted in the prioritization of six candidate genes[3]. Functional follow-up experiments - ideally *in vivo* - are required to conclude if these genes are indeed causal, and examine if they influence HRV, heart rate, and/or cardiac conduction.

Mouse models are commonly used in cardiac research, but adult mice show substantial differences in cardiac rate and electrophysiology when compared with humans[5]. Inherently, these differences complicate extrapolation of results from mouse models to humans[5]. Additionally, rodents are not suitable for high-throughput, *in vivo* characterization of cardiac rhythm and rate. Such screens are essential to systematically characterize positional candidate genes in the large number of loci that

have now been identified in GWAS for HRV[3], heart rate[6] and cardiac conduction[7,8].

Hence, novel model systems that facilitate systematic, *in vivo* characterization of a

large number of candidate genes are needed.

In recent years, the zebrafish has become an important model system for genetic

and drug screens for human diseases[9,10]. Despite morphological differences to the

human heart, zebrafish have a functional, beating heart at ~24 hours post-fertilization,

and the ECG of the two-chambered adult zebrafish heart is similar to that of

humans[11]. Conditions affecting cardiac electrophysiology have previously been

successfully modeled in zebrafish. For example, *nkx2.5* is necessary for normal

HRV[12], mutations in *kcnh2* have been used to model long QT syndrome[13], *trpm7* was

shown to influence heart rate and risk for sinoatrial pauses[14], and knockdown of *hcn4*

has been used to model human sick sinus syndrome in zebrafish[15]. Fluorescently

labeled transgenes facilitate visualization of cell types and tissues of interest, which

can now be accomplished in high throughput thanks to advances in automated

positioning of non-embedded, live zebrafish embryos[16–18]. In addition, the zebrafish

has a well-annotated genome, with orthologues of at least 71.4% of human genes[19].

These genes can be targeted efficiently and in a multiplexed manner using Clustered,

Regulatory Interspaced, Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) and CRISPR-

associated systems (Cas)[20]. All characteristics combined make zebrafish embryos an

attractive model system to systematically characterize candidate genes for cardiac

rhythm, rate and conduction.

The aim of this study was to objectively characterize the most promising

candidate genes in loci associated with both HRV and heart rate for a role in cardiac

rhythm, rate and function, using a large-scale, image-based screen in zebrafish

embryos.

Results

Experimental pipeline

Our experimental pipeline is outlined in **Fig 1 and Supp Fig 1**. CRISPR/Cas9 founders (F_0) were generated in which all nine zebrafish orthologues of six human candidate genes were targeted simultaneously using a multiplexed approach (**Table 1**)[20]. We used a background with transgenically expressed, fluorescently labelled smooth muscle cells (Tg[*acta2:GFP*])[21], to visualize the beating heart. Founders were raised to adulthood and in-crossed. On the morning of day 2 post fertilization (dpf), F_1 embryos were individually anesthetized, to minimize exposure to tricaine and to standardize the imaging procedure. We then captured bright field images of whole embryos in 12 orientations to quantify body size, and recorded the beating atrium for 30s in 383 live, intact embryos, at 152 frames/s using an automated positioning system, fluorescence microscope and CCD camera (see Methods). After image acquisition, embryos were washed, dispensed in 96-well plates, and placed in an incubator at 28.5°C, until 5dpf. Of the 383 embryos imaged at 2dpf, 326 were imaged again on the morning of day 5 (**Supp Fig 2**). Importantly, only three embryos died between 2 and 5dpf. This repeated measures design allowed us to quantify genetic effects on cardiac outcomes and body size at two key stages of early cardiac development[22]. A custom-written MatLab script was used to automatically quantify HRV and heart rate from the recordings acquired at 2 and 5dpf (see Methods). After imaging at 5dpf, embryos were sacrificed and sequenced at the CRISPR/Cas9-targeted sites, followed by alignment; quality control; variant calling; variant annotation; and statistical analysis.

Figure 1: Overview of the experimental pipeline showing the image-based acquisition and post-processing of images and samples. dpf = days post-fertilization.

Table 1: Selected candidate genes and their zebrafish orthologues in GWAS-identified heart rate variability associated loci

rsID	Chr	Human gene	ENSG	Zebrafish orthologue	ENSDARG
rs4262, rs180238	7	GNG11	ENSG00000127920	gngt1	ENSDARG00000035798
rs7980799, rs1351682, rs1384598	12	SYT10	ENSG00000110975	syt10	ENSDARG00000045750
rs4899412, rs2052015, rs2529471, rs36423	14	RGS6	ENSG00000182732	rgs6	ENSDARG00000015627
rs2680344	15	HCN4	ENSG00000138622	hcn4	ENSDARG00000061685
				hcn4l	ENSDARG00000074419
rs1812835	15	NEO1	ENSG00000067141	neo1a	ENSDARG00000102855
				neo1b	ENSDARG00000075100
rs6123471	20	KIAA1755	ENSG00000149633	quo	ENSDARG00000073684
				si:dkey-65j6.2	ENSDARG00000103586

rsID refers to the lead SNP(s) of the GWAS-identified loci (Nolte et. al, 2017). Multiple independent SNPs per locus can be present.

Descriptive results

At 2dpf, some embryos showed sinoatrial pauses (n=39, 10.3%, **Supp recording 1, Fig 2**) and arrests (n=36, 9.5%, **Supp recording 2, Fig 2**); cardiac edema (n=16, 4.2%); or uncontrolled atrial contractions (n=1, 0.2%, **Supp recording 3, Fig 2**). At 5dpf, fewer embryos displayed sinoatrial pauses (n=9, 2.7%, only one of which also showed a sinoatrial pause at 2dpf); sinoatrial arrests (n=3, 0.9%, none of which showed a sinoatrial arrest at 2dpf); and cardiac edema (n=15, 4.5%, nine of which already had cardiac edema at 2dpf); while uncontrolled atrial contractions and an abnormal cardiac morphology (**Supp recording 4, Fig 2**) were first observed in some embryos at 5dpf (n=9, 2.7% and n=6, 1.8%, especially). For embryos free from cardiac abnormalities, distributions of HRV and heart rate at 2 and 5dpf are shown in **Supp Fig 3**. Distributions for body size are shown in **Supp Fig 4**.

After imaging at 5dpf, all 383 embryos were sequenced at the nine CRISPR/Cas9 targeted sites (**Table 1, Supp Fig 5**). Transcript-specific dosages were calculated by weighing the number of mutated alleles by the mutations' predicted impact on protein function, based on Ensembl's variant effect predictor (VEP). A total of 123 unique alleles were identified across the nine CRISPR/Cas9-targeted sites (**Supp Fig** 5), in which 169 unique mutations were called (**Supp Table 3**), ranging from three unique mutations in *hcn4l* to 34 in *si:dkey-65j6.2* (one of two *KIAA1755* orthologues). Frameshift inducing mutations were most common (47.9%), followed by missense variants (25.4%), in-frame deletions (14.2%), and synonymous variants

(5.9%). Eighty-seven, seventy-two and ten mutations were predicted to have a high,

moderate, and low impact on protein function, respectively (**Supp Table 3**). Two

embryos with missed calls in more than two targeted sites were excluded from the

analysis. In the remaining 381 embryos, sequencing call rate was >98% for all but one

targeted site, and missed calls were imputed to the mean. Seventy-eight embryos had

a missed call for *neo1b* (**Supp Table 4**). Since these 78 embryos showed a similar

distribution for all outcomes compared with the remaining embryos (not shown), and

since the mutant allele frequency of *neo1b* was 93.4% for the successfully sequenced

embryos, missing *neo1b* calls were also imputed to the mean.

Figure 2: Visualization of cardiac rhythmic or other abnormalities, highlighted by arrows. Sinoatrial pauses were defined as the atrium ceasing to contract for >3x the median inter-beat interval of the embryo. A sinoatrial arrest was defined as an event where the atrium stopped contracting for >2s. Abnormal cardiac morphology was defined as the atrium appearing as a tube-like structure, and impaired cardiac contractility was defined as the atrium vibrating rather than contracting.

We observed a normal distribution of the number of mutated alleles across the nine

targeted orthologues (range 2-14 mutated alleles, **Supp Fig 6**). Mutant allele

frequencies – based on previously unreported variants located within ±30bp of the

CRISPR/Cas9 cut sites - ranged from 4.1% for *hcn4l* to 93.4% for *neo1b* (**Supp**

Table 4). We did not identify any mutations at three predicted off-target sites in the

381 successfully sequenced embryos (**Supp Table 2**).

Effects of mutations in candidate genes on sinoatrial pauses and arrests

At 2dpf, each additional CRISPR/Cas9 mutated allele in the first exon of *hcn4*

resulted in a >2.5-fold higher odds of sinoatrial pauses or arrests (**Table 2, Supp**

Tables 5-6). Embryos showing pauses or arrests during positioning and orienting in

the microscope's field of view, but not during image acquisition were not included in

the statistical analysis. Still, it is worth noting that pauses were observed during

positioning in four of the nine embryos that later turned out to be compound

heterozygous for CRISPR/Cas9-induced nonsense mutations in *hcn4*; and in four of

the eight embryos carrying a mutated allele in *hcn4* as well as in *hcn4l*. Importantly,

zebrafish embryos can survive without a functionally beating heart at this stage of

development, thanks to adequate tissue oxygenation by diffusion[23]. This allowed us to

observe genetically driven sinoatrial arrests that would have been lethal in embryos of

most other species.

Of the 39 embryos with a sinoatrial pause during the acquisition at 2dpf; two

embryos died before imaging at 5dpf, and only one also showed a pause or arrest at

5dpf. Since only six new pauses were observed at 5dpf, the statistical power to detect

genetic effects on sinoatrial pauses was low at 5dpf. Earlier we performed a pilot

experiment in 406 2dpf offspring of an in-cross of heterozygous carriers of the

sa11188 mutation[24], a nonsense mutation in exon 2 of *hcn4*. Of these 406 embryos,

95, 206 and 105 carried nonsense mutations in 0, 1 and 2 *hcn4* alleles at 2dpf,

respectively. Of the 406 embryos, 349 passed quality control at 5dpf, or which 81,

177 and 91 embryos carried 0, 1 and 2 mutated alleles, respectively. The statistical

power to detect effects of nonsense mutations in *hcn4* on sinoatrial pauses was thus

substantially higher in the pilot study. Combining data from the CRISPR/Cas9 and

sa11188 experiments provided us with 51 and 43 sinoatrial pauses at 2 and 5dpf, and

confirmed an >2-fold higher odds of sinoatrial pauses for each additional mutated

hcn4 allele at 2 and at 5dpf (**Table 2**). Embryos carrying nonsense mutations in both

hcn4 alleles even had 9-fold higher odds of sinoatrial pauses at 5dpf than embryos

free from CRISPR/Cas9-induced and sa11188 mutations in *hcn4* ($P=1.4 \times 10^{-5}$, **Table**

2). Genotype distributions did not deviate from Hardy Weinberg equilibrium in either

the CRISPR/Cas9 or sa11188 experiment, confirming that nonsense mutations in

hcn4 were not lethal between 2 and 5dpf.

Of the remaining candidate genes examined in the multiplexed CRISPR/Cas9

experiment, only mutations in *syt10* showed a trend for higher odds of sinoatrial

pauses at 2dpf (**Supp Table 6**). This is likely a transient effect, since the six embryos

with nonsense mutations in both *syt10* alleles that showed a sinoatrial pause at 2dpf

did not die between 2 and 5dpf and did not show a sinoatrial pause at 5dpf. In fact,

each additional mutated allele in *syt10* tended to *protect* from sinoatrial pauses at

5dpf; none of the 41 embryos with nonsense mutations in both *syt10* alleles showed a

sinoatrial pause at 5dpf (**Supp Table 5**).

Table 2: Effect of mutations in *hcn4* on sinoatrial pauses in data from the CRISPR/Cas9 F₁ and sa11188 experiments combined

Age	Model	Study	$n_{unaffected}$	$n_{affected}$	CRISPR/Cas9 multiplex OR	LCI	UCI	P
2dpf	Additive	CRISPR/Cas9 F₁	258	39	2.749	1.461	5.171	1.71E-03
		sa11188	394	12	1.697	0.695	4.148	2.50E-01
		Combined	678	51	2.245	1.358	3.710	1.60E-03
	2 vs. 0	CRISPR/Cas9 F₁	127	23	3.667	0.633	21.249	1.47E-01
		sa11188	193	7	2.529	0.468	13.657	2.80E-01
		Combined	414	30	2.916	0.851	9.993	8.90E-02
5dpf	Additive	CRISPR/Cas9 F₁	312	9	2.460	0.680	8.899	1.70E-01
		sa11188	308	34	2.252	1.303	3.893	3.70E-03
		Combined	620	43	2.762	1.320	5.782	7.00E-03
	2 vs. 0	CRISPR/Cas9 F₁	231	4	-	-	-	-
		sa11188	151	16	7.885	1.719	36.163	7.90E-03
		Combined	382	20	9.015	3.348	24.277	1.40E-05
Any	Additive	Combined	631	90	2.121	1.456	3.090	8.90E-05
	2 vs. 0	Combined	391	47	3.687	1.651	8.232	1.50E-03

Associations between the presense of sinoatrial pauses during the 30s recording and the number of mutated alleles in *hcn4* weighted by their predicted effect on protein function (additive), or in embryos with nonsense mutations in both *hcn4* alleles vs. embryos free from CRISPR-induced or sa11188 mutations in *hcn4* (2 vs. 0) at 2 days post-fertilization (dpf), 5dpf, or at either time point (any). In the CRISPR/Cas9 experiment, associations were examined using logistic regression, adjusting for time of day, batch and for the weighted number of mutated alleles in the other genes as fixed factors; in the sa11188 experiment and combined analysis, associations were examined using mixed models (xtmelogit in Stata), with embryos nested in batches and experiments and adjusting for time of day as a fixed factor.

Effects of mutations in candidate genes on heart rate variability and heart rate

We next examined the effect of CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations on HRV and heart rate in embryos free from sinoatrial pauses and arrests. Embryos with CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations in *hcn4* tended to have a higher HRV and a higher heart rate at 2dpf (**Fig 3, Supp Fig 3, Supp Tables 7-8**). From 2 to 5dpf, embryos with CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations in *hcn4* on average had a larger decrease in HRV and a larger increase in heart rate, resulting in a lower HRV and a higher heart rate at 5dpf (**Figs 3-5, Supp Fig 3, Supp Tables 7-8**). At 5dpf, standardized effect sizes of mutations in *hcn4* on HRV and heart rate were of similar magnitude but opposite direction (**Fig 5, Supp Tables 7-8**). For heart rate, effect estimates were directionally consistent across the CRISPR/Cas9 and sa11188 experiments, but were more conservative in the latter, both at 2 and at 5dpf (**Fig 5**). A lower frame rate in the sa11188 experiment (i.e. 20 frames/s) meant we could not examine the effect of sa11188 mutations in *hcn4* on HRV in the pilot study.

Across the remaining candidate genes, the 17 embryos with one CRISPR/Cas9 mutated *rgs6* allele on average had a nearly 0.5 SD units lower heart rate. The effect

size for HRV was ~2-fold lower and did not reach significance (**Fig 3, Supp Fig 3,**

Supp Tables 4, 7). Furthermore, embryos with mutations in *si:dkey-65j6.2* (i.e.

KIAA1755) tended to have: 1) a higher HRV at 2dpf; 2) a larger decrease in HRV

from 2 to 5dpf; and 3) a higher HRV at 5dpf (**Fig 3, Supp Fig 3, Supp Table 7**).

While we did not observe an effect of mutations in *si:dkey-65j6.2* or *quo* on heart rate

at 2 or 5dpf, embryos with mutations in *si:dkey-65j6.2* tended to have a smaller

increase in heart rate from 2 to 5dpf. An opposite trend was observed in embryos with

mutations in *quo* (**Fig 3, Supp Table 7**). Similarly, embryos with nonsense mutations

in both *neo1a* alleles showed a larger increase in heart rate from 2 to 5dpf than

embryos free from CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations, without showing a difference in

heart rate at 2 or 5dpf (**Fig 3, Supp Table 8**). This suggests that 5dpf may have been

too early to detect true genetic effects of mutations in *KIAA1755* and/or *NEO1*

orthologues on heart rate.

Figure 3: Effect of CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations in candidate genes on (change in) heart rate variability (top) and heart rate (bottom) at 2 days post-fertilization (dpf, n=234) and 5dpf (n=285). Full dots and solid whiskers show the effect size and 95% confidence interval (CI) for each additional mutated allele, weighted by the mutation's predicted effect on protein function. Open dots and dotted whiskers indicate the effect and 95% CI for nonsense mutations in both alleles vs. no CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations. Effects were adjusted for the weighted number of mutated alleles in the other targeted genes, as well as for time of day (fixed factors), with embryos nested in batches (random factor).
quo and *si:dkey-65j6.2* are orthologues of the human *KIAA1755*.

Figure 4: Association of heart rate variability and heart rate at 2 and 5 days post-fertilization (dpf) and effect of nonsense mutations in both *hcn4* alleles. Top: the assocation of heart rate variability and heart rate at 2 and 5dpf, with embryos carrying nonsense mutations in both *hcn4* alleles shown as pink diamonds. Bottom: the mean ± standard deviation of heart rate variability and heart rate at 2dpf and 5dpf for embryos with nonsense mutations in both *hcn4* alleles (n=5) vs. embryos without CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations in *hcn4* (n=147).

Figure 5: The effect of mutations in *hcn4* and treatment with ivabradine on (change in) heart rate variability and heart rate. Effects were examined by comparing embryos with nonsense mutations in both *hcn4* alleles and embryos free from CRISPR/Cas9 or sa11188 mutations; as well as using an additive model, weighing the number of mutated alleles by their predicted effect on protein function based on Ensembl's Variant Effect Predictor (VEP). Effects were adjusted for time of day and the weighted number of mutated alleles in other targeted genes as fixed factors, and with larvae nested in batches and experiment (for the combined analysis, random factor). Dots and whiskers represent effect sizes and 95% confidence intervals.

Effect of mutations in candidate genes on body size

Besides having a lower heart rate at 2dpf, embryos with CRISPR/Cas9-induced

mutations in *rgs6* were shorter at 2 and 5 dpf, and had a smaller dorsal body surface

area normalized for body length at 5dpf (**Supp Figs 4, 7; Supp Table 9**). Embryos

with mutations in *si:dkey-65j6.2* tended to be leaner at both 2 and 5dpf, while

embryos with mutations in *quo* were larger at both time points (**Supp Figs 4, 7: Supp**

Tables 9-10). Embryos with mutations in *neo1a* tended to be larger at 2dpf but not at

5dpf (**Supp Figs 4, 7; Supp Tables 9-10**).

Transcriptomic analyses

Mutagenesis by targeting a proximal site in the protein-coding sequence using

CRISPR/Cas9 has been shown to trigger a compensatory upregulation of the

expression of transcripts with sequence similarity[25]. To explore if such compensation

may have influenced our results, we next targeted *hcn4* and/or *hcn4l* using

CRISPR/Cas9 at the single cell stage, pooled five embryos per sample at 5dpf, and

performed a qRT-PCR analysis to examine compensatory effects on transcripts with

at least 75% sequence similarity to the main zebrafish hcn4 transcript (**Supp Tables**

11-12). Compared with control-injected embryos, targeting *hcn4* or *hcn4* and *hcn4l*

simultaneously – using the same gRNAs and protocols used to generate

CRISPR/Cas9 founders – resulted in a lower expression of *hcn4* at the CRISPR/Cas9-

targeted site at 5dpf, confirming on-target activity for the *hcn4* gRNA (**Fig 6**). We

observed no effect of targeting *hcn4* on expression of the last exon of *hcn4*, which

likely reflects the low proportion of embryos with a nonsense mutation in both *hcn4*

alleles in the phenotypic screen (i.e. 2.4%, **Supp Table 4**). However, we did observe

what may be a compensatory increase in the expression of zebrafish orthologues of

HCN1 and *HCN2* in samples of *hcn4*-targeted embryos (**Fig 6**). While the effect of

targeting *hcn4* on the expression of *CABZ01086574.1* (likely an orthologue of *HCN2*)

and the trend for an effect on *hcn1* expression were driven by one sample of *hcn4-*

targeted embryos, the compensatory effect on *hcn2b* expression was more robust

(**Supp Table 13**). Possible compensatory effects were observed when targeting *hcn4*,

but not when targeting *hcn4* and *hcn4l* simultaneously.

Figure 6: qRT-PCR results for the expression of transcripts with high (>75%) sequence simila-rity to the main zebrafish *hcn4* transcript, with and without CRISPR/Cas9 targeting of *hcn4*, *hcn4l*, or *hcn4* & *hcn4l*. Each sample consists of five pooled, 5 day-old embryos, which at the single cell stage had been injected with: 1) *hcn4* and *hcn4l* gRNAs, or Cas9 mRNA (controls, in blue, n=26); or with Cas9 mRNA together with 2) *hcn4* gRNA (red, n=10); 3) *hcn4l* gRNA (green, n=12); or 4) *hcn4* and *hcn4l* gRNA (orange, n=21). In all samples, tech-nological triplicates of quantification cycles (Cq) were averaged, and normalized using expression in uninjected controls as calibrator, and expression of *mob4* as a reference gene, using the Pfaffl method. For *hcn4* and *hcn4l*, expression was quantified at the CRISPR/Cas9 target site and at the last exon. Differences between the three experimental conditions and controls were examined in a multiple linear regression analysis, adjusting for batch (n=2). *CABZ01086574.1* is likely an orthologue of the human *HCN2*. Significant differences with controls are highlighted by * ($P<0.05$) or # ($P<1 \times 10^{-4}$). Boxes show means ± 1 SD. Genes were ordered by sequence similarity to the main *hcn4* transcript.

Nanopore off-target sequencing

We next used *in vitro* Nanopore off-target sequencing (Nano-OTS)[26] in DNA from an

adult Tg(*acta2*:*GFP*) positive fish used to generate CRISPR/Cas9 founders to explore

if off-target mutagenic activity may have influenced the results for *hcn4*; and if it may

have played a role in the relatively large number of missed sequencing calls for *neo1b*

(**Supp Table 4**). No off-target mutations were identified for the *hcn4* and *neo1b*

gRNAs. In spite of five mismatches, we did observe one off-target mutation for the

hcn4l gRNA, inside the coding region of the glutamine transporter *slc38a3a* (**Supp**

Fig 8). This off-target is unlikely to have influenced our results, since we did not

observe effects of CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations in *hcn4l*, and since the off-target

mutagenic activity was even lower than the on-target activity for this gRNA (**Supp**

Fig 8). Furthermore, *in vitro* off-target activity does not necessarily imply *in vivo*

mutagenic activity.

One off-target - in spite of four mismatches - was observed for the *neo1a*

gRNA. Since this off-target was also characterized by low mutagenic activity and was

located >30kb away from the nearest gene (**Supp Fig 8**), large indel mutations at the

neo1b target site due to *neo1a* or *neo1b* gRNA off-target activity are highly unlikely.

Hence, it seems safe to conclude that either the 78 missing sequencing calls for *neo1b*

were missing at random - e.g. due to inherently present variants interfering with

primer binding – or that they were caused by large indel mutations in *neo1b* resulting

from on-target *neo1b* gRNA activity that did not subsequently influence outcomes of

interest.

Potential druggability

Three of the six human candidate genes taken forward for experimental follow-up

showed evidence for a role in cardiac rhythm and/or rate in zebrafish embryos (i.e.

HCN4, *RGS6*, *KIAA1755*). Only a trend for an effect on sinoatrial pauses was

observed for the *SYT10* orthologue, albeit with an opposite direction of effect at 2 and

5dpf. We next examined whether these four genes are already targeted by existing,

FDA-approved medication using the drug-gene interaction (DGI) database

(www.dgidb.org). Only *HCN4* is currently targeted[27], i.e. using ivabradine, an open

channel blocker of I_f channels[28] (see below). We next identified predicted interaction

partners of the proteins encoded by the four genes, using GeneMania[29] and

STRING[30]. Some partners are targeted by FDA-approved medication (**Supp Table**

14), amongst which are several anti-hypertensive agents (e.g. Hydrocholorothiazide

and Diazoxide), as well as a neuromuscular blocking agent (i.e. Botulinum toxin type

A) and statins.

Ivabradine

Given the role of mutations in *hcn4* on HRV and heart rate, we next examined the

effect of 24h of exposure to 0, 10 or 25 µM ivabradine in DMSO on these outcomes

at 5dpf, in embryos free from CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations. One embryo with a

sinoatrial pause was excluded from the analysis, as were 13 embryos with suboptimal

image or image quantification quality. In the remaining 118 embryos, ivabradine

treatment resulted in a dose dependent higher HRV and a lower heart rate, i.e.

directionally opposite to the effects of mutations in *hcn4* (**Fig 5, Supp Fig 9, Supp**

Table 15). In fact, the effect on heart rate was of similar size – but opposite direction

- for 10µM ivabradine when compared with nonsense mutations in both *hcn4* alleles,

in data from the CRISPR/Cas9 and sa11188 experiments combined (**Fig 5**).

Interestingly, the effect of ivabradine on heart rate was 1.5 to 1.6-fold higher than its

effect on HRV (**Fig 5, Supp Table 15**).

Discussion

Large-scale, *in vivo* follow-up studies of candidate genes in GWAS-identified loci remain sparse. Here we present an objective, image-based pipeline to systematically characterize candidate genes for cardiac rhythm, rate, and conduction-related disorders. Using a zebrafish model system, we confirmed a role for genes previously implicated in heart rate and rhythm (*rgs6* and *hcn4*); show that effects of ivabradine on heart rate and rhythm are opposite when compared with the early-stage effects of mutations in one of the drug's molecular targets (*hcn4*); identified a previously unanticipated gene influencing heart rate variability (*si:dkey-65j6.2*, i.e. *KIAA1755*); and observed effects of previously unanticipated genes on early growth and development (*rgs6*, *quo*, *si:dkey-65j6.2*, *neo1a*). In addition, we confirmed that mutations in *hcn4* increase the odds of sinoatrial pauses and arrests[15]. The latter adds weight to the notion that GWAS-identified common variants for complex traits can flag genes for which rare, detrimental mutations cause severe, early-onset disorders[7,31,32]. We show here that an image- and CRISPR/Cas9-based zebrafish model system can be used for systematic characterization of candidate genes in GWAS-identified loci for complex traits. In the near future, integration of evidence across a range of species and approaches should close the existing gap between association and functional understanding. This will no doubt yield new targets that can be translated into efficient new medication for prevention and treatment of complex diseases.

The locus harboring *HCN4* has been identified in GWAS for HRV[3], heart rate[4] and atrial fibrillation[33]. *HCN4* belongs to the family of I_f or "funny" channels, aptly named for being activated upon hyperpolarization and a non-selective permeability for Na^+ and K^+. It is expressed in the sinoatrial node[34,35] and plays an important role in

cardiac pace making[36]. The heart rate lowering agent ivabradine[37] is an open channel

blocker of I_f channels, and has been shown to reduce heart rate and increase HRV in

humans[38,39]. It also reduces cardiovascular and all-cause mortality in heart failure

patients[40]. In line with findings in humans, one day of treatment with ivabradine

resulted in a dose dependent lower heart rate and higher HRV in 5dpf zebrafish

embryos. Since the drug had a 1.5 to 1.6 fold larger effect on heart rate than on HRV,

its protective effect on cardiovascular mortality in heart failure patients may indeed be

driven by its heart rate lowering effect[28]. The larger effect size for heart rate than for

HRV also suggests that ivabradine may influence HRV at least in part through its

non-vagal effects on heart rate, supporting an intrinsic effect of heart rate on HRV, as

has been postulated earlier[41]. Exercise training-induced bradycardia has previously

been shown to result from HCN4 downregulation[42]. Our findings suggest that

downregulation of HCN4 may be at least partly responsible for the higher HRV in

exercisers, in contrast or addition to a higher vagal tone in exercisers[43]. With only one

affected embryo in the ivabradine experiment, we could not examine the role of the

drug in prevention of sinoatrial pauses.

Across two separate experiments, we observed that embryos with nonsense

mutations in both *hcn4* alleles have 9-fold higher odds of sinoatrial pauses at 5dpf, as

well as a *higher* heart rate and *lower* HRV in embryos free from sinoatrial pauses.

Hence, nonselective open I_f channel blocking using ivabradine and nonsense

mutations in *hcn4* have directionally opposite effects on heart rate and HRV in 5dpf

zebrafish embryos. Others previously showed that *HCN4*[+/-] humans are typically

characterized by bradycardia[44]; *Hcn4*[-/-] mice die prenatally, without arrhythmias and

with lower heart rates when compared with *Hcn4*[+/-] *and Hcn4*[+/+] mice[36]; and 2dpf

zebrafish embryos with experimentally downregulated *hcn4* expression vs. un-

injected controls have a higher odds of sinoatrial arrests and lower heart rate[15]. In this light, a higher heart rate in 5dpf zebrafish embryos with nonsense mutations in both *hcn4* alleles could be considered unexpected. However, results from our qRT-PCR experiment suggest that this higher heart rate is likely driven by a compensatory upregulation of the expression of *HCN1* and *HCN2* orthologues. The potential compensatory increase in *hcn1* and *CABZ01086574.1* expression is driven by only one sample, but since technical triplicates show coherent results, this may reflect the low mutagenic efficiency of the *hcn4* gRNA. The likely compensatory increase in *hcn2b* expression upon CRISPR/cas9 targeting of *hcn4* was more robust. Results from a Nanopore-OTS screen showed that off-target activity of the *hcn4* gRNA is highly unlikely to explain our results. Thus, it seems likely that a higher heart rate in embryos with nonsense mutations in *hcn4* - likely facilitated by a higher expression of *HCN1* and *HCN2* orthologues – serves as an attempt to prevent sinoatrial arrests and sudden cardiac death. This physiological attempt to compensate a genetic defect will no doubt be followed by the bradycardia observed in other species once the heart can no longer cope with the persistently elevated workload. Besides from an absence of the compensatory response when downregulating gene expression using morpholino oligonucleotides[45], the lower heart rate previously reported in 2dpf zebrafish embryos with downregulated *hcn4*[15] could also have resulted from RNA toxicity, off-target effects, or a developmental delay caused by the microinjection itself[15,46].

Regulator of G protein signaling 6 (RGS6) plays a role in the parasympathetic regulation of heart rate[47] and is a negative regulator of muscarinic signaling, thus decreasing HRV to prevent bradycardia. Common variants near *RGS6* have been identified in GWAS for resting heart rate[6,48,49], heart rate recovery after exercise[49,50] and HRV[3]. An eQTL analysis using GTEx data showed that the minor T-allele in

rs4899412 - associated with lower HRV - is also associated with a higher expression

of *RGS6* in whole blood and tibial nerve. This is directionally consistent with humans

with loss-of-function variants in *RGS6* showing higher HRV[51]. Also in line with this,

Rgs6[-/-] mice were previously characterized by lower heart rate, higher HRV and

higher susceptibility to bradycardia and atrioventricular block[52]. In our study,

zebrafish embryos that were heterozygous for CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations in

rgs6 on average had a nearly 0.5 SD units lower heart rate at 2dpf. Hence, our results

for heart rate at 2dpf are in line with studies in mice. The effect on heart rate was no

longer apparent at 5dpf, in spite of a slightly better statistical power. We did not

detect an effect of mutations in *rgs6* on HRV or risk of sinoatrial pauses or arrests at 2

or 5dpf.

Non-synonymous SNPs in *KIAA1755* have been identified in GWAS for HRV[3]

and heart rate[5]. In our analysis, mutations in *si:dkey-65j6.2* tend to result in a higher

HRV at 2 and 5dpf, but do not affect heart rate. In humans, the minor C-allele of the

HRV-associated rs6123471 in the non-coding 3' UTR of *KIAA1755* tends to be

associated with a lower expression of *KIAA1755* in the left ventricle and atrial

appendage, amongst other tissues (GTEx[53]); as well as with a higher HRV[3] and a

lower heart rate[4]. Hence, a higher HRV at 2 and 5dpf for each additional mutated

allele in *si:dkey-65j6.2* is directionally consistent with results in humans. Our results

suggest that the GWAS-identified association in the *KIAA1755* locus - and possibly

other loci - with heart rate may have been driven by HRV. This would explain why

the eleven HRV-associated loci that showed evidence of an association with heart rate

all did so in the expected (i.e. opposite) direction from a phenotypic point of view[3].

KIAA1755 is a previously uncharacterized gene that shows a broad expression pattern,

including different brain regions and the left atrial appendage (GTEx[53]). Future

mechanistic studies are required to distill how *KIAA1755* influences heart rhythm.

In addition to a comparison of specimens with nonsense mutations in both

alleles vs. zero mutated alleles, we examined the role of mutations in each gene using

an additive model. The much larger sample size of this alternative approach helped

put results from the more traditional approach into perspective. In our pipeline, we

decided to raise founders to adulthood, and to phenotypically characterize and

sequence F_1 embryos, with stable genotypes. Screening the F_0 or F_2 generation would

have each had their own advantages and disadvantages. Wu and colleagues described

a powerful approach to efficiently disrupt and analyze F_0 embryos[54]. However, this

approach requires drawing conclusions from results in injected, mosaic founders, and

is not compatible with multiplexing of multiple gRNAs and target sites. Screening the

F_2 generation on the other hand requires hand picking of F_1 fish with suitable

mutations, which limits the throughput.

The large differences in mutant allele frequency across the targeted genes can

be attributed to several factors. First, mosaic founders were in-crossed six times, using

random mating. Hence, different founder fish may have produced the screened F_1

offspring in each crossing. Secondly, while all gRNAs were pre-tested for mutagenic

activity, mutated alleles detected in the test injections that didn't affect the germline

were not included in our screen. Thirdly, mutations that are embryonic lethal prior to

2dpf did not make it into the screen.

Of the three genes for which we show effects of mutations on cardiac rhythm

and/or rate, only *HCN4* is currently targeted by FDA-approved drugs[55]. Although the

other two genes are not highlighted as being druggable by small molecules, targeting

via antisense oligonucleotides, antibodies, or other approaches can be explored.

Furthermore, expanding our search revealed several druggable interaction partners of

putative causal genes that are already targeted by FDA-approved anti-hypertensive

and neuromuscular blocking agents, amongst others. *SNAP25*, a proposed interaction

partner of *SYT10,* is the target of botulinum toxin A. Injection of botulinum toxin A

into the neural ganglia of CAD/atrial fibrillation patients was recently shown to

reduce the occurrence of post-operational atrial fibrillation[56]. For existing drugs that

target interaction partners of putative causal genes, it is worthwhile examining the

effect on cardiac rhythm, rate and development, since repurposing FDA-approved

drugs would imply the quickest and safest route to the clinic. Quantifying possibly

unknown beneficial or adverse side effects of these drugs related to cardiac rhythm

would also be informative.

Four potential limitations of our approach should be discussed. Firstly,

acquiring 30s recordings implies that false negatives for sinoatrial pauses or arrests

are inevitable. We decided to exclude the embryos with a sinoatrial pause or arrest

during positioning under the microscope from the analysis, because the case status of

these embryos cannot be confirmed objectively, but they are not appropriate controls

either. This limitation will at most have resulted in conservative effect estimates.

Secondly, CRISPR/Cas9 gRNAs with predicted off-target effects free from

mismatches were avoided. However, two of the selected targets - i.e. for *hcn4* and

si:dkey-65j6.2 - had predicted off-target activity with three mismatches in *galnt10* and

dclk1, respectively, at the time we designed the gRNAs (**Supp Table 2**). Human

orthologues of these two genes have previously been associated with heart rate

variability-related traits[57] (*dclk1*), as well as with carotid intima-media thickness[58] and

body mass index[59–61] (*galnt10*). However, none of the 381 embryos carried

CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations at the three predicted off-target sites (**Supp Table**

2). Furthermore, *in vitro* genome-wide Nano-OTS only revealed two off-target sites

across the four gRNAs of *HCN4* and *NEO1* orthologues, both with low mutagenic

activity. Taken together, this implies that gRNA off-target mutagenic activity is

extremely unlikely to have influenced our results. Thirdly, we in-crossed mosaic

founders (F_0) and phenotypically screened and sequenced the F_1 generation. For some

genes, this yielded a very small number of embryos with 0 or 2 mutated alleles (i.e.

for *rgs6*, *hcn4*, and *hcn4l*), resulting in a low statistical power to detect a true role for

mutations in these genes. In spite of this limitation, we still detected significant effects

of mutations in *rgs6* and *hcn4*, and confirmed our results for mutations in *hcn4* on

heart rate and risk of sinoatrial pauses in an independent experiment with more

statistical power. Unfortunately, the frame rate of image acquisition in the pilot

experiment was too low to also replicate effects of mutations in *hcn4* on HRV.

Finally, we recorded the atrium only, to enable a higher frame rate, a higher resolution

in time for HRV quantification, and a higher statistical power to detect small genetic

effects on HRV. As a result, any ventricular abnormalities that may have occurred

were not registered, and uncontrolled atrial contractions may thus reflect atrial

fibrillation, premature atrial contractions, high atrial rate, or atrial tachycardia.

Strengths of our study include its repeated measures design, which enabled us to

capture genetic effects at different stages of early development in zebrafish, as well as

genetic effects on phenotypic changes over time. Furthermore, the throughput of the

setup allowed us to examine the effect of mutations in multiple genes simultaneously,

in a larger than usual sample for *in vivo* genetic screens. Our results demonstrate that

a large sample size is paramount to robustly detect genetic effects on complex traits in

zebrafish embryos when screening the F_1 generation, even for nonsense mutations.

Identifying CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations allele-specifically using a custom-

written algorithm helped us distinguish between heterozygous and compound

heterozygous embryos, which in turn helped pinpoint the effect of mutations in these

genes. Also, our study is based on a high-throughput imaging approach with

objective, automated quantification, as compared with manual counting and

annotation of heart rate in most[4] but not all[12,62] earlier studies. Finally, for all genes

that showed an effect on HRV, observed effects were directionally consistent with

eQTL associations in humans. This further emphasizes the strength of our model

system and the robustness of our findings.

In conclusion, our large-scale imaging approach shows that zebrafish embryos

can be used for rapid and comprehensive follow-up of GWAS-prioritized candidate

genes for HRV and heart rate. This will likely increase our understanding of the

underlying biology of cardiac rhythm and rate, and may yield novel drug targets to

prevent cardiac death.

Methods

Candidate gene selection

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Candidate genes in GWAS-identified loci for HRV were identified as described in

detail in Nolte et al.[3]. Of the 18 identified candidate genes, six were selected for

experimental follow-up. This selection was based on overlap with findings from

GWAS for heart rate (*KIAA1755*, *SYT10*, *HCN4*, *GNG11*)[4], as well as with results

from eQTL analyses in sinoatrial node and brain (*RGS6*). Additional candidate genes

from the same or nearby loci were also selected for experimental follow-up, i.e.

NEO1, which resides next to *HCN4*. Zebrafish orthologues of the human genes were

identified using Ensembl, as well as using a comprehensive synteny search using

Genomicus[63] (**Supp Table 1**). Of the selected genes, *GNG11*, *SYT10* and *RGS6* have

one orthologue in zebrafish, and *HCN4*, *NEO1* and *KIAA1755* each have two

orthologues, resulting in a total of nine zebrafish orthologues for six human candidate

genes (**Table 1**).

CRISPR/Cas9-based mutagenesis

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All nine zebrafish genes were targeted together using a multiplexed CRISPR/Cas9

approach[20]. Briefly, guide-RNAs (gRNAs) were selected using ChopChop[64] and

CRISPRscan[65] (**Supp Table 2**), based on their predicted efficiency, a moderate to

high GC-content, proximal location in the protein-coding sequence, and absence of

predicted off-target effects without mismatches. Oligonucleotides were designed as

described[21], consisting of a T7 or SP6 promoter sequence (for gRNAs starting with

'GG' or 'GA', respectively), a gene-specific gRNA-target sequence, and an overlap

sequence to a generic gRNA. The gene-specific oligonucleotides were annealed to a

generic 80bp long oligonucleotide at 98°C for 2 mins, 50°C for 10 mins, and 72°C for

10 mins. The products were checked for correct length on a 2% agarose gel. The

oligonucleotides were subsequently transcribed *in vitro* using the manufacturer's

instructions (TranscriptAid T7 high yield transcription kit / MEGAscript SP6

transcription kit, both ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, USA). The gRNAs were

purified, after which the integrity of the purified gRNAs was examined on a 2%

agarose gel. The zebrafish codon-optimized plasmid pT3TS-nls-zCas9-nls was used

as a template to produce Cas9 mRNA[66]. The plasmid was linearized with Xba1, and

then purified using the Qiaprep Spin Miniprep kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). The

DNA was transcribed using the mMESSAGE mMACHINE T3 Transcription Kit

(ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, USA), followed by LiCl precipitation. The

quality of the RNA was confirmed on a 1% agarose gel.

Husbandry & microinjections

A zebrafish line with GFP-labelled α-smooth muscle cells Tg(*acta2*:*GFP*)[21] was used

to visualize the beating heart. To this end, eggs from an in-cross of Tg(*acta2*:*GFP*)

fish were co-injected with a mix of Cas9 mRNA (final concentration 150 ng/μl) and

all nine gRNAs (final concentration 25 ng/μl each) in a total volume of 2nL, at the

single-cell stage. CRISPR/Cas9 injected embryos were optically screened for the

presence of Tg(*acta2*:*GFP*) at 2 days post fertilization (dpf), using an automated

fluorescence microscope (EVOS FL Cell imaging system, ThermoFisher Scientific,

Waltham, USA). Tg(*acta2*:*GFP*) carriers were retained and raised to adulthood in

systems with circulating, filtered and temperature controlled water (Aquaneering, Inc,

San Diego, CA). All procedures and husbandry were conducted in accordance with

Swedish and European regulations, and have been approved by the Uppsala

University Ethical Committee for Animal Research (C142/13 and C14/16).

Experimental procedure imaging

The mosaic founders (F_0 generation) were only used to yield offspring (F_1 embryos) for experiments. To reach the experimental sample size, founders were in-crossed six times using random mating. Eggs were collected after founders were allowed to reproduce for 45 mins, to minimize variation in developmental stage. Fertilized eggs were placed in an incubator at 28.5°C. At 1dpf, embryos were dechorionated using pronase (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Germany).

At 2dpf, embryos were removed from the incubator and allowed to adapt to controlled room temperature (21.5 °C) for 20 mins. Individual embryos were exposed to 100 μg/ml Tricaine (MS-222, Sigma-Aldrich, Darmstadt, Germany) for 1 min before being aspirated, positioned in the field of view of a fluorescence microscope, and oriented dorsally using a Vertebrate Automated Screening Technology (VAST) BioImager (Union Biometrica Inc., Geel, Belgium). We subsequently acquired twelve whole-body images, one image every 30 degrees of rotation, using the camera of the VAST BioImager, to quantify body length, dorsal and lateral surface area and volume, as well as the presence or absence of cardiac edema. The VAST BioImager then positioned and oriented the embryo to visualize the beating atrium and triggered the upright Leica DM6000B fluorescence microscope to start imaging using an HCX APO L 40X/0.80 W objective and L5 ET, k filter system (Micromedic AB, Stockholm, Sweden). Images of the beating atrium were acquired for 30s at a frame rate of 152 frames/s using a DFC365 FX high-speed CCD camera (Micromedic AB, Stockholm, Sweden). After acquisition, the embryos were dispensed into a 96-well plate, rinsed from tricaine, and placed back into the incubator. The procedure was repeated at 5dpf, to allow capturing of genetic effects that influence HRV and heart rate differently at different stages of development[22]. After imaging at 5dpf, the

embryos were once again dispensed into 96-well plates, sacrificed, and stored at -

80°C for further processing.

Quantification of cardiac traits and body size

A custom-written MATLAB script was used to convert the images acquired by the

CCD camera into quantitative traits. To acquire the heart rate, each frame of the

sequence was correlated with a template frame. The repeating pattern yields a

periodic graph from the correlation values and by detecting the peaks in the graph we

can assess the heart rate. The template frame should represent one of the extreme

states in the cardiac cycle, i.e. end-systole or end-diastole. To detect these frames, we

examined the correlation between the first 100 frames. The combination of frames

that showed the lowest correlation corresponded to the heart being in opposite states.

One of these frames was chosen as the template[67]. This numeric information was

subsequently used to quantify: 1) heart rate as the inverse of RR-interval; 2) the

standard deviation of the normal-to-normal RR interval (SDNN); and 3) the root mean

square of successive heart beat interval differences (RMSSD). Finally, a graph of

pixel changes over time was generated across the 30s recording to help annotate the

script's performance. Inter-beat-intervals were used to objectively quantify sinoatrial

pauses (i.e. the atrium stops contracting for longer than 3x the median inter-beat-

interval of the embryo, **Figure 2, Supp recording 1**) and sinoatrial arrests (i.e. the

atrium stops contracting for longer than 2s, **Figure 2, Supp recording 2**). The graphs

of pixel changes over time were also used to identify embryos with other

abnormalities in cardiac rhythm. Such abnormalities were annotated as: uncontrolled

atrial contractions (**Figure 2, Supp Recording 3**); abnormal cardiac morphology (i.e.

a tube-like atrium, **Figure 2, Supp Recording 4**); or impaired cardiac contractility

(i.e. a vibrating rather than a contracting atrium, **Supp Recording 4**). These

phenotypes were annotated independently by two investigators (BvdH and MdH),

resulting in an initial concordance rate >90%. Discrepancies in annotation were

discussed and re-evaluated to reach consensus.

Bright-field images of the embryos were used to assess body length, dorsal and

lateral surface area, and body volume. Images were automatically segmented and

quantified using a custom-written CellProfiler[68] pipeline, followed by manual

annotation for segmentation quality. Embryos with suboptimal segmentation quality

due to the presence of an air-bubble on the capillary, a bent body, an incomplete

rotation during imaging, partial capturing of the embryo, or an over-estimation of size

were replaced by images with a 180° difference in rotation, or excluded from the

analysis for that outcome if the second image was also sub-optimally segmented. The

embryo was excluded from the analysis for body volume if more than four of the 12

images had a bad segmentation. Imaging, image quantification and image quality

control were all performed blinded to the sequencing results.

Quality control of phenotype data

A series of quality control steps was performed to ensure only high-quality data was

included in the genetic association analysis (**Supp Fig. 2**). First, graphs indicating that

one or more true beats were missed by the script were removed from the analysis *a*

priori (**Supp Fig. 2**). Second, embryos showing uncontrolled atrial contractions,

sinoatrial pauses or arrests, edema, abnormal morphology and/or reduced

contractility, and embryos showing a sinoatrial pause or arrest during positioning

under the microscope were excluded from the analyses for HRV and heart rate (**Suppl**

Fig. 2). The latter were also excluded from the analysis for sinoatrial pauses and

arrests, since we cannot ascertain case status for sinoatrial pauses and arrests in the

same rigorous manner for such embryos, but they are not appropriate controls either.

Third, genetic effects were only examined for cardiac outcomes with at least ten

cases, i.e. for sinoatrial pauses and arrests only.

Sample preparation for sequencing

After imaging at 5dpf, embryos were sacrificed and DNA was extracted by exposure

to lysis buffer (10mM Tris-HCl pH8, 50mM KCl, 1mM EDTA, 0.3% Tween 20,

0.3% Igepal) and proteinase K (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Germany) for 2 h at

55°C, followed by 10 min at 95°C to deactivate the proteinase K. Gene-specific

primers (150bp-300bp) amplifying gRNA-targeted and putative off-target regions in

dclk1b and both *galnt10* orthologues (**Supp Table 2**) were distilled from ChopChop[64]

and Primer3[69], and Illumina adaptor-sequences were added. Additionally, we included

96 un-injected Tg(*acta2*:*GFP*) embryos for sequencing across all gene-specific

regions to not mistake naturally occurring variants for CRISPR/Cas9-induced

mutations in our main exposures. The first PCR was conducted by denaturation at

98°C for 30s; amplification for 35 cycles at 98°C for 10s, 62°C for 30s and 72°C for

30s; followed by a final extension at 72°C for 2 mins. Amplified PCR products were

cleaned using magnetic beads (Mag-Bind PCR Clean-up Kit, Omega Bio-tek Inc.

Norcross, GA). The purified products were used as a template for the second PCR, in

which Illumina Nextera DNA library sequences were attached to allow multiplexed

sequencing of all CRISPR/Cas9-targeted sites across 383 embryos in a single lane.

The second PCR amplification was performed by denaturation at 98°C for 30s;

amplification for 25 cycles at 98°C for 10s, 66°C for 30s and 72°C for 30s; followed

by a final extension at 72°C for 2 mins. Products were then purified using magnetic

beads. All liquid handling was performed using a Hamilton Nimbus robot equipped

with a 96-head (Hamilton robotics, Bonaduz, Switzerland). Samples were pooled and

sequenced in a single lane on a MiSeq (2x250 bp paired-end, Illumina Inc., San

Diego, CA) at the National Genomics Infrastructure, Sweden.

Processing of sequencing data

A custom-written bioinformatics pipeline was developed in collaboration with the

National Bioinformatics Infrastructure Sweden, to prepare .fastq files for analysis.

First, a custom-written script was used to de-multiplex the .fastq files by gene and

well. PEAR[70] was then used to merge paired-end reads, followed by removal of low-

quality reads using FastX[71]. The reads were then mapped to the wildtype zebrafish

genome (Zv11) using STAR[72]. Next, we converted files from .sam to .bam format

using samtools[73], after which variants - mostly indels and SNVs - were called allele

specifically using a custom-written variant calling algorithm in R (Danio rerio

Identification of Variants by Haplotype - DIVaH). A summary of all unique

sequences identified at each targeted site is shown in **Supp Fig 5**. All unique variants

(**Supp Table 3**) located within ±30bps of the CRISPR/Cas9-targeted sites that were

identified across the two alleles were subsequently pooled, and used for functional

annotation using Ensembl's VEP[74]. Naturally occurring variants based on sequencing

of un-injected Tg(*acta2:GFP*) embryos or Ensembl were excluded. In absence of a

continuous score provided by variant effect prediction algorithms, we attributed

weights of 0.33, 0.66 and 1 for variants with a predicted low, moderate and high

impact on protein function. Pilot experiments suggested that this was a more powerful

approach than not weighting. Transcript-specific dosage scores were then calculated

by retaining the variant with the highest predicted impact on protein function for each

allele, target site, and embryo, followed by summing the scores across the two alleles

at each target site and embryo. Since all transcripts within a target site were affected

virtually identically, we only used the main transcript of each target site for the

genetic association analysis.

Most embryos had successfully called sequences in all nine CRISPR/Cas9-

targeted sites. Embryos with missing calls at more than two of the nine targeted sites

were excluded from the genetic association analysis. For the remaining 381 embryos,

missing calls were imputed to the mean dosage of the transcript. For *neo1b*, calling

failed in 78 embryos (**Supp Table 4**). The imputed mean dosage for the main

transcript of *neo1b* was still included in the genetic association analysis, since: 1) the

mutant allele frequency in successfully called embryos was very high (i.e. 0.934) and

an imputed call thus likely closely resembles the truth; and 2) the distribution of

embryos with a missed call was similar for all outcomes when compared with the

remaining embryos. Hence, using an imputed dosage was concluded to influence the

results less than to either exclude the gene from the analysis while it had been

targeted; or to discard the 78 embryos since they had been successfully phenotyped

and sequenced for the other targeted genes. However, the results for *neo1b* should still

be interpreted in light of its call rate. The mutant allele frequency was low for *hcn4*,

hcn4l and *rgs6*. No embryos carried CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations within ±30bp

of any of the three putative off-targets regions (i.e. *dclk1b* and both *galnt10*

orthologues, **Supp Table 2**).

qPCR to evaluate targeting hcn4 and hcn4l

We performed a qRT-PCR experiment to examine if targeting hcn4 and/or hcn4l

resulted in a compensatory upregulation of the expression of transcripts with >75%

sequence similarity to the main transcript of *hcn4*. To this end, fertilized eggs of

Tg(acta2*:GFP*) positive fish were either: 1) left un-injected; or injected at the single

cell stage with: 2) Cas9 mRNA only; 3) *hcn4* and *hcn4l* gRNA only; 4) *hcn4* gRNA

and Cas9 mRNA; 5) *hcn4l* gRNA and Cas9 mRNA; or 6) *hcn4* and *hcn4l* gRNAs and

Cas9 mRNA. The same protocols, quantities and gRNAs were used as described

above for generating founders (see: *Husbandry & microinjections*). Embryos were

raised to 5dpf in an incubator at 28.5°C. On the morning of day 5, within each of the

six conditions, multiple pools of five embryos per sample were flash frozen in liquid

nitrogen. The experiment was performed twice, with all conditions generated on both

occasions, to generate a total of 69 samples for conditions 1 to 6 described above.

Samples were homogenized in Trizol using a 20-gauge needle and a 1ml syringe.

RNA was extracted using the TRIzol™ Plus RNA Purification Kit and Phasemaker™

Tubes Complete System (Cat.No: A33254, Invitrogen, Waltham, MA). The quality

and concentration of the extracted RNA was measured with the Agilent RNA 6000

nano kit (Cat-No: 5067-1511, Agilent, Santa Clara, CA) on an Agilent 2100

Bioanalyzer. *In vitro* transcription of 100ng of RNA per sample was performed using

the SuperScript IN VILO Master Mix (Cat.No: 11755500, Invitrogen), and

quantitative PCR was performed in triplicate using the PowerUp SYBR Green Master

Mix on either an AriaMx (Agilent) or a StepOnePlus (Applied Biosystems, Waltham,

MA) Real-Time PCR System. Pooled cDNA samples were used to optimize the

primer concentrations and generate standard curves for the calculation of primer

efficiencies. Primers with an efficiency close to 100% and a single peak in melt curve

analysis were selected (**Supp Table 11**). We used 1ng of cDNA as input for the rest

of the reactions with the following cycle conditions: 50°C for 2 min (1 cycle), 95°C

for 2 min (1 cycle), 95°C for 3s and 60°C for 30s (40 cycles). Differences between the

three experimental conditions (conditions 4 to 6) and the two injected controls

combined (conditions 2 and 3) on gene expression at the *hcn4* and *hcn4l*

CRISPR/Cas9-targeted site and at the last exon, as well as for *CABZ01086574.1*

(*HCN2*), *hcn2b*, *hcn3* and *hcn1* (**Supp Table 11**) were examined using Pfaffl's

method[75], taking into account primer efficiencies (**Supp Table 12**); expression levels

in non-injected controls as calibrator; and expression of *mob4* as the reference gene[76].

Nanopore off-target sequencing (OTS)

We next used Nanopore off-target sequencing (Nano-OTS) to explore whether

CRISPR/Cas9 off-target activity may have influenced the results for *hcn4*, and

whether off-targets may have caused the relatively large number of missed calls for

neo1b. To this end, DNA was extracted using the MagAttract HMW kit (Qiagen,

Hilden, Germany) according to the manufacturer's instructions for extraction from

tissue. Genomic DNA was fragmented to 20 kb using Megaruptor 2 (Diagenode,

Liege, Belgium) and size selected with a 10 kb cut-off using the Blue Pippin system

(Sage Science, Beverly, MA). Libraries for Nano-OTS were prepared as described

recently by Höijer et al[26]. In short, ribonucleoproteins (RNPs) were prepared as a pool

using the *hcn4*, *hcn4l*, *neo1a* and *neo1b* gRNAs. Next, 3μg of fragmented and size-

selected DNA was dephosphorylated and digested by Cas9 using the RNPs, and DNA

ends were dA-tailed. Finally, sequencing adapters from the SQK-LSK109 kit (Oxford

Nanopore Technologies, Oxford, UK) were ligated to the Cas9-cleaved ends.

Sequencing was performed on one R9.4.1 flow cell using the MinION system (Oxford

Nanopore Technologies). Guppy v3.4 was used for base calling. Analysis and calling

of OTS sites were performed as described by Höijer et al.[26], using the GRCz11

reference genome.

Examining druggability of putative causal genes

All human orthologues of the zebrafish genes for which we observed (a trend for) an

effect were explored in the drug-gene interaction database (DGIdb) v3.0.2[27]. Possible

interaction partners of the human proteins and genes (**Supp Table 14**) were distilled

from STRING v10.5[30] and GeneMania[29], respectively. The GeneMania search was

limited to physical interactions and pathway data.

Characterizing the effect of treatment with ivabradine

To examine the effect of exposure to ivabradine, the procedures described in

"*Experimental procedure imaging*" were repeated in embryos free from

CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations. On the morning of day 4, embryos were placed in

0, 10 or 25μM ivabradine in DMSO, for 24h (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO). On the

morning of day 5, conditions were blinded and embryos were imaged as described in

"*Experimental procedure imaging*". Embryos from the three blinded conditions were

imaged in an alternating manner, to prevent differences in developmental stage from

influencing the results. The experiment was performed four times to generate a total

of 44 embryos per condition. One embryo with a sinoatrial pause and 13 embryos

with suboptimal image or image quantification quality were excluded from the

analysis, leaving 118 embryos for the analysis of effects on HRV and heart rate.

Statistical analysis

The standard deviation of NN-intervals (SDNN) and the root mean square of

successive differences (RMSSD) were strongly correlated at 2dpf ($r^2=0.78$) and at

5dpf ($r^2=0.83$), so a composite endpoint 'HRV' was calculated as the average of

SDNN and RMSSD. In embryos free from sinoatrial pauses and arrests; abnormal

cardiac morphology; impaired cardiac contractility; and edema, we inverse-normally

transformed HRV and heart rate at 2dpf (n=279) and 5dpf (n=293) to a mean of 0 and

a standard deviation of 1, so effect sizes and their 95% confidence intervals can be

interpreted as z-scores. This approach also ensured a normal distribution of all

quantitative outcomes, and allowed a comparison of effect sizes across traits. For

body size analyses, we first normalized dorsal surface area, lateral surface area and

volume for body length, and subsequently inverse normalized these outcomes as well

as body length for the statistical analysis.

Effects of CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations in candidate genes on sinoatrial

pauses and arrests at 2dpf, and on sinoatrial pauses at 5dpf were examined using a

logistic regression analysis. In embryos free from sinoatrial pauses or arrests during

the image acquisition, effects of mutations in candidate genes and of ivabradine on

HRV and heart rate were examined using hierarchical linear models at 2 and 5dpf

separately (Stata's xtmixed), adjusted for the time of imaging (fixed factor), and with

embryos nested in batches (random factor with fixed slope). If a sinoatrial pause or

arrest was observed before but not during imaging, embryos were not included in the

statistical analysis. In a sensitivity analysis, we mutually adjusted associations for

HRV and heart rate for the other outcome (i.e. for heart rate and HRV) by adding the

outcome as an independent variable to the model. Effects of CRISPR/Cas9-induced

mutations in candidate genes on body size were also examined using hierarchical

linear models, as described above.

For dichotomous outcomes and continuous outcomes alike, genetic effects were

examined using an additive model, with dosage scores for all nine CRISPR/Cas9

targeted sites as independent exposures in the same model, i.e. mutually adjusted for

effects of mutations in the other targeted sites. Additionally, for the six genes where at

least five embryos carried CRISPR/Cas9-induced nonsense mutations in both alleles,

these embryos were compared with embryos free from CRISPR/Cas9-induced

mutations at that site, adjusting for dosage scores in the eight remaining genes. For

each outcome, associations were examined for the main transcript of the orthologue.

In the qRT-PCR experiment, the effect of targeting *hcn4*, *hcn4l*, or *hcn4 &*

hcn4l on gene expression was examined using multiple linear regression analysis,

adjusting for batch.

P-values <0.05 were considered to reflect statistically significant effects. All

statistical analyses were performed using Stata MP version 14.2 (StataCorp, College

Station, TX).

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Author contributions: BvdH and MdH conceived the study; BvdH, SV and SJ

developed the experimental protocols; TK and AE implemented the CRISPR/Cas9

pipeline in the lab; BvdH performed the CRISPR/Cas9 experiment; SV performed the

sa11188 experiment; AE performed the ivabradine experiment; AAl and HLB

developed the image quantification pipeline; OD generated the sequencing quality

control pipeline; EM conceived the variant calling algorithm; AE performed the qRT-

PCR experiment; IH and AAm developed and performed the Nanopore off-target

sequencing; BvdH, HLB and MdH performed the statistical analysis; BvdH, EM, IH,

HLB and MdH generated the figures; BvdH and MdH wrote the manuscript; All

authors provided critical feedback to the manuscript.

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SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

Eight loci associated with HRV in humans[1].
18 genes prioritized for functional follow-up[1].

Six human genes selected for follow up,
represented by nine orthologues in zebrafish.

CRISPR-Cas9 gRNA design,
synthesis and efficiency testing.

Raising of CRISPR-Cas9 founders (F_0).
Crossing of F_0 generation to yield F1 embryos.

Acquisition of 30s recordings of the beating atrium
in 381 live, intact F_1 embryos at 2dpf and at 5dpf.

Automated quantification of cardiac traits in 30s
recordings using custom-written MatLab code.

Paired-end sequencing of CRISPR-targeted
sites using a MiSeq (2x250bp).

Splitting, merging, QC-ing, aligning
in sequencing data.

Transcript- and allele-specific variant calling using
a custom-written algorithm.

Variant annotation using Ensembl's variant effect predictor.

Genetic association analysis using hierarchical linear
models and multiple logistic regression analyses.

Supplementary Figure 1: Experimental pipeline describing the workflow
from GWAS in humans to stastistical analysis in zebrafish embryos.
dpf: days post-fertilization.

381 embryos imaged at 2dpf

Secondary trait analysis:
Cardiac traits (left), body size analysis (right).

Sinoatrial pauses (n=39) & arrests (n=36),
Uncontrolled atrial contractions (n=1),
edema (n=15), a moving embryo during
acquisition / beats missed by the script (n=38),
a sinoatrial event before acquisition (n=54)

Embyos excluded due to
suboptimal segmentation
and/or presence of edema:
lengh (n=46), dorsal area (n=56)
lateral area (n=78), volume (n=79)

Primary analysis:
234 embryos included in HRV and
heart rate analysis at 2dpf

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381 embryos imaged at 2dpf

Embryos excluded due to
technical complications (n=41),
death (n=3),
or embryos not detected (n=11)

326 embryos imaged at 5dpf

Secondary trait analysis:
cardiac traits (left), body size analysis (right)

Sinatrial pauses (n=9) & arrests (n=3),
uncontrolled atrial contractions (n=9),
abnormal morphology / reduced contractility (n=6),
edema (n=14), beats missed by the script (n=1),
a sinoatrial event before acquisition (n=8)

Embryos excluded due to
suboptimal segmentation
and/or presence of edema:
length (n=84), dorsal area (n=93),
lateral area (n=70), volume (n=128)

Primary analysis:
285 embryos included in HRV and
heart rate analysis at 5dpf

Supplementary Figure 2: Flow chart showing the number of embryos included in the analysis and reasons for exclusion. Embryos can be excluded for more than one reason.

hcn4

Supplementary Figure 3: Distributions of heart rate variability (HRV, in ms) and heart rate (in beats per min, bpm) shown in all embryos combined, as well as by number of mutated alleles for each of the nine CRISPR/cas9 targeted candidate genes. In each histogram, the mean±SD in embryos with 0, 1 and 2 mutated alleles is shown in the top right corner. Orange and gray lines show Kernell density plots for embryos with CRISPR/Cas9-induced nonsense mutations in both alleles, and for embryos free from CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations, respectively, if n>5 for both.

Overall distribution

gngt1

syt10

rgs6

hcn4

hcn4l

neo1a

neo1b

quo (KIAA1755)

si:dkey-65j6.2 (KIAA1755)

Supplementary Figure 4: Distributions of body length, dorsal and lateral body surface area, and body volume shown in all embryos combined, as well as by number of mutated alleles for each of the nine CRISPR/cas9 targeted candidate genes. In each histogram, the mean±SD in embryos with 0, 1 and 2 mutated alleles is shown in the top left corner. Orange and gray lines show Kernell density plots for embryos with CRISPR/Cas9-induced nonsense mutations in both alleles, and for embryos free from CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations, respectively, if n>5 for both.

gngt1

	n	Mean	SD
Allele 1, 2, 11	566	505	377
Allele 4, 5	75	514	384
Allele 3, 9, 10	69	529	409
Allele 6	3	606	119
Allele 7	3	504	221
Allele 8	2	526	143

syt10

	n	Mean	SD
Allele 1	325	1024	644
Allele 2	44	735	462
Allele 3	42	793	405
Allele 4	42	368	246
Allele 5	40	606	397
Allele 6	19	667	267
Allele 7	15	963	431
Allele 8	11	937	645
Allele 9	11	502	300
Allele 10	4	524	229
Allele 11	3	1247	670

rgs6

	n	Mean	SD
Allele 1	381	1431	813
Allele 2	24	784	453
Allele 3	7	540	195
Allele 4	4	920	287
Allele 5	1	1424	

hcn4

	n	Mean	SD
Allele 1	369	1380	789
Allele 2	48	725	343
Allele 3	16	1314	225
Allele 4	15	799	383
Allele 5	13	917	563
Allele 6	11	987	377
Allele 7	9	1302	587
Allele 8	2	694	49
Allele 9	2	346	36
Allele 10	1	222	

hcn4l

	n	Mean	SD
Allele 1, 2	418	1048	657
Allele 3	18	585	295
Allele 4	9	523	176
Allele 5	4	1218	915

Supplementary Figure 5: Unique alleles in nine candidate genes showing CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations compared with the zebrafish reference genome, GRCz11. Colour coding illustrates if base pairs are ≥50% conserved (blue), similar (pink) or non-conserved (white). Tables on the right show the number times each allele appears across the 381 successfully sequenced embryos (max 2x381), and the mean and standard deviation for the number of reads calls are based on. Alleles that differ by inherently present variants not attributed to CRISPR/Cas9 are grouped together as indicated in the figure.

Supplementary Figure 6: Distribution of the number of mutated alleles across the nine CRISPR-targeted sites. A mutation is defined as any previously undescribed variant located within ±30bp of the CRISPR/Cas9 cut site.

Supplementary Figure 7: Effect of mutations in candidate genes on body length; and on dorsal body surface area, lateral body surface area and body volume normalised for length at 2 days post-fertilization (dpf, top) and 5dpf (bottom). Fulldots and solid whiskers show the effect size and 95% confidence interval for each additional mutated allele, weighted by the predicted effect on protein function. Open dots and dotted whiskers indicate the effect size and 95% confidence interval for frameshift or premature stop codon inducing mutations in two alleles vs. no CRISPR-induced mutations. Effects were adjusted for the weighted number of mutated alleles in the other genes, as well as for time of day (fixed factors), with embryos nested in batches (random factor). *quo* and *si:dkey-65j6.2* are orthologues of the human *KIAA1755*.

Supplementary Figure 8: *In vitro* Nano off-target sequencing results for the *hcn4*, *hcn4l*, *neo1a* and *neo1b* gRNAs in DNA extracted from a Tg(*acta2*:GFP) positive fish used to generate CRISPR/Cas9 founders. One off-target site was observed for the *hcn4l* and *neo1a* gRNAs, in spite of five and four mismatches, respectively. For *hcn4l*, this off-target site was in the coding region of *slc38a3a*. Off-target mutagenic activity was lower than on-target activity for both gRNAs.

Supplementary Figure 9: Distributions of heart rate variability (HRV, in ms) and heart rate (in beats per min, bpm) shown in all embryos combined (left), as well as by ivabradine treatment condition (right). In each histogram, the mean±SD in embryos treated with 0, 10 and 25μM ivabradine is shown in the top right corner. Orange and gray lines show Kernel density plots for embryos treated with 25 and 0 μM ivabradine, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Supplementary Table 1: Overview of zebrafish orthologues of human candidate genes, CRISPR/Cas9 guide RNAs, and predicted off-targets

Human gene	ENSG Stable ID	Zebrafish orthologue	ENSDARG stable ID	Target %id	Query %id	Conservation Zebrafish - Human	Conservation Zebrafish - Spotted gar	Main zebrafish transcript
GNGT1 / GNG11	ENSG00000127928 / ENSG00000127920	gngt1	ENSDARG00000035798	67.12 / 61.64	66.22 / 61.64	17	21	ENSDART00000051950
SYT10	ENSG00000110975	syt10	ENSDARG00000045750	64.55	75.53	0	1	ENSDART00000136049
RGS6		rgs6	ENSDARG00000015627	82.21	82.04	9	20	ENSDART00000135513
HCN4	ENSG00000138622	hcn4	ENSDARG00000061685	63.1	58.27	6	3	ENSDART00000136140
HCN4	ENSG00000138622	hcn4l	ENSDARG00000074419	59.76	49.88	3	3	ENSDART00000088249
NEO1	ENSG00000067141	neo1a	ENSDARG00000102855	70.45	68.86	1	5	ENSDART00000158160
NEO1	ENSG00000067141	neo1b	ENSDARG00000075100	64.26	62.15	2	6	ENSDART00000115280
KIAA1755	ENSG00000149633	quo	ENSDARG00000073684			2	5	ENSDART00000109679
KIAA1755	ENSG00000149633	si:dkey-65j6.2	ENSDARG00000103586			3	5	ENSDART00000158832

Table showing zebrafish orthologues of human candidate genes and their main transcript. Target %id is the percentage of the orthologous sequence that matches the human sequence (Ensembl); Query %id is the percentage of the human sequence matching the sequence of the orthologue; Conservation shows the number of genes in the locus that are preserved in the same locus across species according to Genomicus.

Supplementary Table 2: Overview of CRISPR/Cas9 guide RNAs

Human gene	ENSG stable ID	Zebrafish orthologue	ENSDARG stable ID	Main transcript	Target sequence gRNA	Exon target (transcript name)	CRISPR-scan rank	ChopChop rank	Activity test rank	Predicted off-targets	Nr of mismatches	Genomic location of predicted off-target 1	ENSDARG predicted off-target 1, Feature	ENSG / gene name) predicted off-target 1	Genomic location predicted off-target 2	ENSDARG (gene name) predicted off-target 2, Feature	ENSG predicted off-target 2	Primer forward	Primer reverse	Amplicon size
GNGT1 / GNG11	ENSG00000127928 / ENSG00000127920	gngt1	ENSDARG00000035798	ENSDART00000051950	gGACCTGGATAAGGCGAAGA	2/3 (gngt1-001); 1/2 (gngt1-002)	62	4/13 (average)	moderate	1	3	chr25:17488676	ENSDARG00000051959; mmp15a; intron (3/6), intron (4/4)	no human orthologue				GTCCATTTTCCAGAGTGGAGAC	gCCCATAACACAATTGCTTACC	207
SYT10	ENSG00000110975	syt10	ENSDARG00000045750	ENSDART00000136049	GGCTGATGCCGTCCTCTGTG	1/7 (syt10-001); 1/7 (syt10-201)	36	6/129 (good)	low	0								TAGGATATGGACTTGGACGCAT	TTACCTGGTATGTTGCTCTCCA	227
RGS6		rgs6	ENSDARG00000015627	ENSDART00000135513	GGCCTCTCAGGACCAAGGTG	1/17 (rgs6-201); 2/18 (rgs6-001)	62	1/107 (good)	low	0								AAGGCTAATTCATTGTCTGGGA	GCATGTCAAATGTAAAGGCAAA	169
HCN4	ENSG00000138622	hcn4	ENSDARG00000061685	ENSDART00000136140	GGAGAGCCCTCCTGGAGCCG	1/8 (hcn4-001)	59	11/280 (good)	high	2	3/3	chr21:45844184	ENSDARG00000103825; galnt10; exon (1/3)	ENSG00000164574 (GALNT10)	chrUn_KN150614v1:3424	ENSDARG00000100453; (galnt10); exon (6/8)	ENSG00000164574 (GALNT10)	CCTTTCGTCCATCACCAGTC	CCGCTTGATAATACCTCTCGTC	230
HCN4	ENSG00000138622	hcn4l	ENSDARG00000074419	ENSDART00000088249	gGCCTGGATAGTGTTTAACG	2/8 (hcn4l-201); 1/7 (hcn4l-001)	/	2/191 (good)	low	0								TTACTGGGACCTGATCATGCTT	AAGATGTAATCCACAGGGATGG	235
NEO1	ENSG00000067141	neo1a	ENSDARG00000102855	ENSDART00000158160	GGAGCCGTCGGATACACTAG	1/4 (neo1a-001); 2/29 (neo1a-201); 2/30 (neo1a-202)	48	2/55 (good)	very high	0								TTCTGTGTCTCCACAGGATCAG	CCTCATCGGGTTTATTGTGTTT	215
NEO1	ENSG00000067141	neo1b	ENSDARG00000075100	ENSDART00000115280	GGACAGAGATGCTCGGCCTG	3/29 (neo1b-201)	58	18/354 (good)	very high	0								CAGCTCTCTCTCTCATTGGCTT	TATGGTGCAACGGTAGAGTCC	206
KIAA1755	ENSG00000149633	quo	ENSDARG00000073684	ENSDART00000109679	GGAGATCCGGTTGCCCTGTG	2/22 (quo-001); 3/23 (quo-201)	83	12/331 (good)	very high	0								ATGACCGTAAGTCAAGGGAAAA	TGAATCTTGTCTAATGGCGTTG	153
KIAA1755	ENSG00000149633	si:dkey-65j6.2	ENSDARG00000103586	ENSDART00000158832	GGACGGTTTGGCTCCAGCAG	1/23 (si:dkey-65j6.2-201); 3/25 (si:dkey-65j6.2-001)	59	14/303 (good)	very high	2	3/3	chr15:32969618	ENSDARG00000104664; dclk1b; exon (3/16), exon (4/17)	ENSG00000133083 (DCLK1)	chr22:28819880	ENSDARG00000071083; (si:dkeyp-34c12.1); Intron (7/7), Exon (8/9)	no human orthologue	AGCCATTACACCCAAAGAAAAA	GGGAATCATTTCGAAGTAGCTG	152

Table showing information on the CRISPR/Cas9 gRNAs used to target the zebrafish orthologues of human candidate genes. A lower case "g" in the gRNA target sequence indicates a manually introduced nucleotide change to guanine; Exon target shows which exon was targeted for each of the orthologues' transcripts; ChopChop rank indicates the rank of the gRNA as per the online tool ChopChop and its rating (good or average); Activity test rank quantification shows results from a fragment length PCR analysis in eight injected embryos at 3 days post-fertilization: Low: 8 of 8 larvae showed wildtype sequence and fewer than 4 of 8 also showed an indel sequence, Moderate: 8 of 8 larvae showed the wildtype sequence and >4 of 8 also showed an indel sequence, High: 8 of 8 larvae showed wildtype as well as indel sequences, Very high: Fewer than 4 of 8 larvae showed wildtype and all larvae showed indel sequences; ENSDARG of potential off-target refers to the Ensembl gene ID of the potential off-target and where the potential target is located (Feature), *mmp15a* and *si:dkeyp-34c12.1* have no human orthologue, whereas *galnt10* and *dclk1b* may exert an effect on heart rate and/or rhythm. However, no CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations were identified at the predicted off-target sites in the F₁ embryos included in the screen.

Supplementary Table 3: Unique variants and affected transcripts for each targeted zebrafish orthologue

Orthologue	Chr	ENSDARG	Affected transcripts	Start (bp)	End (bp)	Mutation	Annotation	Base pair change	VEP impact	Nr affected alleles
gngt1	19	ENSDARG00000035798	ENSDART00000051950 ENSDART00000139083	40,856,888	40,856,893	AAGGCG/-	inframe deletion	-6	moderate	75
				40,856,893	40,856,895	GAA/-	inframe deletion	-3	moderate	3
				40,856,894	40,856,894	A/-	frameshift variant	-1	high	69
				40,856,895	40,856,895	A/T	missense variant	0	moderate	3
				40,856,895	40,856,897	AGA/TTT	missense variant	0	moderate	69
				40,856,897	40,856,896	-/TAAC	stop gained,frameshift variant	4	high	2
				40,856,897	40,856,899	ATG/CCA	missense variant	0	moderate	2
syt10	4	ENSDARG00000045750	ENSDART00000136049	10,888,933	10,888,953	GACATGAATGTCCGCACAGAG/-	inframe deletion	-21	moderate	19
				10,888,944	10,888,944	C/A	synonymous variant	0	low	42
				10,888,945	10,888,944	-/CAGCTGATG	inframe insertion	9	moderate	42
				10,888,946	10,888,950	GCACA/-	frameshift variant	-5	high	3
				10,888,946	10,888,952	GCACAGA/-	frameshift variant	-7	high	15
				10,888,946	10,888,953	GCACAGAG/-	frameshift variant	-8	high	40
				10,888,947	10,888,947	C/T	synonymous variant	0	low	42
				10,888,948	10,888,948	A/C	missense variant	0	moderate	4
				10,888,948	10,888,954	ACAGAGG/-	frameshift variant	-7	high	11
				10,888,949	10,888,958	CAGAGGACGG/-	frameshift variant	-10	high	4
				10,888,950	10,888,949	-/GGGAATGG	frameshift variant	8	high	42
				10,888,950	10,888,949	-/A	frameshift variant	1	high	44
				10,888,950	10,888,950	A/G	synonymous variant	0	low	11
				10,888,951	10,888,951	G/T	stop gained	0	high	42
				10,888,952	10,888,951	-/CAT	stop gained,protein altering variant	3	high	11
				10,888,952	10,888,952	A/-	frameshift variant	-1	high	42
				10,888,952	10,888,953	AG/CA	missense variant	0	moderate	11
				10,888,959	10,888,960	CA/TG	missense variant	0	moderate	4
rgs6	20	ENSDARG00000015627	ENSDART00000135513 ENSDART00000184779	28,638,811	28,638,822	CCCACCGCACCT/-	inframe deletion	-12	moderate	1
				28,638,820	28,638,820	C/-	frameshift variant	-1	high	24
				28,638,820	28,638,821	CC/-	frameshift variant	-2	high	7
				28,638,820	28,638,822	CCT/-	inframe deletion	-3	moderate	4
				28,638,824	28,638,824	G/A	stop gained	0	high	4
				28,638,837	28,638,836	-/CTGAGCCATG	frameshift variant	10	high	4
hcn4	18	ENSDARG00000061685	ENSDART00000136140 ENSDART00000189186	1,143,637	1,143,644	ACCCGCGG/-	frameshift variant	-8	high	13
				1,143,638	1,143,638	C/T	missense variant	0	moderate	16
				1,143,641	1,143,641	G/A	missense variant	0	moderate	9
				1,143,643	1,143,643	G/-	frameshift variant	-1	high	11
				1,143,643	1,143,644	GG/CA	missense variant	0	moderate	2
				1,143,643	1,143,646	GGCT/-	frameshift variant	-4	high	9
				1,143,644	1,143,643	-/CCGCCAC	frameshift variant	7	high	16
				1,143,644	1,143,644	G/C	missense variant	0	moderate	75
				1,143,644	1,143,646	GCT/-	inframe deletion	-3	moderate	1
				1,143,645	1,143,644	-/CTCTC	frameshift variant	5	high	15
				1,143,645	1,143,644	-/GCC	protein altering variant	3	moderate	2
				1,143,645	1,143,645	C/-	frameshift variant	-1	high	2
				1,143,646	1,143,645	-/GCCA	frameshift variant	4	high	48
				1,143,646	1,143,646	T/C	synonymous variant	0	low	48
				1,143,652	1,143,651	-/AGCTCC	inframe insertion	6	moderate	15

Orthologue	Chr	ENSDARG	Affected transcripts	Start (bp)	End (bp)	Mutation	Annotation	Base pair change	VEP impact	Nr affected alleles
hcn4l	25	ENSDARG00000074419	ENSDART00000088249 ENSDART00000148940	29,273,086	29,273,101	CCACGTTAAACACTAT/-	frameshift variant	-16	high	9
				29,273,091	29,273,090	-/T	frameshift variant	1	high	4
				29,273,092	29,273,093	TA/-	frameshift variant	-2	high	18
neo1a	7	ENSDARG00000102855	ENSDART00000158160 ENSDART00000163261 ENSDART00000164768 ENSDART00000181629	53,879,228	53,879,244	CACGGAGCCGTCGGATA/-	frameshift variant	-17	high	1
				53,879,231	53,879,258	GGAGCCGTCGGATACACTAGCGGTGCGA/-	frameshift variant	-28	high	11
				53,879,235	53,879,265	CCGTCGGATACACTAGCGGTGCGAGGAGCGC/-	frameshift variant	-31	high	57
				53,879,237	53,879,252	GTCGGATACACTAGCG/-	frameshift variant	-16	high	157
				53,879,237	53,879,267	GTCGGATACACTAGCGGTGCGAGGAGCGCCA/-	frameshift variant	-31	high	9
				53,879,239	53,879,250	CGGATACACTAG/-	inframe deletion	-12	moderate	66
				53,879,240	53,879,246	GGATACA/-	frameshift variant	-7	high	2
				53,879,242	53,879,248	ATACACT/-	frameshift variant	-7	high	5
				53,879,243	53,879,247	TACAC/-	frameshift variant	-5	high	17
				53,879,243	53,879,268	TACACTAGCGGTGCGAGGAGCGCCAG/-	frameshift variant	-26	high	16
				53,879,244	53,879,245	AC/GT	missense variant	0	moderate	1
				53,879,245	53,879,246	CA/GT	missense variant	0	moderate	5
				53,879,245	53,879,255	CACTAGCGGTG/-	frameshift variant	-11	high	20
				53,879,246	53,879,248	ACT/-	inframe deletion	-3	moderate	20
				53,879,247	53,879,246	-/GCGGTGCGAGGAGT	frameshift variant	14	high	1
				53,879,247	53,879,246	-/TCCAT	frameshift variant	5	high	14
				53,879,247	53,879,247	C/G	missense variant	0	moderate	1
				53,879,247	53,879,248	CT/TC	missense variant	0	moderate	14
				53,879,247	53,879,250	CTAG/-	frameshift variant	-4	high	82
				53,879,247	53,879,252	CTAGCG/-	inframe deletion	-6	moderate	10
				53,879,247	53,879,255	CTAGCGGTG/-	inframe deletion	-9	moderate	69
				53,879,248	53,879,247	-/GGTGCG	protein altering variant	6	moderate	6
				53,879,248	53,879,248	T/G	missense variant	0	moderate	6
				53,879,248	53,879,248	T/C	missense variant	0	moderate	10
				53,879,248	53,879,258	TAGCGGTGCGA/-	frameshift variant	-11	high	5
				53,879,249	53,879,249	A/G	synonymous variant	0	low	2
				53,879,249	53,879,260	AGCGGTGCGAGG/-	inframe deletion	-12	moderate	5
				53,879,250	53,879,254	GCGGT/-	frameshift variant	-5	high	2
				53,879,253	53,879,254	GT/AA	missense variant	0	moderate	10
				53,879,262	53,879,265	GCGC/-	frameshift variant	-4	high	5
				53,879,263	53,879,262	-/CGCCAGTTCT	frameshift variant	10	high	89
				53,879,266	53,879,266	C/T	missense variant	0	moderate	5

Orthologue	Chr	ENSDARG	Affected transcripts	Start (bp)	End (bp)	Mutation	Annotation	Base pair change	VEP impact	Nr affected alleles
				2,899,719	2,899,719	C/-	frameshift variant	-1	high	65
				2,899,722	2,899,721	-/GGTC	frameshift variant	4	high	18
				2,899,719	2,899,718	-/TCGG	frameshift variant	4	high	51
				2,899,710	2,899,728	ATGCTCGGCCTGTGGAGCT/-	frameshift variant	-19	high	7
				2,899,718	2,899,724	CCTGTGG/-	frameshift variant	-7	high	9
				2,899,716	2,899,719	GGCC/-	frameshift variant	-4	high	15
				2,899,708	2,899,729	AGATGCTCGGCCTGTGGAGCTG/-	frameshift variant	-22	high	1
				2,899,715	2,899,728	CGGCCTGTGGAGCT/-	frameshift variant	-14	high	2
				2,899,712	2,899,718	GCTCGGC/-	frameshift variant	-7	high	1
				2,899,719	2,899,718	-/AGCAGGGT	frameshift variant	8	high	18
neo1b	25	ENSDARG00000075100	ENSDART00000115280	2,899,719	2,899,718	-/AG	frameshift variant	2	high	1
				2,899,716	2,899,732	GGCCTGTGGAGCTGGAC/-	frameshift variant	-17	high	5
				2,899,719	2,899,724	CTGTGG/-	inframe deletion	-6	moderate	59
				2,899,713	2,899,721	CTCGGCCTG/-	inframe deletion	-9	moderate	18
				2,899,722	2,899,723	TG/AT	missense variant	0	moderate	2
				2,899,725	2,899,726	AG/CT	missense variant	0	moderate	2
				2,899,734	2,899,737	GCAG/TTCA	missense variant	0	moderate	7
				2,899,728	2,899,729	TG/AT	missense variant	0	moderate	2
				2,899,716	2,899,718	GGC/ATT	missense variant	0	moderate	2
				2,899,715	2,899,720	CGGCCT/-	inframe deletion	-6	moderate	108
				2,899,740	2,899,740	T/A	missense variant	0	moderate	7
				2,899,720	2,899,720	T/A	synonymous variant	0	low	2

Orthologue	Chr	ENSDARG	Affected transcripts	Start (bp)	End (bp)	Mutation	Annotation	Base pair change	VEP impact	Nr affected alleles
				2,051,654	2,051,734	ATGACCCAACTTATCACAAGCATGGTCCAAGCAAGACAGCATCACAAGTCATTCCTCACAGGGCAACCGGATCTCCCTCAG/-	inframe deletion	-81	moderate	13
				2,051,699	2,051,699	A/T	stop gained	0	high	10
				2,051,701	2,051,715	GTCATTCCTCACAGG/-	inframe deletion	-15	moderate	10
				2,051,703	2,051,716	CATTCCTCACAGGG/-	frameshift variant	-14	high	61
				2,051,706	2,051,708	TCC/-	inframe deletion	-3	moderate	17
				2,051,709	2,051,715	TCACAGG/-	frameshift variant	-7	high	9
				2,051,710	2,051,716	CACAGGG/-	frameshift variant	-7	high	53
				2,051,710	2,051,719	CACAGGGCAA/-	frameshift variant	-10	high	51
				2,051,712	2,051,711	-/CCGG	frameshift variant	4	high	1
				2,051,712	2,051,711	-/ACCGGACT	frameshift variant	8	high	7
				2,051,712	2,051,712	C/T	missense variant	0	moderate	15
				2,051,712	2,051,714	CAG/ACC	missense variant	0	moderate	9
				2,051,712	2,051,716	CAGGG/-	frameshift variant	-5	high	14
			ENSDART00000109679	2,051,712	2,051,728	CAGGGCAACCGGATCTC/-	frameshift variant	-17	high	23
			ENSDART00000153568	2,051,713	2,051,712	-/G	frameshift variant	1	high	15
quo	6	ENSDARG00000073684	ENSDART00000187502	2,051,713	2,051,712	-/A	frameshift variant	1	high	19
			ENSDART00000187544	2,051,713	2,051,712	-/TTG	stop gained,inframe insertion	3	high	70
			ENSDART00000191165	2,051,713	2,051,713	A/C	synonymous variant	0	low	22
				2,051,713	2,051,714	AG/TA	missense variant	0	moderate	70
				2,051,713	2,051,716	AGGG/-	frameshift variant	-4	high	4
				2,051,714	2,051,713	-/ACC	inframe insertion	3	moderate	51
				2,051,714	2,051,714	G/-	frameshift variant	-1	high	22
				2,051,714	2,051,714	G/A	missense variant	0	moderate	40
				2,051,714	2,051,714	G/C	missense variant	0	moderate	15
				2,051,715	2,051,714	-/C	frameshift variant	1	high	22
				2,051,715	2,051,715	G/C	missense variant	0	moderate	22
				2,051,716	2,051,716	G/T	synonymous variant	0	low	18
				2,051,716	2,051,716	G/A	synonymous variant	0	low	10
				2,051,719	2,051,720	AC/TT	missense variant	0	moderate	1
				2,051,719	2,051,723	ACCGG/-	frameshift variant	-5	high	17
				2,051,724	2,051,724	A/T	missense variant	0	moderate	17
				2,051,736	2,051,736	C/A	missense variant	0	moderate	13

Orthologue	Chr	ENSDARG	Affected transcripts	Start (bp)	End (bp)	Mutation	Annotation	Base pair change	VEP impact	Nr affected alleles
				43,213,133	43,213,153	GGACGGTTTGGCTCCAGCAGT/-	inframe deletion	-21	moderate	62
				43,213,135	43,213,160	ACGGTTTGGCTCCAGCAGTGGTCGGC/-	frameshift variant	-26	high	1
				43,213,136	43,213,149	CGGTTTGGCTCCAG/-	frameshift variant	-14	high	21
				43,213,136	43,213,156	CGGTTTGGCTCCAGCAGTGGT/-	inframe deletion	-21	moderate	101
				43,213,136	43,213,164	CGGTTTGGCTCCAGCAGTGGTCGGCACAT/-	frameshift variant	-29	high	50
				43,213,137	43,213,153	GGTTTGGCTCCAGCAGT/-	frameshift variant	-17	moderate	15
				43,213,138	43,213,138	G/A	missense variant	0	moderate	4
				43,213,138	43,213,168	GTTTGGCTCCAGCAGTGGTCGGCACATCAGA/-	frameshift variant	-31	high	3
				43,213,139	43,213,139	T/G	synonymous variant	0	low	18
				43,213,139	43,213,143	TTTGG/CACAT	missense variant	0	moderate	9
				43,213,140	43,213,140	T/A	missense variant	0	moderate	3
				43,213,140	43,213,147	TTGGCTCC/-	frameshift variant	-8	high	18
				43,213,140	43,213,151	TTGGCTCCAGCA/-	inframe deletion	-12	moderate	7
				43,213,140	43,213,160	TTGGCTCCAGCAGTGGTCGGC/-	inframe deletion	-21	moderate	12
				43,213,141	43,213,152	TGGCTCCAGCAG/-	inframe deletion	-12	moderate	32
si:dkey-65j6.	23	ENSDARG00000103586	ENSDART00000158832 ENSDART00000164262 ENSDART00000186065 ENSDART00000190315 ENSDART00000193300	43,213,142	43,213,141	-/AAAAATAA	frameshift variant	8	high	7
				43,213,142	43,213,157	GGCTCCAGCAGTGGTC/-	frameshift variant	-16	high	3
				43,213,143	43,213,153	GCTCCAGCAGT/-	frameshift variant	-11	high	13
				43,213,143	43,213,157	GCTCCAGCAGTGGTC/-	inframe deletion	-15	moderate	57
				43,213,144	43,213,144	C/-	frameshift variant	-1	high	1
				43,213,145	43,213,149	TCCAG/-	frameshift variant	-5	high	9
				43,213,146	43,213,146	C/-	frameshift variant	-1	high	41
				43,213,146	43,213,150	CCAGC/-	frameshift variant	-5	high	7
				43,213,146	43,213,161	CCAGCAGTGGTCGGCA/-	frameshift variant	-16	high	34
				43,213,147	43,213,147	C/G	missense variant	0	moderate	1
				43,213,147	43,213,149	CAG/-	inframe deletion	-3	moderate	69
				43,213,149	43,213,149	G/T	missense variant	0	moderate	41
				43,213,149	43,213,149	G/C	missense variant	0	moderate	18
				43,213,149	43,213,149	G/A	missense variant	0	moderate	1
				43,213,152	43,213,152	G/A	missense variant	0	moderate	3
				43,213,153	43,213,153	T/A	missense variant	0	moderate	41
				43,213,155	43,213,154	-/AAACACAGAGA	frameshift variant	11	high	41
				43,213,155	43,213,157	GTC/AAT	missense variant	0	moderate	41
				43,213,159	43,213,160	GC/-	frameshift variant	-2	high	3

The impact of each CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutation on protein function was predicted using Ensembl's Variant Effect Predictor (VEP). An allele- and target-specific dosage score was subsequently calculated for each embryo by weighting the mutation with the highest predicted impact on protein function by a factor 0.33, 0.66, or 1 for mutations with a low, moderate or high predicted impact, respectively, followed by summing the score across both alleles for each targeted site in each embryo. Start and end coordinates are based on GRCz11. The genes *quo* and *si:dkey-65j6.2* are orthologues of the human *KIAA1755*.

Supplementary Table 4: Mutant allele frequencies for CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations by zebrafish orthologue

Gene	Nr mutated alleles			2*	Missing	Sample call rate	Mutant allele freq	Expected nr mutated alleles			P_{HWE}
	0	1	2					0	1	2	
gngt1	234	130	12	2	5	0.987	0.205	238	122	16	2.33E-01
syt10	192	130	54	46	5	0.987	0.316	176	163	38	9.82E-05
rgs6	344	34	1	1	2	0.995	0.047	344	34	1	8.69E-01
hcn4	266	100	9	9	6	0.984	0.157	266	99	9	9.12E-01
hcn4l	349	29	1	1	2	0.995	0.041	349	30	1	6.32E-01
neo1a	19	113	240	109	9	0.976	0.797	15	120	236	2.39E-01
neo1b	14	12	277	116	78	0.795	0.934	1	37	264	3.24E-32
quo	55	42	281	221	3	0.992	0.799	15	121	241	4.69E-37
si:dkey-65j6.2	22	60	295	66	4	0.990	0.862	7	90	280	1.34E-10

Number of embryos with 0, 1 and 2 mutated alleles; the number of embryos with nonsense mutations in both alleles (2*); and the number of embryos with a missing call for that gene. P_{HWE}: P-value for a Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) exact test, considering a ±30 bp window around the CRISPR/Cas9-targeted site as a single locus ($P<2.9 \times 10^{-3}$ is significant after Bonferroni correction). In cases of deviation from HWE, the number of embryos with 2 mutated alleles is not lower than expected. Embryos with missing sequencing calls at more than two targeted orthologues were excluded from the statistical analysis (i.e. two embryos). For all genes, missed calls were normally distributed throughout the HRV and heart rate distributions, so for embryos with missed calls in at most two genes, we imputed the mean call for that gene, including for neo1b , where exclusion of either the gene or the embryos with a missed call was

Supplementary Table 5: Additive effects of CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations on sinoatrial pauses and arrests

Age	Outcome	n controls	n cases	Gene	OR	LCI	UCI	P
				gngt1	1.163	0.494	2.740	7.29E-01
				syt10	1.467	0.810	2.654	2.06E-01
				rgs6	0.788	0.175	3.553	7.57E-01
				hcn4	2.749	1.461	5.171	1.71E-03
				hcn4l	omittted			
				neo1a	1.176	0.507	2.731	7.06E-01
				neo1b	2.445	0.658	9.080	1.82E-01
2dpf	SA pause	258	39	*quo*	0.746	0.401	1.389	3.56E-01
				si:dkey-65j6.2	0.755	0.339	1.685	4.93E-01
				time of day	1.147	0.856	1.539	3.59E-01
				intercept	0.004	0.000	0.185	4.77E-03
				Batch 1	7.380	0.755	72.106	8.57E-02
				Batch 2	14.723	1.714	126.443	1.42E-02
				Batch 3	5.507	0.633	47.917	1.22E-01
				Batch 4	4.948	0.457	53.573	1.88E-01
				Batch 5	0.890	0.042	18.778	9.40E-01
				gngt1	0.951	0.387	2.336	9.12E-01
				syt10	1.447	0.792	2.642	2.30E-01
				rgs6	0.855	0.193	3.799	8.37E-01
				hcn4	2.644	1.402	4.986	2.66E-03
				hcn4l	omitted			
				neo1a	1.165	0.499	2.717	7.24E-01
				neo1b	1.694	0.434	6.604	4.48E-01
2dpf	SA arrest	212	36	*quo*	0.764	0.404	1.442	4.06E-01
				si:dkey-65j6.2	0.750	0.327	1.720	4.97E-01
				time of day	1.117	0.829	1.506	4.66E-01
				intercept	0.008	0.000	0.414	1.64E-02
				Batch 1	7.540	0.770	73.835	8.27E-02
				Batch 2	11.656	1.342	101.224	2.60E-02
				Batch 3	5.798	0.665	50.571	1.12E-01
				Batch 4	5.656	0.523	61.178	1.54E-01
				Batch 5	omitted			
				gngt1	0.309	0.037	2.572	2.77E-01
				syt10	0.236	0.050	1.128	7.05E-02
				rgs6	1.049	0.068	16.223	9.73E-01
				hcn4	2.460	0.680	8.899	1.70E-01
				hcn4l	0.937	0.086	10.181	9.58E-01
				neo1a	0.897	0.190	4.232	8.91E-01
				neo1b	1.561	0.162	15.023	7.00E-01
5dpf	SA pause	312	9	*quo*	0.672	0.221	2.043	4.84E-01
				si:dkey-65j6.2	3.533	0.421	29.662	2.45E-01
				time of day	1.066	0.514	2.209	8.64E-01
				intercept	0.016	0.000	7.788	1.90E-01
				Batch 1	0.240	0.011	5.447	3.70E-01
				Batch 2	0.703	0.073	6.750	7.60E-01
				Batch 3	0.214	0.015	3.049	2.55E-01
				Batch 5	0.213	0.005	8.956	4.18E-01

Associations of dichotomous cardiac outcomes with the number of mutated alleles across each of the nine orthologues, weighted by their predicted effect on protein function. At 2 and 5 days post fertilization (dpf), associations were analyzed using logistic regression for outcomes with at least 10 cases. Associations were adjusted for time of day and for the weighted number of mutated alleles in the other genes as fixed factors. The genes *quo* and *si:dkey-65j6.2* are orthologues of the human *KIAA1755*.

Supplementary Table 6: Effects of CRISPR/Cas9-induced nonsense mutations in both alleles vs. no CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations on sinoatrial pauses and arrests at 2dpf

Gene	Outcome	n controls	n cases	OR	LCI	UCI	P
syt10	SA pause	162	21	3.451	0.792	15.043	9.92E-02
	SA arrest	121	20	3.480	0.789	15.347	9.95E-02
hcn4	SA pause	127	23	3.667	0.633	21.249	1.47E-01
	SA arrest	128	21	3.666	0.655	20.525	1.39E-01
neo1a	SA pause	56	16	1.200	0.148	9.717	8.65E-01
	SA arrest	56	16	1.200	0.148	9.717	8.65E-01
quo	SA pause	158	32	0.513	0.132	1.993	3.35E-01
	SA arrest	121	29	0.553	0.136	2.239	4.06E-01
si:dkey-65j6.2	SA pause	39	8	0.145	0.009	2.389	1.77E-01
	SA arrest	39	8	0.145	0.009	2.389	1.77E-01

Associations were examined using logistic regression analyses for outcomes with at least 10 cases and for genes with at least 5 embryos with a nonsense mutation in both alleles. Associations were adjusted for time of day, batch, and the weighted number of mutated alleles in the other genes. Models could not be adjusted for the weighted number of mutated alleles in *hcn4l*, since none of the embryos with a mutated *hcn4l* allele showed a sinoatrial pause or arrest. Furthermore, data from the first and/or last round of the experiment were typically excluded from the analysis because no embryos showed a sinoatrial pause or arrest. The genes *quo* and *si:dkey-65j6.2* are orthologues of the human *KIAA1755*.

Supplementary Table 7: Additive effects of CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations on (change in) heart rate variability and heart rate

Age	n	Outcome	Factor	Gene	Model 1					Model 2				
					Effect size	SE	LCI	UCI	P	Effect size	SE	LCI	UCI	P
2dpf	234	HRV	fixed	gngt1	0.155	0.141	-0.120	0.431	2.69E-01	0.112	0.124	-0.131	0.354	3.66E-01
				syt10	-0.027	0.096	-0.214	0.161	7.78E-01	-0.032	0.084	-0.197	0.132	7.00E-01
				rgs6	0.270	0.230	-0.181	0.720	2.41E-01	0.031	0.204	-0.370	0.431	8.80E-01
				hcn4	0.246	0.129	-0.008	0.499	5.75E-02	0.209	0.114	-0.015	0.432	6.71E-02
				hcn4l	0.083	0.200	-0.309	0.476	6.78E-01	0.110	0.176	-0.236	0.455	5.34E-01
				neo1a	0.011	0.139	-0.261	0.283	9.37E-01	0.046	0.123	-0.195	0.288	7.06E-01
				neo1b	0.172	0.133	-0.088	0.432	1.94E-01	0.172	0.117	-0.057	0.400	1.41E-01
				quo	0.116	0.097	-0.074	0.307	2.32E-01	0.072	0.086	-0.097	0.241	4.03E-01
				si:dkey-65j6.2	0.188	0.121	-0.050	0.426	1.21E-01	0.221	0.107	0.012	0.431	3.87E-02
				time of day at 2dpf	0.296	0.047	0.204	0.388	2.80E-10	0.526	0.050	0.428	0.624	5.05E-26
				Heart rate	-	-	-	-	-	-0.513	0.062	-0.636	-0.391	2.07E-16
				intercept	-1.718	0.381	-2.466	-0.970	6.68E-06	-2.362	0.353	-3.054	-1.670	2.20E-11
			random	variation by batch	0.310	0.128	0.138	0.697	-	0.306	0.119	0.143	0.657	-
				residual	0.869	0.041	0.792	0.952	-	0.763	0.036	0.696	0.837	-
		heart rate	fixed	gngt1	-0.080	0.131	-0.337	0.176	5.41E-01	-0.009	0.116	-0.236	0.217	9.37E-01
				syt10	-0.003	0.088	-0.176	0.170	9.75E-01	-0.006	0.078	-0.159	0.147	9.38E-01
				rgs6	-0.477	0.213	-0.895	-0.060	2.49E-02	-0.376	0.188	-0.745	-0.008	4.53E-02
				hcn4	-0.043	0.116	-0.271	0.184	7.08E-01	0.023	0.105	-0.182	0.227	8.29E-01
				hcn4l	0.096	0.182	-0.259	0.452	5.96E-01	0.148	0.162	-0.169	0.465	3.59E-01
				neo1a	0.110	0.118	-0.121	0.341	3.49E-01	0.138	0.107	-0.072	0.348	1.99E-01
				neo1b	0.006	0.120	-0.230	0.241	9.61E-01	0.062	0.107	-0.149	0.272	5.65E-01
				quo	-0.076	0.084	-0.240	0.088	3.64E-01	0.000	0.076	-0.149	0.149	1.00E+00
				si:dkey-65j6.2	0.059	0.108	-0.152	0.270	5.84E-01	0.167	0.097	-0.023	0.358	8.49E-02
				time of day at 2dpf	0.459	0.042	0.378	0.541	2.07E-28	0.579	0.040	0.500	0.658	1.55E-46
				HRV	-	-	-	-	-	-0.424	0.052	-0.526	-0.321	6.06E-16
				intercept	-1.353	0.280	-1.902	-0.805	1.33E-06	-2.148	0.285	-2.706	-1.590	4.47E-14
			random	variation by batch	0.031	0.233	0.000	66000	-	0.098	0.097	0.014	0.680	-
				residual	0.810	0.038	0.738	0.889	-	0.712	0.034	0.649	0.781	-
5dpf	285	HRV	fixed	gngt1	0.125	0.133	-0.136	0.386	3.47E-01	0.130	0.109	-0.084	0.344	2.35E-01
				syt10	-0.063	0.089	-0.237	0.111	4.76E-01	-0.066	0.074	-0.211	0.078	3.69E-01
				rgs6	0.231	0.192	-0.145	0.608	2.29E-01	0.100	0.159	-0.212	0.412	5.30E-01
				hcn4	-0.286	0.112	-0.506	-0.066	1.09E-02	-0.129	0.096	-0.317	0.059	1.78E-01
				hcn4l	0.056	0.211	-0.358	0.470	7.90E-01	0.080	0.179	-0.272	0.431	6.56E-01
				neo1a	0.117	0.118	-0.114	0.348	3.22E-01	0.035	0.103	-0.167	0.237	7.34E-01
				neo1b	-0.014	0.139	-0.286	0.257	9.17E-01	0.002	0.116	-0.226	0.231	9.83E-01
				quo	0.072	0.092	-0.107	0.251	4.31E-01	0.053	0.080	-0.103	0.209	5.06E-01
				si:dkey-65j6.2	0.243	0.119	0.010	0.476	4.08E-02	0.173	0.101	-0.024	0.370	8.59E-02
				time of day at 5dpf	0.241	0.050	0.143	0.339	1.51E-06	0.521	0.050	0.423	0.620	2.36E-25
				Heart rate	-	-	-	-	-	-0.601	0.053	-0.705	-0.498	3.75E-30
				intercept	-1.293	0.366	-2.010	-0.575	4.14E-04	-1.981	0.386	-2.738	-1.223	2.97E-07
			random	variation by batch	0.145	0.092	0.042	0.500	-	0.477	0.170	0.237	0.959	-
				residual	0.915	0.039	0.842	0.994	-	0.751	0.032	0.692	0.816	-
		heart rate	fixed	gngt1	0.001	0.123	-0.240	0.242	9.96E-01	0.068	0.101	-0.130	0.266	5.01E-01
				syt10	-0.018	0.083	-0.181	0.145	8.31E-01	-0.049	0.068	-0.183	0.085	4.75E-01
				rgs6	-0.170	0.179	-0.520	0.181	3.43E-01	-0.062	0.147	-0.351	0.227	6.75E-01
				hcn4	0.338	0.106	0.130	0.545	1.44E-03	0.157	0.089	-0.016	0.331	7.58E-02
				hcn4l	-0.035	0.202	-0.430	0.360	8.63E-01	0.024	0.166	-0.301	0.350	8.83E-01
				neo1a	-0.139	0.115	-0.365	0.087	2.27E-01	-0.090	0.095	-0.277	0.097	3.47E-01
				neo1b	0.136	0.131	-0.121	0.392	3.00E-01	0.083	0.108	-0.128	0.294	4.42E-01
				quo	0.011	0.089	-0.165	0.186	9.04E-01	0.022	0.074	-0.123	0.168	7.62E-01
				si:dkey-65j6.2	-0.076	0.113	-0.297	0.146	5.02E-01	0.030	0.094	-0.153	0.214	7.48E-01
				time of day at 5dpf	0.410	0.051	0.310	0.509	6.80E-16	0.565	0.044	0.479	0.651	5.89E-38
				HRV	-	-	-	-	-	-0.524	0.045	-0.613	-0.435	7.90E-31
				intercept	-1.243	0.421	-2.069	-0.417	3.17E-03	-1.858	0.406	-2.654	-1.063	4.70E-06
			random	variation by batch	0.509	0.181	0.253	1.023	-	0.615	0.206	0.319	1.186	-
				residual	0.845	0.036	0.778	0.918	-	0.694	0.029	0.639	0.754	-
Δ5dpf - 2dpf	197	ΔHRV	fixed	gngt1	0.004	0.156	-0.301	0.310	9.78E-01	-0.025	0.131	-0.282	0.231	8.46E-01
				syt10	0.003	0.105	-0.202	0.208	9.79E-01	-0.033	0.088	-0.205	0.140	7.11E-01
				rgs6	-0.049	0.245	-0.530	0.431	8.40E-01	-0.054	0.206	-0.458	0.349	7.92E-01
				hcn4	-0.482	0.137	-0.751	-0.213	4.43E-04	-0.317	0.117	-0.547	-0.087	6.99E-03
				hcn4l	0.091	0.230	-0.360	0.543	6.92E-01	-0.025	0.194	-0.406	0.356	8.98E-01
				neo1a	0.130	0.148	-0.159	0.420	3.77E-01	0.124	0.125	-0.121	0.369	3.22E-01
				neo1b	-0.224	0.152	-0.523	0.075	1.42E-01	-0.135	0.128	-0.387	0.117	2.93E-01
				quo	-0.054	0.108	-0.265	0.158	6.19E-01	0.069	0.092	-0.111	0.250	4.53E-01
				si:dkey-65j6.2	-0.131	0.141	-0.407	0.146	3.54E-01	-0.253	0.120	-0.488	-0.018	3.47E-02
				time of day at 2dpf	-0.342	0.246	-0.824	0.140	1.65E-01	-0.286	0.252	-0.780	0.208	2.56E-01
				time of day at 5dpf	0.361	0.294	-0.216	0.937	2.20E-01	0.331	0.305	-0.268	0.929	2.79E-01
				Δheart rate	-	-	-	-	-	-0.513	0.058	-0.626	-0.399	7.54E-19
				intercept	0.335	0.559	-0.761	1.430	5.49E-01	0.140	0.527	-0.894	1.173	7.91E-01
			random	variation by batch	0.464	0.225	0.179	1.202	-	0.569	0.227	0.260	1.242	-
				residual	0.859	0.044	0.776	0.950	-	0.720	0.037	0.651	0.797	-
		Δheart rate	fixed	gngt1	-0.058	0.163	-0.378	0.261	7.20E-01	-0.056	0.137	-0.325	0.213	6.83E-01
				syt10	-0.076	0.109	-0.290	0.138	4.85E-01	-0.073	0.092	-0.254	0.107	4.25E-01
				rgs6	-0.036	0.256	-0.536	0.465	8.90E-01	-0.058	0.215	-0.480	0.364	7.87E-01
				hcn4	0.363	0.143	0.084	0.643	1.09E-02	0.089	0.125	-0.155	0.333	4.75E-01
				hcn4l	-0.282	0.239	-0.751	0.187	2.39E-01	-0.213	0.203	-0.610	0.184	2.94E-01
				neo1a	-0.018	0.152	-0.316	0.281	9.07E-01	0.046	0.130	-0.210	0.302	7.25E-01
				neo1b	0.171	0.159	-0.140	0.483	2.81E-01	0.045	0.135	-0.219	0.309	7.40E-01
				quo	0.235	0.111	0.018	0.453	3.41E-02	0.203	0.095	0.017	0.389	3.24E-02
				si:dkey-65j6.2	-0.269	0.146	-0.556	0.018	6.60E-02	-0.342	0.124	-0.586	-0.099	5.91E-03
				time of day at 2dpf	0.292	0.208	-0.116	0.699	1.60E-01	0.195	0.231	-0.259	0.648	4.00E-01
				time of day at 5dpf	-0.302	0.243	-0.779	0.175	2.14E-01	-0.206	0.278	-0.751	0.339	4.59E-01
				ΔHRV	-	-	-	-	-	-0.552	0.063	-0.675	-0.429	1.45E-18
				intercept	-0.094	0.533	-1.138	0.951	8.61E-01	0.167	0.508	-0.828	1.162	7.42E-01
			random	variation by batch	0.327	0.135	0.145	0.735	-	0.458	0.158	0.233	0.899	-
				residual	0.898	0.046	0.812	0.992	-	0.754	0.039	0.683	0.834	-

(Change in) heart rate variability (HRV) and heart rate were inverse normally transformed before the analysis, so effect sizes and SEs can be interpreted as z-score units. Associations of outcomes with the weighted number of mutated alleles in the main transcript of each targeted zebrafish orthologue were examined using hierarchical linear models (xtmixed in Stata). Associations were adjusted for time of day and for the weighted number of mutated alleles in the other genes as fixed factors, with embryos nested in batches (random factor). In Model 2, associations were additionally adjusted for heart rate and HRV, respectively. The genes *quo* and *si:dkey-65j6.2* are orthologues of the human *KIAA1755*.

Supplementary Table 8: Effects of CRISPR/Cas9-induced nonsense mutations in both alleles vs. no CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations on (change in) heart rate variability and heart rate

Gene	Age	n	Outcome	Model 1					Model 2				
				Effect size	SE	LCI	UCI	P	Effect size	SE	LCI	UCI	P
syt10	2dpf	146	HRV	-0.073	0.205	-0.475	0.329	7.22E-01	-0.128	0.182	-0.485	0.229	4.82E-01
			Heart rate	-0.115	0.199	-0.506	0.276	5.64E-01	-0.103	0.176	-0.449	0.243	5.59E-01
	5dpf	180	HRV	-0.066	0.191	-0.440	0.308	7.30E-01	-0.133	0.157	-0.441	0.174	3.96E-01
			Heart rate	-0.184	0.189	-0.555	0.187	3.31E-01	-0.198	0.152	-0.496	0.101	1.95E-01
	Δ5dpf - 2dpf	123	ΔHRV	0.014	0.198	-0.375	0.403	9.43E-01	-0.082	0.172	-0.420	0.255	6.33E-01
			Δheart rate	-0.228	0.225	-0.668	0.213	3.12E-01	-0.232	0.197	-0.618	0.153	2.37E-01
hcn4	2dpf	183	HRV	0.148	0.399	-0.634	0.930	7.11E-01	0.520	0.344	-0.153	1.194	1.30E-01
			Heart rate	0.695	0.358	-0.006	1.396	5.20E-02	0.674	0.309	0.068	1.280	2.93E-02
	5dpf	212	HRV	-1.349	0.338	-2.010	-0.687	6.48E-05	-0.759	0.294	-1.335	-0.182	9.91E-03
			Heart rate	1.208	0.321	0.579	1.836	1.66E-04	0.444	0.278	-0.100	0.988	1.10E-01
	Δ5dpf - 2dpf	152	ΔHRV	-0.677	0.400	-1.461	0.107	9.04E-02	-0.350	0.344	-1.024	0.324	3.09E-01
			Δheart rate	0.785	0.438	-0.074	1.644	7.34E-02	0.373	0.378	-0.368	1.113	3.24E-01
neo1a	2dpf	70	HRV	0.029	0.343	-0.643	0.702	9.32E-01	0.094	0.317	-0.527	0.714	7.67E-01
			Heart rate	0.102	0.294	-0.473	0.677	7.28E-01	0.216	0.264	-0.302	0.734	4.15E-01
	5dpf	93	HRV	0.089	0.286	-0.473	0.650	7.57E-01	0.140	0.249	-0.348	0.628	5.75E-01
			Heart rate	0.166	0.274	-0.372	0.704	5.45E-01	0.113	0.247	-0.371	0.597	6.47E-01
	Δ5dpf - 2dpf	60	ΔHRV	0.192	0.392	-0.575	0.960	6.23E-01	0.635	0.323	0.002	1.269	4.93E-02
			Δheart rate	0.702	0.342	0.032	1.372	4.02E-02	0.478	0.296	-0.102	1.057	1.07E-01
neo1b	2dpf	80	HRV	0.292	0.308	-0.312	0.896	3.43E-01	0.332	0.290	-0.236	0.901	2.52E-01
			Heart rate	0.153	0.262	-0.360	0.667	5.58E-01	0.225	0.243	-0.251	0.701	3.55E-01
	5dpf	89	HRV	0.053	0.333	-0.600	0.706	8.74E-01	-0.092	0.289	-0.658	0.474	7.50E-01
			Heart rate	0.025	0.325	-0.612	0.661	9.40E-01	-0.073	0.276	-0.614	0.469	7.92E-01
	Δ5dpf - 2dpf	63	ΔHRV	-0.515	0.364	-1.227	0.198	1.57E-01	-0.555	0.308	-1.159	0.049	7.17E-02
			Δheart rate	0.014	0.374	-0.720	0.747	9.71E-01	-0.277	0.331	-0.925	0.372	4.03E-01
quo	2dpf	170	HRV	0.227	0.206	-0.176	0.631	2.70E-01	0.150	0.193	-0.228	0.528	4.36E-01
			Heart rate	-0.104	0.178	-0.454	0.245	5.58E-01	0.006	0.167	-0.321	0.332	9.73E-01
	5dpf	214	HRV	0.240	0.193	-0.139	0.618	2.14E-01	0.203	0.177	-0.144	0.550	2.52E-01
			Heart rate	-0.065	0.192	-0.441	0.310	7.34E-01	0.012	0.163	-0.308	0.332	9.40E-01
	Δ5dpf - 2dpf	146	ΔHRV	0.045	0.250	-0.445	0.535	8.57E-01	0.283	0.214	-0.137	0.703	1.86E-01
			Δheart rate	0.424	0.236	-0.039	0.887	7.27E-02	0.413	0.206	0.009	0.816	4.49E-02
si:dkey-65j6.2	2dpf	60	HRV	0.291	0.298	-0.294	0.876	3.29E-01	0.224	0.281	-0.327	0.775	4.25E-01
			Heart rate	-0.110	0.226	-0.552	0.332	6.27E-01	0.027	0.216	-0.397	0.452	8.99E-01
	5dpf	67	HRV	0.364	0.350	-0.322	1.051	2.98E-01	0.395	0.328	-0.248	1.038	2.29E-01
			Heart rate	0.111	0.298	-0.473	0.695	7.08E-01	0.160	0.275	-0.378	0.698	5.60E-01
	Δ5dpf - 2dpf	50	ΔHRV	-0.648	0.425	-1.480	0.184	1.27E-01	-0.677	0.419	-1.497	0.144	1.06E-01
			Δheart rate	-0.160	0.412	-0.967	0.647	6.97E-01	-0.270	0.415	-1.083	0.543	5.15E-01

(Change in) heart rate variability (HRV) and heart rate were inverse normally transformed before the analysis, so effect sizes and SEs can be interpreted as z-score units. Associations with outcomes are for embryos carrying frameshift and/or premature stop coding introducing mutations in both alleles vs. embryos free from CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations. Associations were examined using hierarchical linear models (xtmixed in Stata) and were adjusted for time of day and for the weighted number of mutated alleles in the other genes as fixed factors, with larvae nested in batches (random factor). In Model 2, associations were additionally adjusted for (change in) heart rate and HRV, respectively. The genes *quo* and *si:dkey-65j6.2* are orthologues of the human *KIAA1755* .

Supplementary Table 9: Additive effect of CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations on body size

Outcome	Factor	Gene	2dpf						5dpf					
			n	Effect size	SE	LCI	UCI	P	n	Effect size	SE	LCI	UCI	P
Length	fixed	gngt1		-0.120	0.115	-0.346	0.106	2.97E-01		0.043	0.115	-0.182	0.268	7.05E-01
		syt10		0.147	0.080	-0.009	0.303	6.54E-02		0.095	0.076	-0.053	0.243	2.09E-01
		rgs6		-0.444	0.179	-0.795	-0.094	1.31E-02		-0.467	0.181	-0.822	-0.113	9.65E-03
		hcn4		-0.131	0.101	-0.330	0.067	1.96E-01		0.080	0.094	-0.104	0.265	3.95E-01
		hcn4l		0.126	0.200	-0.265	0.518	5.28E-01		-0.075	0.192	-0.452	0.301	6.95E-01
		neo1a	332	-0.029	0.110	-0.244	0.185	7.89E-01	242	-0.136	0.108	-0.347	0.076	2.09E-01
		neo1b		0.075	0.122	-0.163	0.314	5.37E-01		0.045	0.127	-0.205	0.294	7.26E-01
		quo		-0.008	0.083	-0.171	0.156	9.27E-01		-0.026	0.082	-0.186	0.134	7.52E-01
		si:dkey-65j6.2		0.045	0.107	-0.165	0.254	6.77E-01		-0.087	0.105	-0.293	0.119	4.08E-01
		time of day		0.111	0.042	0.029	0.193	7.88E-03		0.091	0.047	-0.001	0.183	5.25E-02
		intercept		-0.490	0.371	-1.216	0.237	1.86E-01		-0.131	0.449	-1.011	0.750	7.71E-01
	random	variation by batch		0.395	0.129	0.208	0.748	-		0.689	0.227	0.361	1.315	-
		residual		0.897	0.035	0.830	0.968	-		0.703	0.032	0.643	0.770	-
Dorsal area	fixed	gngt1		0.025	0.110	-0.190	0.240	8.20E-01		-0.091	0.137	-0.360	0.178	5.08E-01
		syt10		0.052	0.076	-0.096	0.201	4.89E-01		0.048	0.090	-0.129	0.225	5.99E-01
		rgs6		-0.031	0.168	-0.361	0.299	8.55E-01		-0.462	0.223	-0.899	-0.024	3.86E-02
		hcn4		-0.022	0.096	-0.210	0.167	8.22E-01		-0.090	0.110	-0.305	0.126	4.14E-01
		hcn4l		0.066	0.188	-0.303	0.435	7.25E-01		0.097	0.222	-0.338	0.531	6.63E-01
		neo1a	322	0.208	0.105	0.002	0.414	4.76E-02	234	-0.032	0.125	-0.277	0.214	8.01E-01
		neo1b		0.003	0.117	-0.226	0.232	9.81E-01		-0.139	0.154	-0.441	0.163	3.66E-01
		quo		0.052	0.080	-0.105	0.210	5.16E-01		0.267	0.095	0.081	0.452	4.92E-03
		si:dkey-65j6.2		-0.184	0.103	-0.386	0.019	7.50E-02		-0.274	0.123	-0.515	-0.034	2.54E-02
		time of day		-0.052	0.040	-0.131	0.026	1.89E-01		-0.072	0.053	-0.176	0.032	1.74E-01
		intercept		-0.049	0.365	-0.765	0.668	8.94E-01		0.428	0.406	-0.369	1.225	2.92E-01
	random	variation by batch		0.437	0.138	0.236	0.810	-		0.300	0.129	0.130	0.696	-
		residual		0.842	0.033	0.779	0.910	-		0.824	0.039	0.751	0.903	-
Lateral area	fixed	gngt1		0.052	0.124	-0.192	0.295	6.76E-01		-0.172	0.119	-0.405	0.060	1.47E-01
		syt10		0.086	0.087	-0.084	0.255	3.24E-01		-0.007	0.082	-0.167	0.153	9.30E-01
		rgs6		-0.063	0.182	-0.419	0.293	7.27E-01		-0.074	0.175	-0.417	0.269	6.72E-01
		hcn4		-0.137	0.106	-0.344	0.070	1.95E-01		-0.115	0.102	-0.314	0.084	2.57E-01
		hcn4l		0.053	0.208	-0.354	0.460	7.99E-01		0.195	0.200	-0.196	0.586	3.29E-01
		neo1a	300	0.235	0.112	0.015	0.454	3.61E-02	258	-0.034	0.122	-0.272	0.204	7.80E-01
		neo1b		-0.051	0.127	-0.300	0.199	6.89E-01		-0.138	0.148	-0.428	0.151	3.48E-01
		quo		0.139	0.088	-0.033	0.312	1.13E-01		0.262	0.092	0.080	0.443	4.66E-03
		si:dkey-65j6.2		-0.248	0.111	-0.466	-0.030	2.57E-02		-0.402	0.117	-0.632	-0.173	5.79E-04
		time of day		-0.047	0.044	-0.134	0.040	2.91E-01		-0.074	0.050	-0.172	0.023	1.35E-01
		intercept		-0.001	0.355	-0.697	0.695	9.97E-01		0.595	0.415	-0.217	1.408	1.51E-01
	random	variation by batch		0.265	0.104	0.123	0.570	-		0.440	0.154	0.221	0.876	-
		residual		0.908	0.038	0.837	0.985	-		0.796	0.035	0.729	0.868	-
Volume	fixed	gngt1		0.088	0.110	-0.129	0.304	4.27E-01		-0.187	0.129	-0.441	0.066	1.47E-01
		syt10		0.052	0.076	-0.097	0.202	4.93E-01		-0.023	0.083	-0.186	0.141	7.87E-01
		rgs6		0.093	0.174	-0.249	0.435	5.93E-01		-0.042	0.180	-0.394	0.310	8.13E-01
		hcn4		-0.014	0.096	-0.203	0.174	8.80E-01		0.017	0.102	-0.182	0.217	8.64E-01
		hcn4l		-0.033	0.185	-0.395	0.330	8.59E-01		0.092	0.229	-0.357	0.541	6.87E-01
		neo1a	299	0.314	0.103	0.113	0.515	2.23E-03	199	0.033	0.117	-0.196	0.262	7.76E-01
		neo1b		-0.062	0.111	-0.279	0.154	5.73E-01		0.105	0.143	-0.176	0.386	4.64E-01
		quo		0.153	0.078	0.000	0.305	4.98E-02		0.150	0.091	-0.028	0.328	9.82E-02
		si:dkey-65j6.2		-0.239	0.100	-0.435	-0.042	1.74E-02		-0.398	0.116	-0.626	-0.170	6.23E-04
		time of day		-0.065	0.040	-0.144	0.015	1.10E-01		-0.075	0.052	-0.177	0.027	1.50E-01
		intercept		-0.153	0.355	-0.849	0.544	6.67E-01		0.198	0.448	-0.679	1.075	6.58E-01
	random	variation by batch		0.427	0.136	0.229	0.796	-		0.572	0.196	0.292	1.120	-
		residual		0.806	0.033	0.743	0.874	-		0.718	0.037	0.650	0.794	-

Dorsal body surface area, lateral body surface area, and body volume were normalized for body length before the analysis, and outcomes were inverse normally transformed, so effect sizes and SEs can be interpreted as z-score units. Associations of outcomes with the weighted number of mutated alleles in the main transcript of each targeted zebrafish orthologue were examined using hierarchical linear models (xtmixed in Stata). Associations were adjusted for time of day and for the weighted number of mutated alleles in the other genes as fixed factors, with embryos nested in batches (random factor). The genes *quo* and *si:dkey-65j6.2* are orthologues of the human *KIAA1755*.

Supplementary Table 10: Effect of CRISPR/Cas9-induced nonsense mutations in both alleles vs. no CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations on body size

Gene	Outcome	2dpf						5dpf					
		n	Effect size	SE	LCI	UCI	P	n	Effect size	SE	LCI	UCI	P
syt10	Length	208	0.207	0.174	-0.135	0.548	2.35E-01	153	0.174	0.182	-0.182	0.530	3.38E-01
	Dorsal area	200	0.022	0.174	-0.320	0.363	9.01E-01	145	0.101	0.204	-0.299	0.501	6.20E-01
	Lateral area	182	0.002	0.200	-0.390	0.393	9.93E-01	155	-0.122	0.193	-0.501	0.257	5.28E-01
	Volume	186	-0.028	0.173	-0.366	0.311	8.73E-01	128	-0.170	0.201	-0.564	0.224	3.98E-01
hcn4	Length	241	0.026	0.306	-0.573	0.625	9.33E-01	177	0.130	0.291	-0.439	0.700	6.54E-01
	Dorsal area	233	-0.020	0.309	-0.626	0.586	9.49E-01	171	0.440	0.319	-0.185	1.065	1.67E-01
	Lateral area	217	0.154	0.321	-0.475	0.783	6.31E-01	183	0.300	0.326	-0.339	0.940	3.57E-01
	Volume	216	0.264	0.303	-0.330	0.858	3.83E-01	141	0.474	0.280	-0.075	1.024	9.06E-02
neo1a	Length	107	-0.188	0.263	-0.703	0.328	4.75E-01	77	-0.317	0.317	-0.939	0.305	3.17E-01
	Dorsal area	104	0.707	0.246	0.224	1.189	4.08E-03	75	0.242	0.340	-0.424	0.907	4.76E-01
	Lateral area	97	-0.072	0.280	-0.621	0.476	7.96E-01	84	0.202	0.356	-0.496	0.901	5.70E-01
	Volume	94	0.516	0.266	-0.005	1.037	5.23E-02	69	-0.164	0.261	-0.676	0.347	5.29E-01
neo1b	Length	117	0.241	0.311	-0.369	0.851	4.38E-01	76	0.378	0.339	-0.286	1.042	2.64E-01
	Dorsal area	112	-0.056	0.296	-0.635	0.523	8.49E-01	72	-0.206	0.430	-1.050	0.637	6.32E-01
	Lateral area	106	0.343	0.336	-0.315	1.001	3.07E-01	74	0.209	0.394	-0.564	0.982	5.96E-01
	Volume	110	0.170	0.284	-0.386	0.726	5.49E-01	62	0.181	0.373	-0.550	0.913	6.27E-01
quo	Length	241	-0.115	0.182	-0.471	0.241	5.27E-01	180	0.078	0.171	-0.256	0.413	6.46E-01
	Dorsal area	235	0.238	0.178	-0.110	0.587	1.80E-01	175	0.545	0.210	0.133	0.957	9.52E-03
	Lateral area	223	0.244	0.198	-0.144	0.632	2.18E-01	188	0.394	0.212	-0.021	0.809	6.30E-02
	Volume	218	0.331	0.174	-0.010	0.671	5.70E-02	146	0.175	0.197	-0.211	0.560	3.75E-01
si:dkey-65j6.2	Length	80	0.221	0.325	-0.416	0.858	4.96E-01	53	-0.107	0.345	-0.782	0.569	7.57E-01
	Dorsal area	78	-0.110	0.266	-0.631	0.412	6.80E-01	51	-0.566	0.317	-1.188	0.056	7.45E-02
	Lateral area	74	-0.489	0.295	-1.067	0.089	9.72E-02	57	-0.622	0.389	-1.384	0.139	1.09E-01
	Volume	75	-0.300	0.262	-0.813	0.212	2.51E-01	44	-0.732	0.338	-1.395	-0.070	3.03E-02

Dorsal body surface area, lateral body surface area, and body volume were normalized for body length before the analysis, and all outcomes were inverse normally transformed, so effect sizes and SEs can be interpreted as z-score units. Associations with outcomes are for embryos carrying CRISPR/Cas9-induced nonsense mutations in both alleles vs. embryos free from CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations. Associations were examined using hierarchical linear models (xtmixed in Stata) and were adjusted for time of day and for the weighted number of mutated alleles in the other genes as fixed factors, with embryos nested in batches (random factor). The genes *quo* and *si:dkey-65j6.2* are orthologues of the human *KIAA1755*.

Supplementary Table 11: Transcripts with at least 75% sequence similarity to the zebrafish *hcn4* cDNA sequence

Gene	ENSDARG stable ID	BLAST Score	%ID	Human orthologue	ENSG stable ID	Target %id	Query %id
hcn4l	ENSDARG00000074419	479	85.20	*HCN4*	ENSG00000138622	59.96	50.04
CABZ01086574.1	ENSDARG00000116404	277	80.09	*HCN2*	ENSG00000099822	60.30	22.72
hcn2b	ENSDARG00000061665	249	85.63	*HCN2*	ENSG00000099822	-	-
hcn3	ENSDARG00000027192	200	82.35	*HCN3*	ENSG00000143630	-	-
hcn1	ENSDARG00000104480	160	78.42	*HCN1*	ENSG00000164588	72.25	73.71

Zebrafish genes with transcripts showing at least 75% sequence similarity to the main zebrafish *hcn4* transcript were selected for a qRT-PCR experiment to explore possible compensatory responses to CRISPR/Cas9 mutagenesis of *hcn4*. BLAST score represents the highest score for a transcript of that zebrafish gene against the *hcn4* cDNA sequence. 'Human orthologue' shows for which human gene that zebrafish gene was flagged as an orthologue in Ensembl. Target %id is the percentage of the orthologous sequence that matches the human sequence (Ensembl); Query %id is the percentage of the human sequence matching the sequence of the orthologue.

Supplementary Table 12: qRT-PCR target sites, primers and experimental conditions

Gene	Ensembl gene ID	Site	Forward Primer Sequence (5'- 3')	Reverse Primer Sequence (5'- 3')	Product size (bp)	Primer efficiency	R^2	slope	Melting Temperature (°C)
hcn4	ENSDARG00000061685	CRISPR/Cas9 cut site	CTCCTGGAGCCGCGGGTG	TGCTCGATGCCTTCCAGCTT	139	111.62	0.983	-3.072	92.5
		last exon	GGCCGCTTTTATGAGGATTT	GGCCTGGAGAAGTCTGTACG	178	118.58	0.991	-2.495	95.0
hcn4l	ENSDARG00000074419	CRISPR/Cas9 cut site	TCTTCTAATGGTGGGCAACC	CTGCGCAAGTACCTGACCTT	210	116.38	0.960	-2.983	84.0
		last exon	GGCTTGGCTCACTGAAAGAC	GCGGTGTGGAGGTAGATGAT	171	117.26	0.966	-2.968	95.0
CABZ01086574.1	ENSDART00000192280		GAGTCAGCGGAGGTGTATCG	TGCGCTTGCTAGGTCATAGG	156	105.86	0.962	-3.189	82.0
hcn2b	ENSDARG00000061665		AAACCACCACCCCTTGGATT	CACCGGGATGGATGAGACAAA	188	154.33	0.998	-2.467	81.0
hcn3	ENSDARG00000027192		TGTGTTGGTCATCCACCCCT	CGGTGACGGATGCTTTTCAA	255	132.93	0.994	-2.723	84.5
hcn1	ENSDARG00000104480		AAGACTTCCCTCCCGATTGC	TCCAGAGGTCGGACATGCTA	153	159.97	0.989	-2.410	85.0
mob4	ENSDARG00000056085		CACCCGTTTCGTGATGAAGTACAA	GTTAAGCAGGATTTACAATGGAG	297	115.52	0.979	-2.999	85.0

Supplementary Table 13: Effects of targeting *hcn4*, *hcn4l*, or *hcn4* and *hcn4l* using CRISPR/Cas9 on the expression of genes with >75% sequence similarity to the main zebrafish *hcn4* transcript

Outcome	Exposure	n	Model 1					n	Model 2				
			Effect size	SE	LCI	UCI	P		Effect size	SE	LCI	UCI	P
hcn4 - on target	*hcn4*	68	-0.226	0.049	-0.325	-0.127	2.40E-05						
	hcn4l		0.054	0.048	-0.041	0.150	2.62E-01						
	hcn4 & *hcn4l*		-0.230	0.040	-0.310	-0.150	2.90E-07						
hcn4 - last exon	*hcn4*	69	0.028	0.072	-0.115	-0.172	6.96E-01						
	hcn4l		0.074	0.069	-0.064	0.212	2.88E-01						
	hcn4 & *hcn4l*		-0.013	0.578	-0.128	0.103	8.27E-01						
hcn4l - on target	*hcn4*	68	0.041	0.062	-0.082	0.165	5.06E-01						
	hcn4l		-0.048	0.611	-0.170	0.074	4.36E-01						
	hcn4 & *hcn4l*		-0.025	0.050	-0.124	0.075	6.20E-01						
hcn4l - last exon	*hcn4*	69	0.064	0.084	-0.103	0.232	4.47E-01						
	hcn4l		-0.019	0.081	-0.180	0.142	8.19E-01						
	hcn4 & *hcn4l*		0.047	0.067	-0.088	0.182	4.91E-01						
CABZ01086574.1	*hcn4*	64	0.444	0.193	0.058	0.830	2.50E-02	63	0.056	0.109	-0.162	0.274	6.10E-01
	hcn4l		0.045	0.203	-0.362	0.452	8.24E-01		0.016	0.110	-0.204	0.236	8.83E-01
	hcn4 & *hcn4l*		0.148	0.149	-0.150	0.447	3.24E-01		0.117	0.008	-0.044	0.279	1.50E-01
hcn2b	*hcn4*	68	0.177	0.085	0.007	0.347	4.20E-02						
	hcn4l		-0.006	0.082	-0.169	0.158	9.43E-01						
	hcn4 & *hcn4l*		0.041	0.070	-0.099	0.180	5.62E-01						
hcn3	*hcn4*	66	0.034	0.068	-0.102	0.171	6.17E-01	65	0.035	0.041	-0.046	0.117	3.86E-01
	hcn4l		0.074	0.066	-0.057	0.206	2.64E-01		-0.022	0.040	-0.102	0.059	5.93E-01
	hcn4 & *hcn4l*		-0.038	0.056	-0.151	0.075	5.05E-01		-0.035	0.034	-0.102	0.032	3.04E-01
hcn1	*hcn4*	68	0.376	0.225	-0.073	0.825	9.90E-02	67	0.001	0.166	-0.330	0.333	9.93E-01
	hcn4l		0.073	0.216	-0.360	0.505	7.39E-01		0.024	0.153	-0.282	0.331	8.74E-01
	hcn4 & *hcn4l*		0.163	0.182	-0.200	0.526	3.72E-01		0.126	0.129	-0.131	0.383	3.32E-01

All samples consisted of pooled tissue from five 5-day-old embryos. Three technical replicates per sample were used to calculate an average quantification cycle (Cq) for each sample, which were used to calculate a gene expression ratio (GER) for each sample using non-injected controls as a calibrator, and a reference gene (*mob4*) for normalization, using the Pfaffl method. GERs were used as outcomes in multiple linear regression analyses, to examine the effect of targeting *hcn4* (n=10), *hcn4l* (n=12), or *hcn4* & *hcn4l* (n=21) using CRISPR/Cas9 as compared with control samples that had either been micro-injected with Cas9 mRNA only, or *hcn4* & *hcn4l* gRNA only at the single-cell stage (n=26). Since the experiment was performed twice to reach an adequate sample size, associations were adjusted for batch. Model 1 makes use of all samples; while in Model 2, observations with a GER outside the mean ± 5·SD interval were excluded from the analysis. The latter resulted in the exclusion of one sample of *hcn4*-targeted embryos from the analysis for *CABZ01086574.1* (likely an orthologue of *HCN2*) and *hcn1*; and one sample of *hcn4l*-targeted embryos from the analysis for *hcn3*.

Supplementary Table 14: Druggability of interacting partners of putative causal genes

Candidate	Interaction partner	DGIdb categories	Drug or compound name	Category
SYT10	BOP1	Tumor supressor		
	SNAP23	Druggable genome		
	SNAP25	Druggable genome	Diazoxide	Anti-hypertensive agents
			Botulinum toxin type A	Neuromuscular blocking agents
	SNAP29	Druggable genome		
	SNAP47			
	SYT6			
RGS6	CCT6B	Transporter		
	DMAP1	DNA repair, histone modification, transcription factor binding		
	GNAI1	Tumor suppressor	CHEMBL384759	experimental
	GNAI2	Serine-threonine kinase		
	GNAI3			
	GNAO1	Drug resistance		
	GNAT3			
	GNB3		Lovastatin, Simvastatin, Cerivastatin	Anti-cholesterimic agents
			Olanzapine	Anti-psychotic agents
			Hydrocholorothiazide	Anti-hypertensive agents
	GNB5	Transporter, Ion channel		
	PDCL			
	RGS11			
	RGS7			
	RGS9			
	STMN2			
HCN4	HCN1	Druggable genome, Transporter, Ion channel	Ivabradine, Cilobradine, Zatebradine, CHEMBL2052019	Channel blocker
	HCN2	Druggable genome, Transporter, Ion channel	Cilobradine, Zatebradine, CHEMBL2052019	Channel blocker
	HCN3	Druggable genome, Transporter, Ion channel	Ivabradine, Cilobradine, Zatebradine, CHEMBL2052019	Channel blocker
	PEX5L			
KIAA1755	-			

Interaction partners of human candidate genes were identified using STRING and Genemania, and their classification was identified using the Drug gene interaction database (DGIdb). A selection of compounds and FDA-approved drugs was distilled from DGIdb.

Supplementary Table 15: Effect of 24h of ivabradine treatment on heart rate variability and heart rate in 5dpf zebrafish embryos

Outcome	Factor	Exposure	n	Model 1 Effect size	SE	LCI	UCI	P	n	Model 2 Effect size	SE	LCI	UCI	P
HRV		ivabradine (10 µM)		0.328	0.179	-0.022	0.678	6.65E-02		0.051	0.165	-0.273	0.374	7.58E-01
		ivabradine (25 µM)		0.905	0.172	0.568	1.242	1.45E-07		0.258	0.190	-0.115	0.631	1.76E-01
	fixed	heart rate (in SD)		-	-	-	-	-		-0.523	0.093	-0.706	-0.340	2.02E-08
		time of day	109	-0.057	0.071	-0.197	0.083	4.24E-01	109	0.105	0.069	-0.031	0.240	1.31E-01
		intercept		-0.541	0.283	-1.096	0.015	5.64E-02		-0.783	0.253	-1.279	-0.286	2.00E-03
	random	variation by batch		-	0.000	0.000	0.001	-		-	0.000	0.000	1.009	-
		residual		-	0.051	0.660	0.860	-		-	0.045	0.581	0.758	-
Heart rate		ivabradine (10 µM)		-0.524	0.158	-0.835	-0.214	9.35E-04		-0.401	0.142	-0.678	-0.123	4.68E-03
		ivabradine (25 µM)		-1.373	0.154	-1.675	-1.071	5.29E-19		-0.872	0.151	-1.169	-0.576	8.07E-09
	fixed	HRV (in SD)		-	-	-	-	-		-0.415	0.075	-0.563	-0.267	3.63E-08
		time of day	118	0.251	0.072	0.110	0.392	4.69E-04	109	0.274	0.061	0.154	0.395	8.28E-06
		intercept		-0.251	0.301	-0.841	0.338	4.04E-01		-0.655	0.246	-1.137	-0.173	7.76E-03
	random	variation by batch		-	0.113	0.114	0.611	-		-	0.089	0.038	0.488	-
		residual		-	0.046	0.611	0.794	-		-	0.041	0.512	0.672	-

Heart rate variability (HRV) and heart rate were inverse normally transformed before the analysis, so effect sizes and SEs can be interpreted as z-score units.
Associations of outcomes with exposure to 10 or 25 µM ivabradine in DMSO vs. DMSO only were examined using hierarchical linear models (xtmixed in Stata).
Associations were adjusted for time of day as fixed factors, with embryos nested in batches (random factor). In Model 2, associations were additionally adjusted for heart rate and HRV, respectively.