



Cover image: This study, published in *Brain*, demonstrates the impact of SMARCC1 knockdown in *Xenopus* tadpole brains, achieved by applying CRISPR/CAS9 system at the embryonic two-cell stage. This targeted knockdown in the left hemisphere, compared with the untouched right side, showcases significant neuroprogenitor proliferation reduction via PCNA staining. This work provides evidence for a “neural stem cell” paradigm of human congenital hydrocephalus pathogenesis and exemplifies the strategic advantages of employing *Xenopus* for complex genetic manipulations. *Brain*. 2024; 147(4):1553–1570.

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