

Supplementary Data

Development of non-viral vectors for neuronal-targeted delivery of CRISPR-Cas9 RNA-proteins as a therapeutic strategy for neurological disorders

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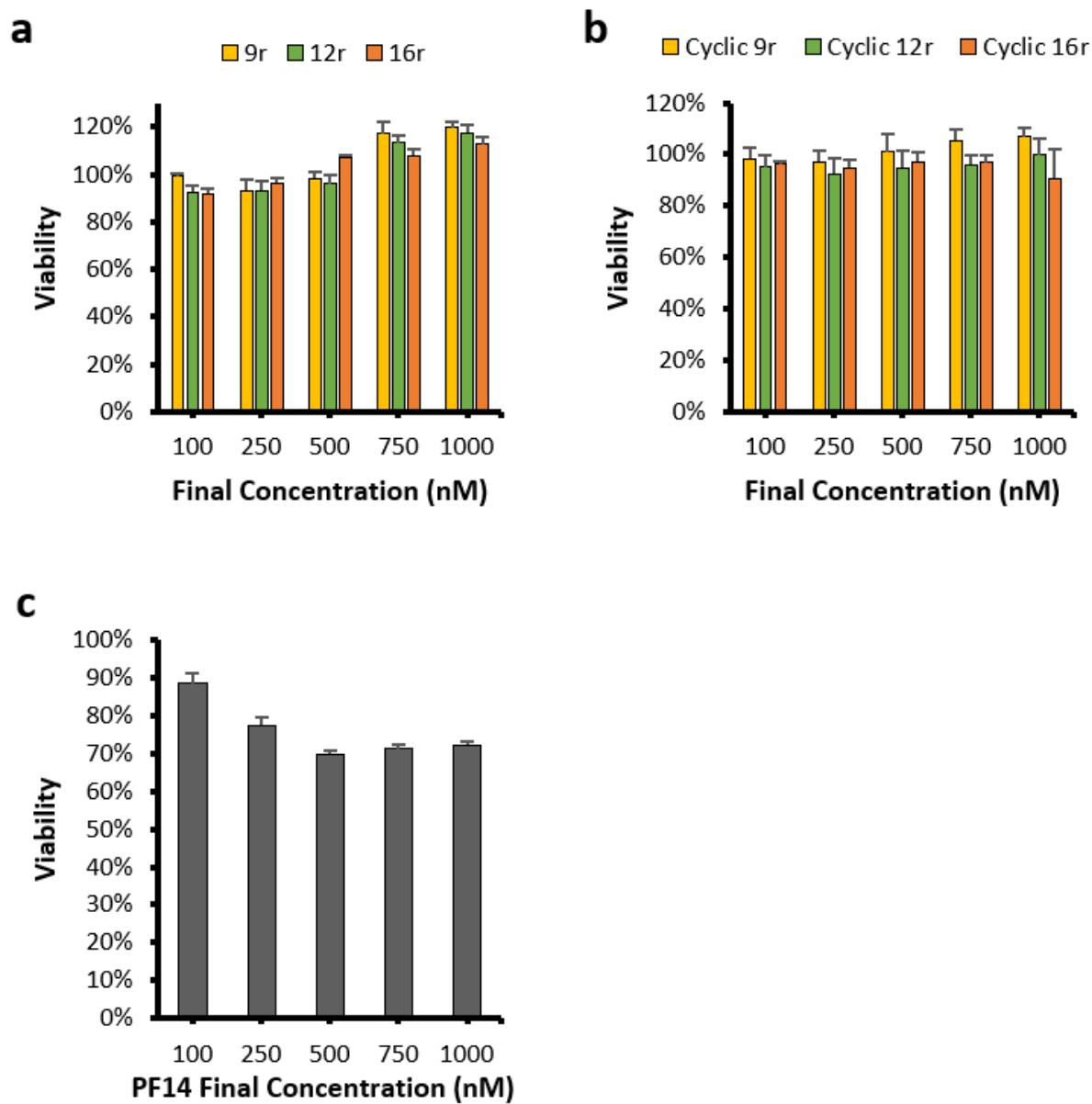
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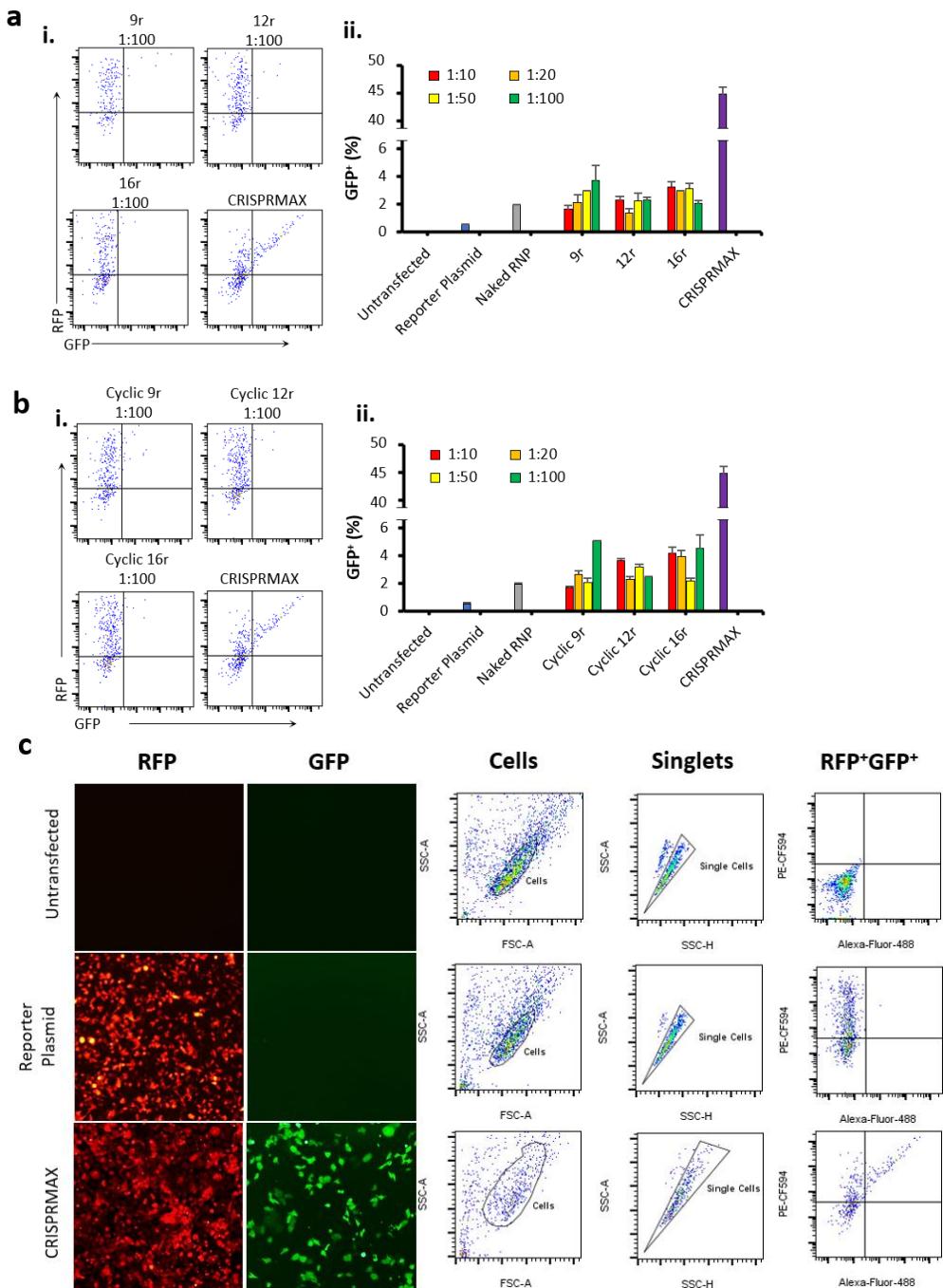
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Supplementary Fig. S1	Cytotoxicity tests for cell-penetrating peptides using MTT assay
Supplementary Fig. S2	Cellular Reporter Assay for poly-arginine peptides
Supplementary Fig. S3	Comparing Linear 9r, Cyclic 9r and PepFect14
Supplementary Fig. S4	Neuronal cell targeting
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Supplementary Tables	Table 1; 2; 3: Peptides, Primers, gRNAs and oligonucleotides used in this study
Additional Supplementary information	DNA sequences and maps of plasmids used in this study: pMRS_Cas9 and pRG2S_Cas9 reporter, DNA sequence S

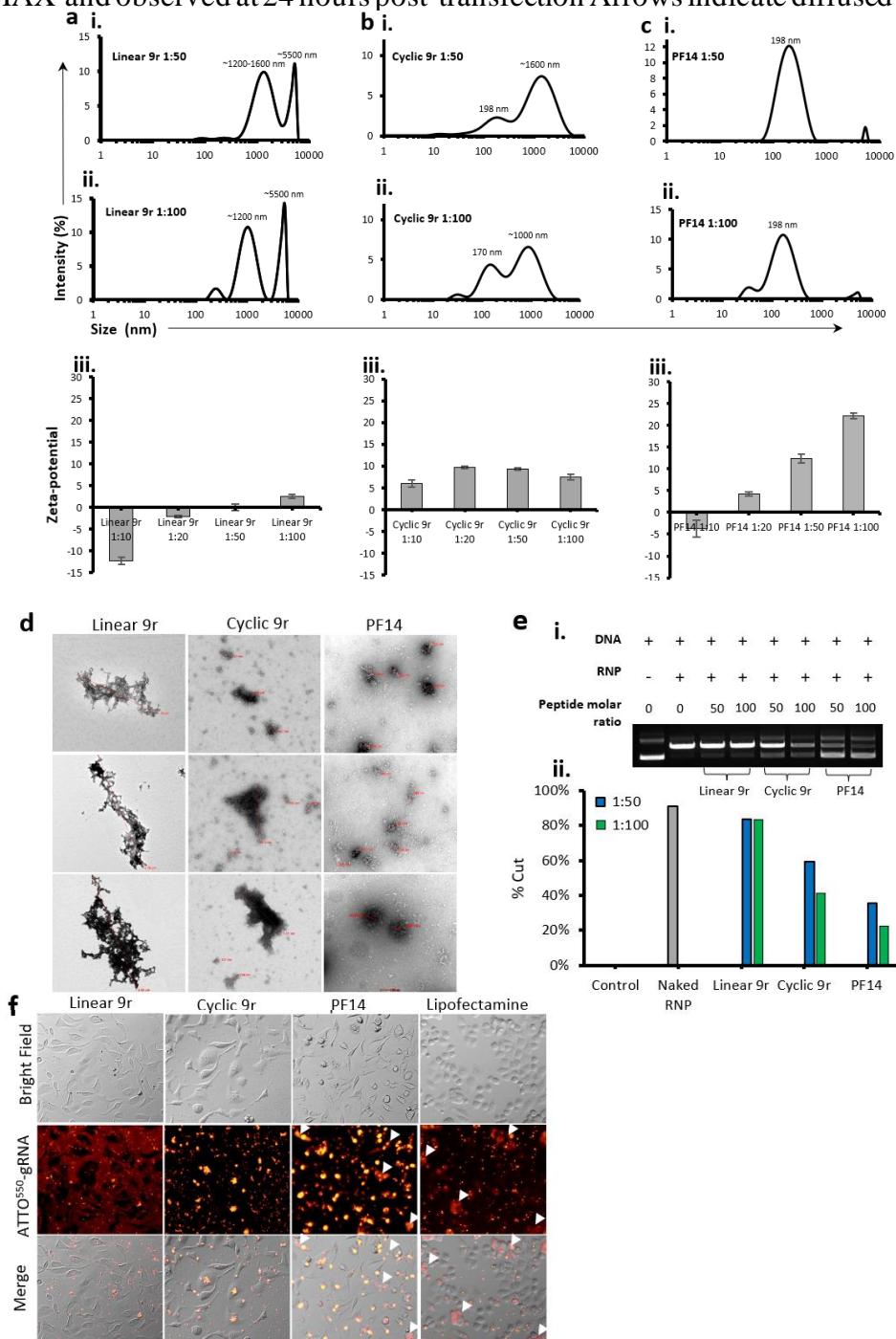
Supplementary Figure S1. Cytotoxicity tests for cell-penetrating peptides using MTT assay. HEK293 cells were treated with different amounts of linear (a) or cyclic (b) polyarginine peptides, or PepFect14 peptide (c). After 24 hours, viability was measured using MTT assay. Values are expressed as a percentage of the untreated control. Error bars are standard error of $n = 3$.



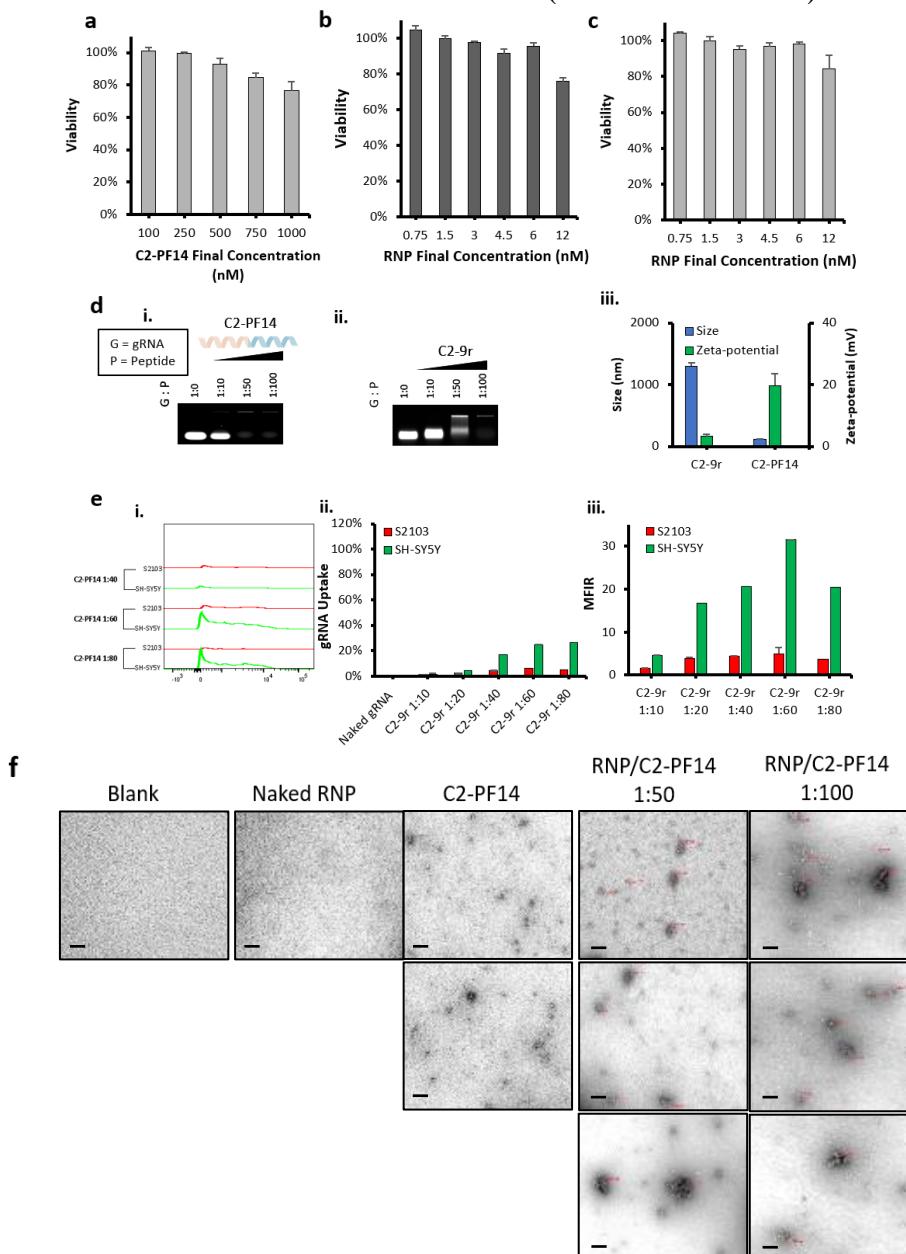
Supplementary Figure S2. Cellular Reporter Assay for poly-arginine peptides. To measure nuclease activity, HEK293 cells expressing the pMRS_Cas9 reporter plasmid were treated with RNP/linear (a) or RNP/cyclic (b) poly-arginine peptide complexes. Cells were treated in a 96-well plate with complexes containing 12 nM RNP using either Lipofectamine CRISPRMAX or peptides at the indicated molar ratios and incubated for 72 hours. RFP and GFP fluorescence were quantified by flowcytometry (i) and the percentage of nuclease active cells ($\text{RFP}^+\text{GFP}^+/\text{(RFP}^+$) was calculated (ii). The untreated control represents cells not transfected with the reporter plasmid; reporter plasmid was transfected with the reporter plasmid and not treated with any complexes; naked RNP were treated with RNP without peptides. Error bars are standard error ($n = 3$). (c) Representative fluorescent microscopy images and sample gating strategy of RFP^+GFP^+ population in untransfected cells, cells transfected only with pMRS_Cas9 reporter plasmid, and cells transfected with RNP using Lipofectamine CRISPRMAX.



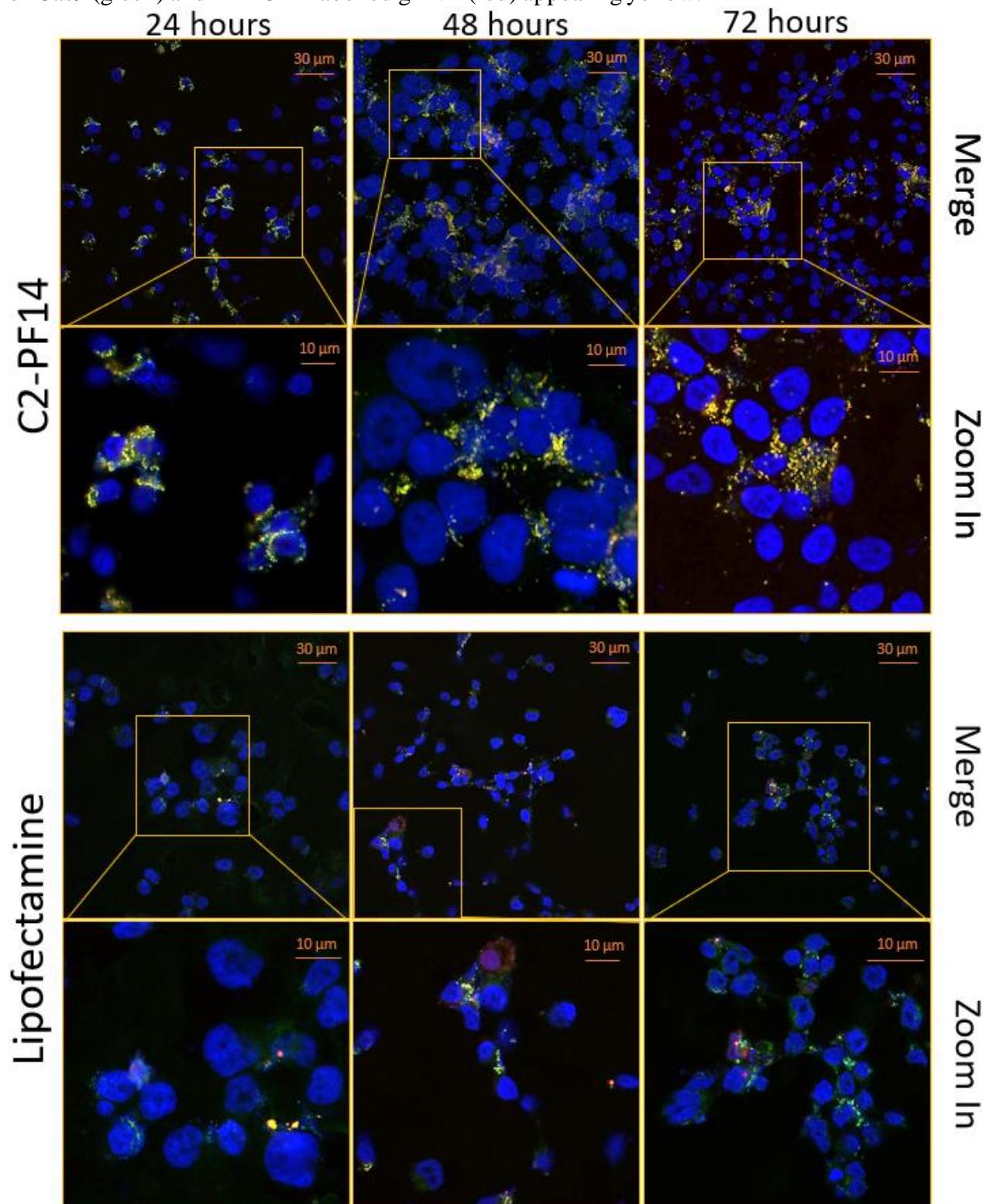
Supplementary Figure S3. Comparing Linear 9r, Cyclic 9r and PepFect14. (a-c) Particle size (i and ii) and zeta-potential (iii) analyses for RNP/linear 9r (a), RNP/cyclic 9r (b), and RNP/PepFect14 complexes at the indicated peptide molar ratios. Error bars are standard error of $n = 3$. (d) Representative transmission electron microscopy images of RNP complexed with linear 9r, cyclic 9r, or PepFect14 at molar ratio 1:100 (Scale bar = 200 nm). (e) *in-vitro* cleavage assay: pMRS_Cas9 reporter plasmid containing Cas9 target sequence was incubated with RNA-proteins (RNP) complexed with linear 9r, cyclic 9r or PepFect14 peptides at the indicated molar ratios at 37 °C for 2 hours. DNA was then resolved in a 0.8% agarose gel stained with ethidium bromide at 90 V for 35 minutes and visualized using an ultraviolet transilluminator. (f) Live cell imaging: HEK293 cells were incubated with RNPs, carrying a fluorescently labelled gRNA (ATTO⁵⁵⁰), complexed with peptides at molar ratio 1:100 or Lipofectamine CRISPRMAX and observed at 24 hours post-transfection Arrows indicate diffused complexes.



Supplementary Figure S4. Neuronal cell targeting. (a) C2-PF14 peptide MTT assay: SH-SY5Y cells were treated with different amounts of C2-PF14 peptide. After 24 hours, viability was measured. Values are expressed as a percentage of the untreated control. (b) and (c) RNP/C2-PF14 MTT Assay: SH-SY5Y cells were treated with RNP/C2-PF14 complexes (b) and RNP/C2-PF14 complexes formulated in PVA-PEG solution (c) at molar ratio 1:50 (RNP:C2PF14), at different final concentrations of RNP as indicated. After 24 hours, viability was measured. Values are expressed as a percentage of the untreated control. Error bars are standard error of $n = 3$. (d) Gel-shift assay: ATTO⁵⁵⁰ fluorescently labelled gRNA was incubated with C2-PF14 (i) or C2-9r (ii) at the indicated molar ratios and subjected to gel electrophoresis. iii. Particle size and zeta potential analyses of RNP/C2-9r and RNP/C2-PF14 complexes. (e) Neuronal SH-SY5Y and non-neuronal S2103 cells were incubated with fluorescently labelled gRNA-ATTO⁵⁵⁰/C2-9r complexes. ii. Quantitative representation of the percentage of uptake (cells carrying a signal from fluorescently labelled gRNA-ATTO⁵⁵⁰). iii. Quantitative representation of the mean fluorescence intensity ratio (MFIR) of the degree of uptake in cells. Error bars are standard error of $n = 3$. (f) Representative transmission electron microscopy images of blank (buffer), naked RNP, C2-PF14, and RNP/C2-PF14 nanocomplexes formed at the indicated molar ratios. (Scale bar = 200 nm).



Supplementary Figure S5. C2-PF14 delivers RNP complexes to neuronal SH-SY5Y cells and maintains Cas9/gRNA co-localization. SH-SY5Y cells were treated with Cas9/ATTO⁵⁵⁰-gRNA RNP complexes (3 nM RNP) using C2-PF14 (a) or Lipofectamine RNAiMAX (b). Cells were stained with Cas9 specific antibody (Alexa-fluor 488) and fixed using 4% paraformaldehyde at 24, 48, and 72 hours and imaged using a confocal microscope. Images were taken at representative fields with blue DAPI-stained nuclei, and co-localization of Cas9 (green) and ATTO⁵⁵⁰-labelled gRNA (red) appearing yellow.



Tables:

Table 1: Peptides used for complexing and delivering RNA-proteins (RNP):

Peptide	Sequence
6r	rrrrrr
9r	rrrrrrrrr
12r	rrrrrrrrrrrr
16r	rrrrrrrrrrrrrrr
20r	rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr
Cyclic 9r	CrrrrrrrrC
Cyclic 12r	CrrrrrrrrrrrC
Cyclic 16r	CrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrC
PepFect14	Stearyl-AGYLLGKLL-Orn-Orn-LAAAAL-Orn-Orn-LL
RI-C2-9r	rrrrrrrrr-Sar-Sar-Sar-Sar-arkGrsntfidc
RI-C2-PF14	Stearyl-AGYLLGKLL-Orn-Orn-LAAAAL-Orn-Orn-LL-Sar-Sar-Sar-Sar-arkGrsntfidc

Table 2: Primers used for cloning, sequencing and amplification of gRNAs:

Primer	Sequence	Experiment
pRG2S_Forward	5'-CTGCCCGCGCCTACAAGAC-3'	Cloning Cas9 target sequence
pRG2S_Reverse	5'-CGTAGCCTCGGGCATGGCG-3'	
SNCA_Forward	5'-CACTCATGGCTTACATTCTGATCGT-3'	Amplifying SNCA target sequence for mutation analysis
SNCA_Reverse	5'-TCAGGTAGCCGTTCCCCACAGTAA-3'	
M13_Forward (-20)	5'-GTAAAACGACGGCCAG-3'	Sanger's sequencing of the edited gene targets
U6-gRNA_Forward	5'-GCGGCCGCGAGGGCCTATT-3'	Amplifying U6 gRNA expression fragments
U6-gRNA_Reverse	5'-GGATCCTAGTACTCGAGAAAAAAAGCACC G-3'	

Table 3: Guide RNAs (gRNA) used for targeting reporter and endogenous genes:

gRNA	Sequence	Experiment
Cas9_Target_gRNA2	5'-CTGCTGTGACTGCTTGTAGA-3'	Reporter assay for the detection of CRISPR-Cas9 activity

	GCGGCCGCGAGGGCCTATTCCA TGATTCCTCATATTGCATATACG ATACAAGGCTTTAGAGAGATAAT TAGAATTAATTGACTGTAAACAC AAAGATATTAGTACAAAATACGTG ACGTAGAAAGTAATAATTCTTGG GTAGTTGCAGTTAAAATTATGT TTAAAATGGACTATCATATGCTTA CCGTAACCTGAAAGTATTGCTGATT CTTGGGTTATATATCTTGTGGAAA GGACCCACCTGTTGGCTGCTGTGA CTGCTTAGAGTTAGAGCTAGA AATAGCAAGTAAAATAAGGCTAG TCCGTTATCAACTGAAAAAGTGG CACCGAGTCGGTGTCTTTCTCG AGTACTAGGATCC	
U6-pRG2S-Cas9-gRNA2		Reporter assay for the detection of CRISPR-Cas9 activity
gSNCA3 sgRNA	5'- AAAGAGCAAGTGACAAATGT-3'	Inducing mutation in and knocking out SNCA gene

DNA sequences and maps of plasmids used in this study:

Cas9 Target Sequence: (yellow, cloned between BamHI and BstXI)

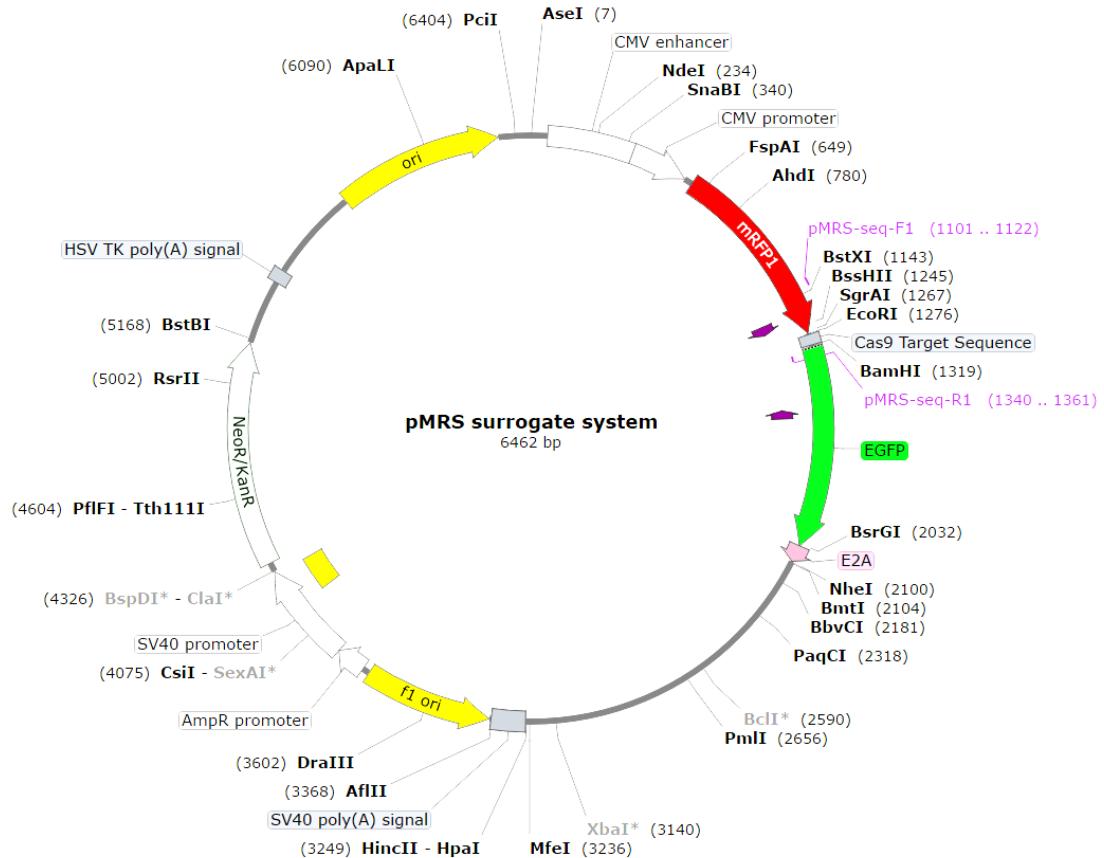
5'-

atggccaagaagcccgtagctgccccggcgccataagaccgacatcaagctggacatcaccccacaacgaggactacaccat
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pMRS_Cas9 sequence and map:

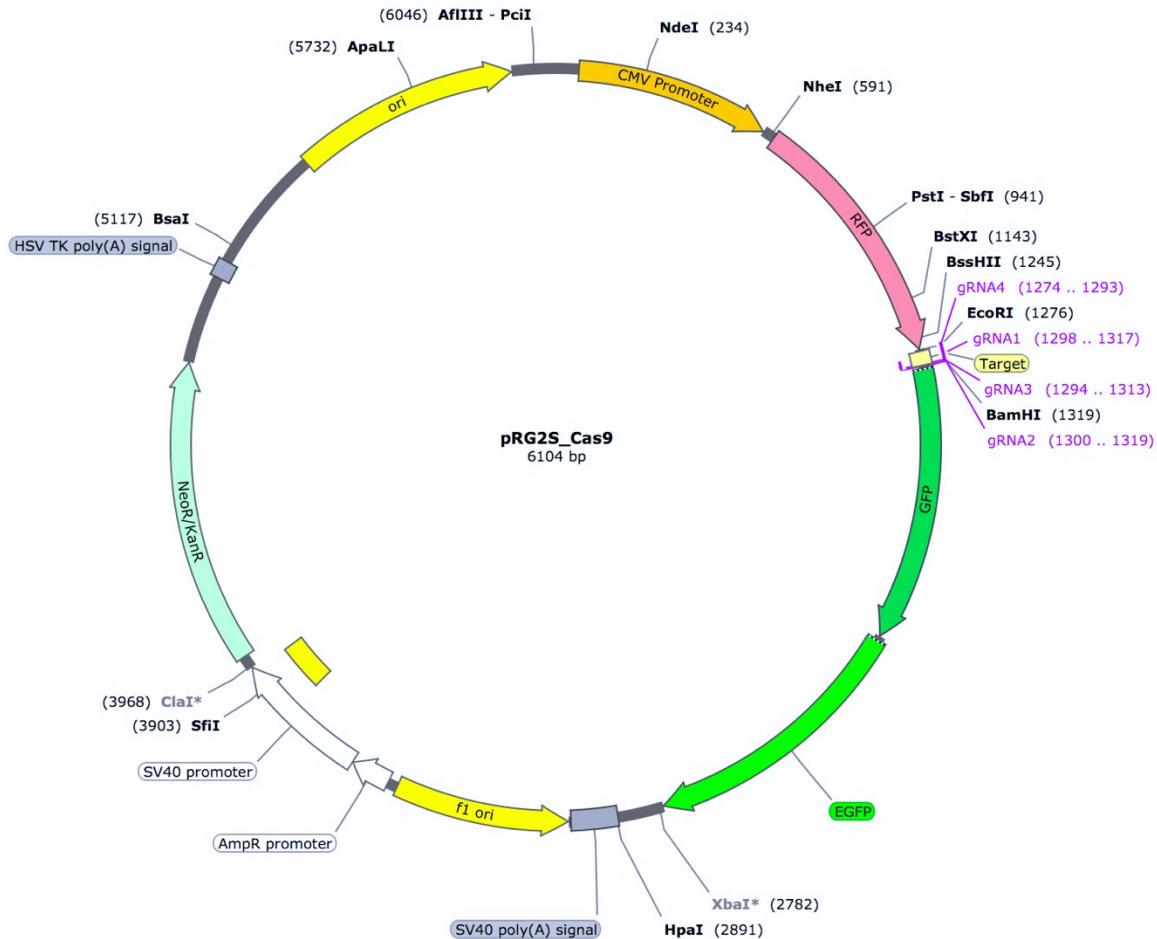
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pRG2S_Cas9 sequence and map:

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pRG2S_Cas9 reporter system including Cas9 target sequence, gRNA binding sites and restriction sites