

CRISPR Kitty

Andre Dorf

“Would any of you care for some yogurt?” asked Professor Weinfield. The entire classroom shot up their hands in unison. Professor Weinfield chose one of his students to come try his new yogurt. This student was a young girl named Stacy.

“Oh boy! I love yogurt!” said Stacy.

Professor Weinfield opened his mini-refrigerator and took out a small pudding-sized cup. He gave it to her and smiled, “Tell the class how it tastes, Stacy.”

Stacy took off the lid and dipped her spoon into the vanilla-flavored yogurt. “Tastes delicious, professor! What’s so interesting about it?”

The professor smiled, “This yogurt is 7 months old.”

The entire class blew up screaming, “Eww!” Stacy was utterly shocked as she realized that this yogurt, which should definitely be expired, was completely ordinary, if not pretty delicious.

“You all might be wondering how something so prone to expiration lasted 7 months. This, my students, is all thanks to CRISPR CAS9 technique. By snipping out certain genomes in genetic codes and installing new genomes, science has allowed us to modify, cure, and completely have control over our genes. For instance, I modified this yogurt to be less vulnerable to expiring. There are countless possibilities of ways to use this technique on the human population and the environment. Anything is possible! However as of now CRISPR CAS9 is not allowed to be used on humans. We do not know what sort of outcome it may have on a human body.”

The entire classroom stared at the professor, shocked that this sort of thing was possible now, wondering to themselves how they would modify their own body if they had the chance. Suddenly the bell rang, and everyone stormed out of the room, except for Stacy.

“I won’t experience any side effects— right, professor?”

“You won’t, this yogurt was certainly safe to eat.”

“Okay!” said Stacy and closed the door after her.

Professor Weinfield stood there for a moment, thinking about when the world would actually take the leap and try CRISPR on a human. He packed up his portfolio and headed out the door, locking it. The drive home gave the professor enough time to come to a conclusion. He was going to perform CRISPR CAS9 on himself the moment he got home. Professor Weinfield was allergic to cats, which really upset him because he loved felines. He decided he would alter his genes and remove the allergy gene for cats! He got home and assembled his CRISPR kit. This was so simple to do that a child could do it. He shuddered at the thought of children

altering their own genes. The Professor filled up his syringe with the special solution and readied his arm. With a quick stab and release, the process was over. Now all he had to do was wait. Since it was already late, he decided to drink a glass of milk and call it a night. Getting comfortable in bed, the Professor drifted off to sleep.

Morning came with chirping birds and a cool breeze coming from his window. The birds' chirping sounded particularly loud and more crisp. Professor Weinfield was going to scratch his eyes but he ended up scratching himself right on the cheek!

“Are these claws on my hands!?” thought the Professor. He pulled off the bed covers, which revealed his cat body. The Professor had transformed into a cat over night! He jumped out his window and disappeared into the city.

To this day, nobody knows what happened to him.

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CRISPR stands for “Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats” and is a bio-chemical gene-editing tool.