

Prof. Dr. Martin Jinek
Department of Biochemistry
University of Zurich

Martin Jinek is Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Zurich. His research explores two main topics – (i) RNA biology, and (ii) CRISPR-Cas systems and their use as a genome editing technology. Originally from the Czech Republic, Martin Jinek studied Natural Sciences at Trinity College, University of Cambridge (UK). In 2006, he received his PhD from the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg (Germany) where he conducted his doctoral research in the lab of Prof. Elena Conti. He then moved to the University of California in Berkeley for postdoctoral research with Prof. Jennifer Doudna, where his work led to the discovery of the biochemical function of the RNA-guided endonuclease Cas9 and made fundamental contributions towards developing the CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing technology. Since starting his independent research group at the University of Zurich in 2013, Martin Jinek has studied the molecular mechanisms of CRISPR-Cas genome editor nucleases in atomic detail. In recognition of his work, he has received several awards, including an ERC Starting Grant (2013), the EMBL John Kendrew Young Scientist Award (2014) and the Friedrich Miescher Award of the Swiss Society for Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (2015) and became an EMBO Young Investigator in 2016.