

https://www.nlm.nih.gov/ncbi/workshops/2022-08_intro-to-pathogen-data/

Exercise 1: Identification of my pathogen based on a nucleotide sequence

- Perform a BLAST search
- For **viral** isolates, compare your sequence to the Virus Reference Genomes database

The RefSeq Virus Genome crew is researching ways to more effectively identify viral strains and key features (genotypes, critical genetic variants).

- For **bacterial or fungal** isolates, compare your sequence to a Targeted Loci database

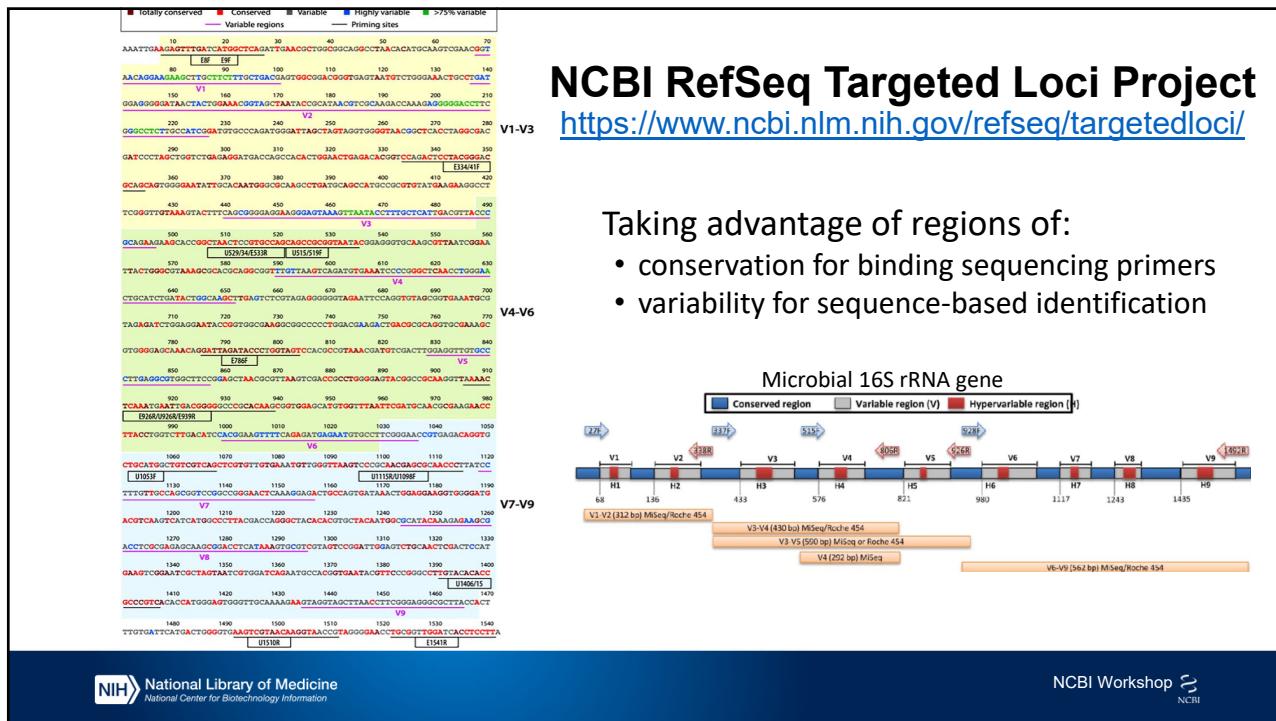
The RefSeq Genome and Pathogen Project teams have automated systems to determine the identity of pathogenic samples, potentially related isolates, and characterize key phenotypes such as antimicrobial resistance.

- **More advanced resources are at the end, such as resources for designing your own primers!**

NCBI BLAST

<https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

The screenshot shows the NCBI BLAST homepage. At the top, there are links for NIH, U.S. National Library of Medicine, NCBI National Center for Biotechnology Information, and Sign in to NCBI. Below that is the NCBI BLAST logo and a news banner about the new design becoming default on Aug 1, 2019. The main area has sections for Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST), Web BLAST, BLAST Genomes, and Standalone and API BLAST. It includes links for Download BLAST, Use BLAST API, and Use BLAST in the cloud.



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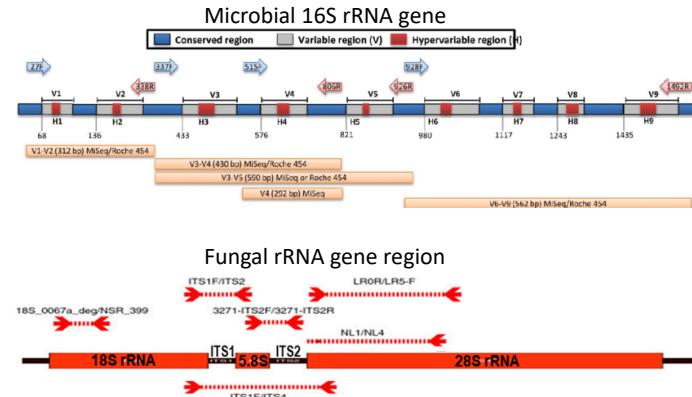
A common practice to identify pathogens... targeted loci sequencing & sequence comparison

Curated BLAST databases include selected RefSeq records and validated GenBank sequences.

- Bacteria and Archaea: 16S rRNA gene**
curated full length 16S ribosomal RNA sequences that correspond to bacteria and archaea type materials
- Bacteria and Archaea: 23S rRNA gene**
complete and near full length GenBank sequences
- Fungi: Internal transcribed spacer (ITS) regions**
ITS1, 5.8S gene and ITS2 sequences - near full length to complete
- Fungi: 28S (LSU) rRNA gene**
at a minimum the sequences contain the hyper variable D1/D2 region
- Fungi: 18S (SSU) rRNA gene**
at a minimum the sequences contain most of the variable V4 region and part of the V5 region

NCBI RefSeq Targeted Loci Project

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/refseq/targetedloci/>



A common practice to identify **viral** pathogens... amplification & sequencing of key gene regions

Regions for sequencing can vary from virus-to-virus:

- Influenza A**
Hemagglutinin (18 subtypes): surface glycoprotein responsible for docking and membrane fusion for entry into host cells
Neuraminidase (11 subtypes): surface protein promotes release of the virus from the host cell
- HIV**
Integrase portion of the polymerase gene
- Dengue**
4 serotypes – Non-structural peptide 5 (NS5)
- SARS-CoV-2**
CDC: Nucleocapsid (N) gene
ORF1ab

NCBI RefSeq Viral Genomes

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/viruses/>

Viruses - 11606 complete genomes

Retrie...

● Adnaviridae [28]	● Alphahelitividae [109]	● Ampullaviridae [3]	● Anelloviridae [107]
● Aloviridae [4]	● Bicaudaviridae [8]	● Clavaviridae [1]	● Dinodnaviridae [1]
● Duplodonaviridae [4508]	● Finnlaviridae [1]	● Fuselloviridae [11]	● Globuloviridae [2]
● Guttaviridae [1]	● Halsipviridae [1]	● Monodnaviridae [1629]	● Naldaviricetes [108]
● Ovaliaviridae [1]	● Plasmaviridae [1]	● Polydnaviridae [7]	● Portogloboviridae [2]
● Posipiviroidea [37]	● Riboviria [4234]	● Ribozyviria [3]	● Satellites [52]
● Spiraviridae [1]	● Toleculasatellitevirus [149]	● Varidnavirida [267]	● environmental samples [322]
● unclassified archaeal viruses [3]	● unclassified bacterial viruses [1]	● unclassified viruses [322]	

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/GenomesGroup.cgi?taxid=10239>

NCBI Virus RefSeq Genome (11,598)
Sequences for discovery

Choose Search Set

Database: Standard databases (nr etc.) rRNA/ITS databases Genomic + transcript databases Betacoronavirus

Organism: RefSeq Genome Database (refseq_genomes) [Add organism](#)

Viruses (taxid:10239) exclude

Enter organism common name, binomial, or tax id: Only 20 top taxa will be shown

Title: RefSeq viruses representative genomes
Molecule Type: mixed DNA
Update date: 2022/06/08
Number of sequences: 15002