

# Youth Bioinformatics Symposium 2016

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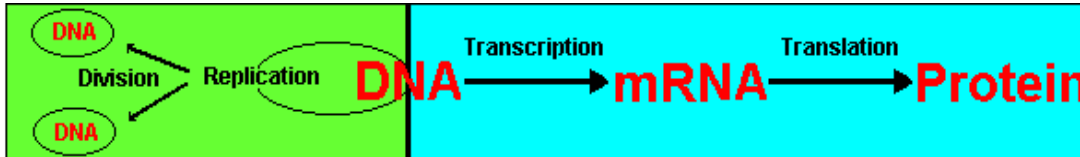


# Outline

- I. Historical Background
- II. Searching for Protein Information in “Free-Text”  
Resources
- III. The UniProtKB database
- IV. Protein Sequence Similarity Search
- V. Multiple Sequence Alignment (MSA)

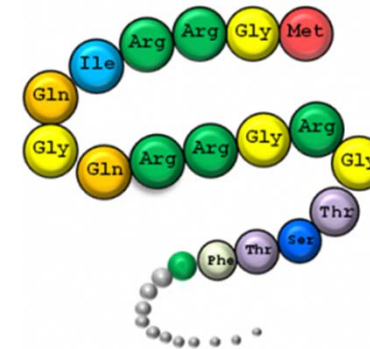
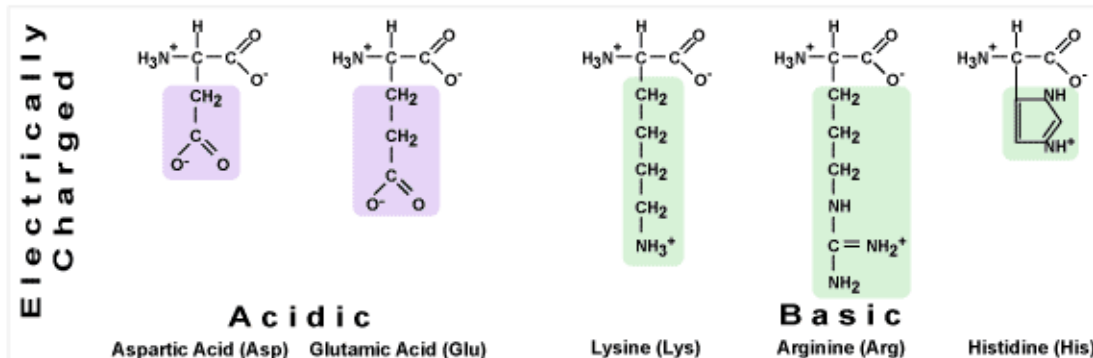
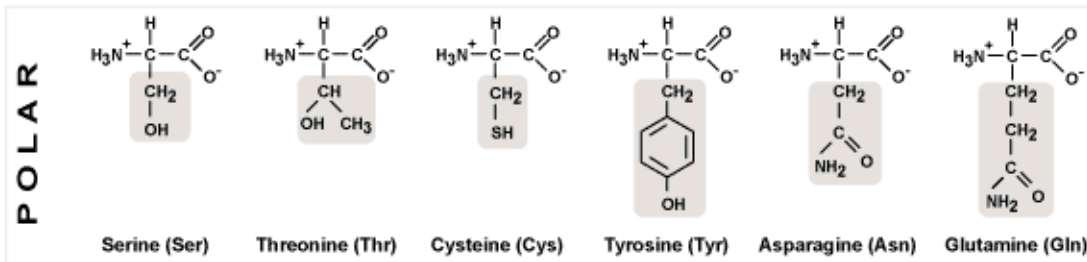
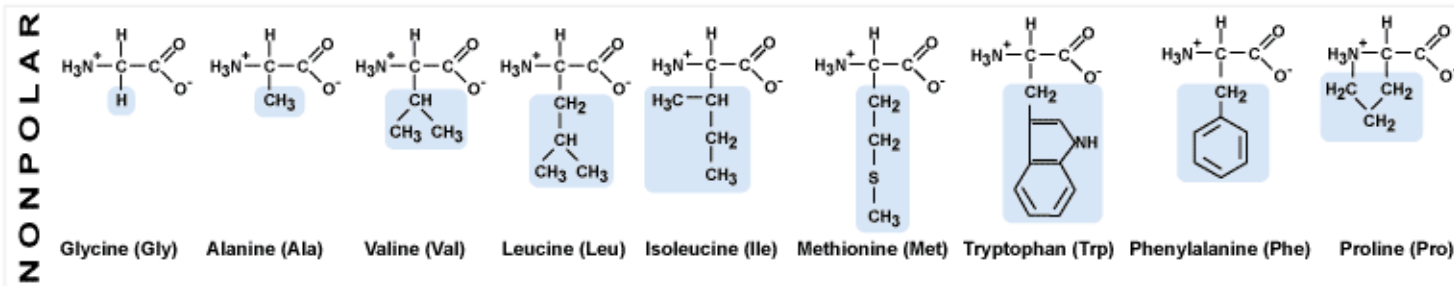
# I. Historical Background

# The Central Dogma of Modern Biology



[www.worldofteaching.com](http://www.worldofteaching.com)

- Proteins are composed of chains of amino acids
- Size and chemical properties of amino acids vary

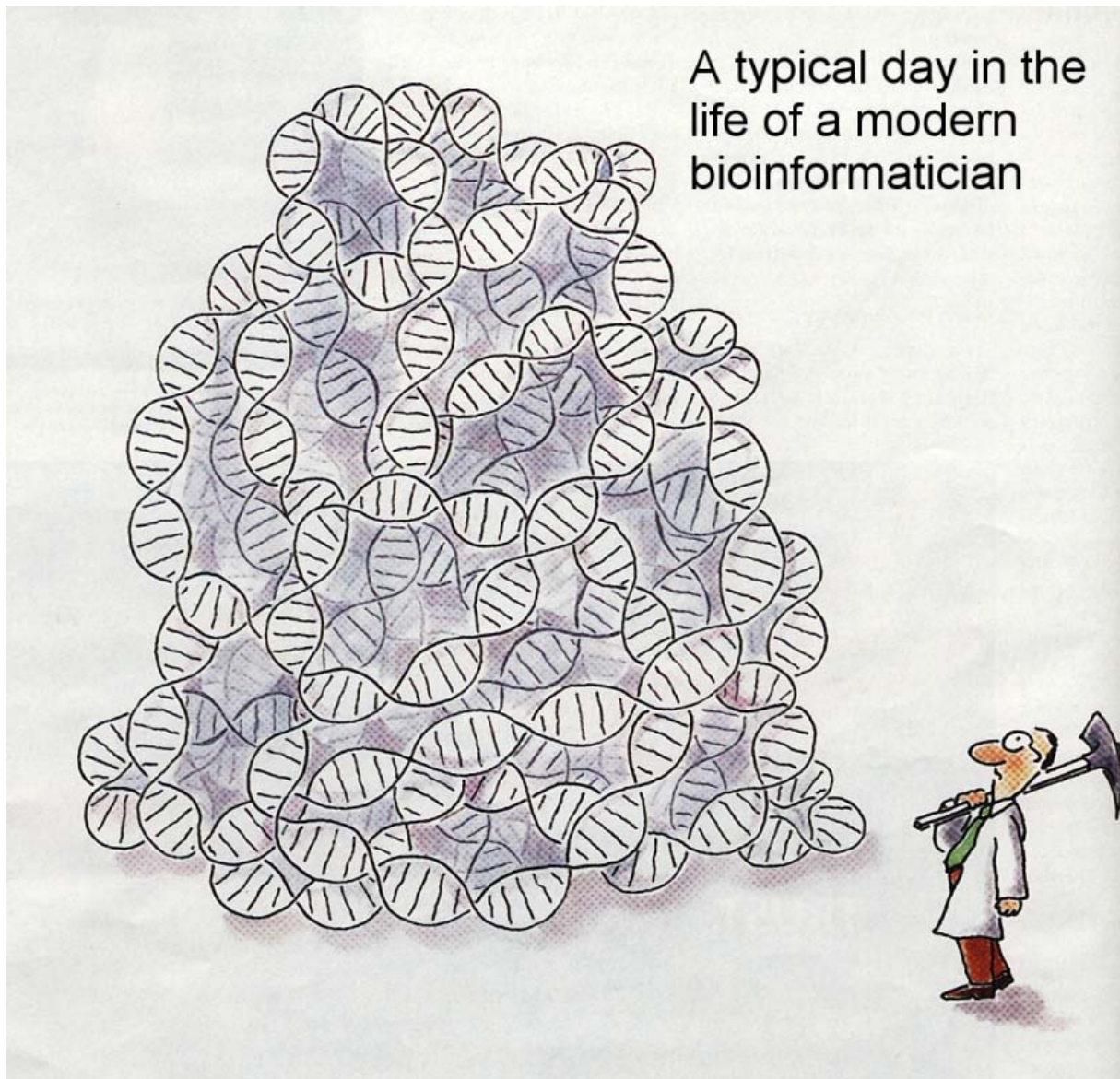


# What Do Proteins Do?

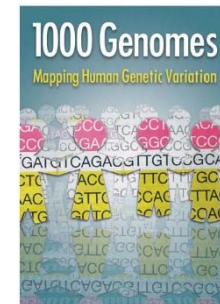




# Deluge of sequence data



Courtesy of the Swiss-Prot group (SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics)



Source: <http://1001genomes.org/>



Source: <http://www.scigenom.com/metagenomics>



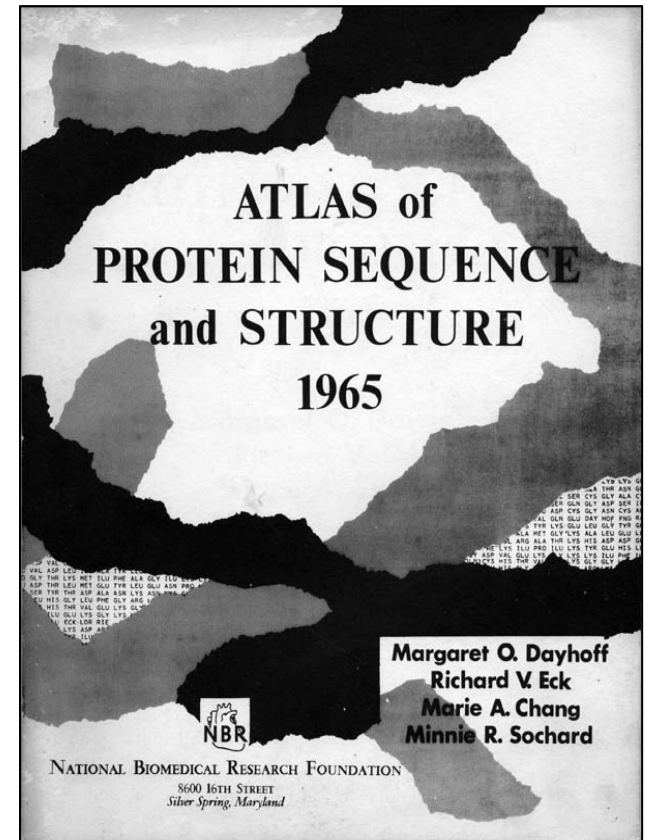
Source: <https://www.broadinstitute.org/>

# Dr. Margaret Dayhoff

(1925 – 1983)



- Interested in the possibility of deducing the evolutionary connections of the biological world from sequence evidence
- Formulated the first probability model of protein evolution - **PAM substitution matrix**
- The origin of the single-letter AA code
- Published the **Atlas of Protein Sequence and Structure** (1965-79), which became the **Protein Information Resource Protein Sequence Database (PIR-PSD)**





*"We shift over our fingers the first grains of this great outpouring of information and say to ourselves that the world be helped by it. The Atlas is one small link in the chain from biochemistry and mathematics to sociology and medicine."*

Margaret O. Dayhoff to Susan Tideman, 18 October 1968, National Biomedical Research Foundation Archives

*"There is a tremendous amount of information regarding evolutionary history and biochemical function implicit in each sequence and the number of known sequences is growing explosively. We feel it is important to collect this significant information, correlate it into a unified whole and interpret it"*

Margaret O. Dayhoff to Carl Berkley, 27 February 1967, National Biomedical Research Foundation Archives

Quoted in: An Introduction to Molecular Evolution and Phylogenetics by Lindell Bromham



# Protein Information Resource

<http://proteininformationresource.org>

Hub for protein  
functional  
information

Ontological  
representation  
of proteoforms  
and protein  
complexes

Data  
warehouse

Access to text  
mining tools

Text Mining and  
Data Mining  
Integration

PIR A UniProt Consortium Member Protein Information Resource

About PIR Resources Search/Analysis Download Support

INTEGRATED PROTEIN INFORMATICS RESOURCE FOR GENOMIC, PROTEOMIC AND SYSTEMS BIOLOGY RESEARCH

The Universal Protein Resource (UniProt) provides the scientific community with a single, centralized, authoritative resource for protein sequences and functional information.

UniProtKB | UniRef | UniParc

**PRO Protein Ontology**

- Representation of protein objects with descriptions and relationships
- [Browse PRO](#)
- Annotate with [RACE-PRO](#)

[\\*Sample PRO report\\*](#)

**iProClass Integrated Protein Knowledgebase**

- Value-added reports for [UniProtKB](#) and unique [UniParc](#) proteins
- Functional analysis and [protein ID mapping](#)

**iProLINK Literature Information & Knowledge**

- Access to text mining tools and annotated corpora
- [RLIMS-P](#) extraction of kinase, substrate and site
- [miRtex](#) extraction of miRNA/target information

[\\*Sample RLIMS-P report\\*](#)

**OTHER RESOURCE**

- [Representative Proteins](#)
- [iProXpress](#)
- [iPTMnet](#)

**TEXT SEARCH**

DATABASE: [iProClass](#)

- National and international collaborative networks



## II. Searching for Protein Information in “Free-Text” Resources

# Question

If you wanted to find information about a protein and the diseases it was associated with, where would you look? What would search for?

# Some Possible Answers

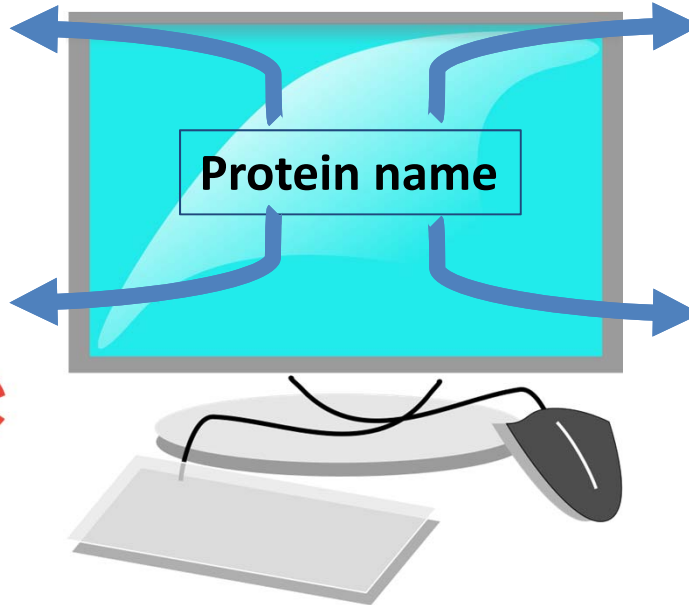
Web Search Engines



YAHOO!

Google

Google  
Scholar






# Biomedical Literature Resource:

## Medline/PubMed

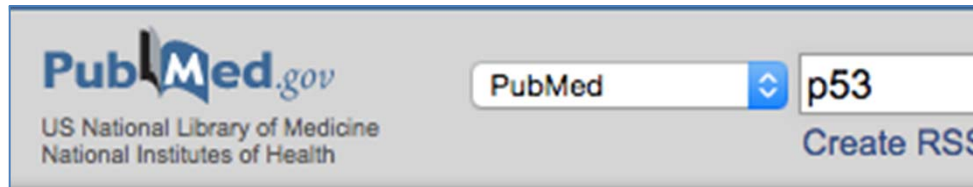


- Medline
  - ~26 million references to journal articles in life sciences with a concentration on biomedicine.
  - Indexed with NLM's [Medical Subject Headings](#) (MeSH®)
- PubMed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>) 
  - Provides free access to [MEDLINE](#)
  - Links to full-text articles found in [PubMed Central](#) or at publisher web sites, and other related resources.
  - Provides Advanced search, and special filters.

Source:<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/medline.html>

# Common issues

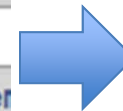
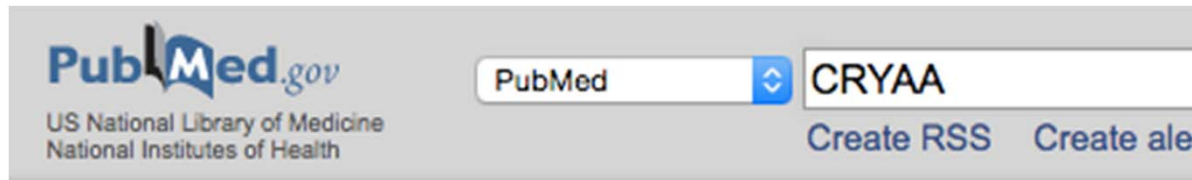
-Too many articles , e.g keyword p53



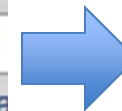
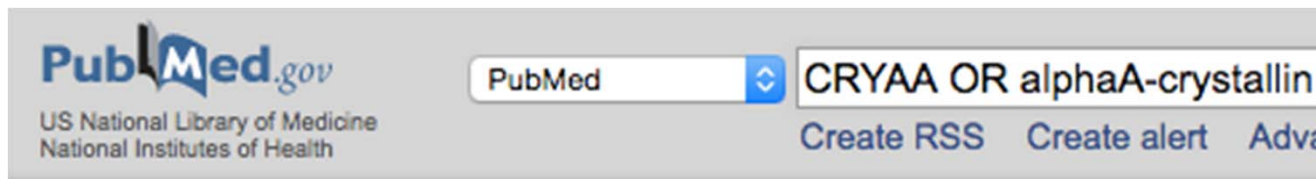
**Search results**  
**Items: 1 to 20 of 80857**

Possible solutions: Use Filters, MeSH terms, or Boolean operators to scope results

-Retrieval of a subset of articles due to narrow search (not including synonyms), e.g compare CRYAA alone and including alphaA-crystallin



**110 Articles**



**510 Articles**

Possible solutions: Include relevant synonyms

# Common issues

-Articles not relevant to the query due to many possible meanings for the word, e.g. CPSI

- ☐ [National Institutes of Health Chronic Prostatitis Symptom Index \(NIH-CPSI\) symptom evaluation in multinational cohorts of patients with chronic prostatitis/chronic pelvic pain syndrome.](#)  
1. Wagenlehner FM, van Till JW, Magri V, Perletti G, Houbiers JG, Weidner W, Nickel JC.  
Eur Urol. 2013 May;63(5):953-9. doi: 10.1016/j.eururo.2012.10.042. Epub 2012 Nov 2.
- ☐ [MIF antagonist \(CPSI-1306\) protects against UVB-induced squamous cell carcinoma.](#)  
3. Nagarajan P, Tober KL, Riggenbach JA, Kusewitt DF, Lehman AM, Sielecki T, Pruitt J, Satoskar AR, Oberszyn TM.  
Mol Cancer Res. 2014 Sep;12(9):1292-302. doi: 10.1158/1541-7786.MCR-14-0255-T. Epub 2014 May 21.
- ☐ [Human carbamoyl phosphate synthetase I \(CPSI\): insights on the structural role of the unknown function domains.](#)  
5. Lopes-Marques M, Igrejas G, Amorim A, Azevedo L.  
Biochem Biophys Res Commun. 2012 May 11;421(3):409-12. doi: 10.1016/j.bbrc.2012.04.033. Epub 2012 Apr 10. Review.

[Technol Cancer Res Treat.](#) 2016 May 9. pii: 1533034616648059. [Epub ahead of print]

## **Investigation of the Impact of Cell Cycle Stage on Freeze Response Sensitivity of Androgen-Insensitive Prostate Cancer.**

[Santucci KL](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Baust JM](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Snyder KK](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Van Buskirk RG](#)<sup>3</sup>, [Baust JG](#)<sup>4</sup>.

### **Author information**

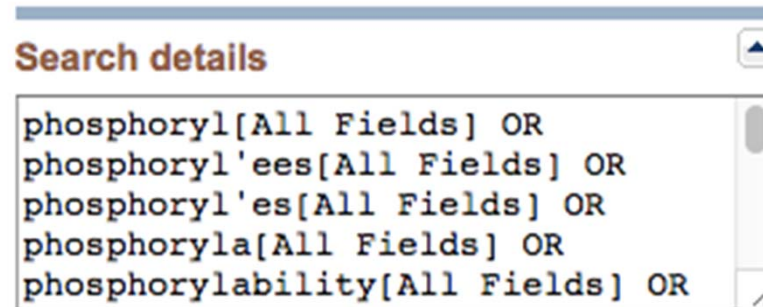
<sup>1</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Binghamton, Binghamton, NY, USA Institute for Biomedical Technology, State University of New York at Binghamton, Binghamton, NY, USA [CPSI Biotech](#), Owego, NY, USA [ksantucci@binghamton.edu](mailto:ksantucci@binghamton.edu).

# Some Tips for PubMed Searches

- Use Filters to narrow your search  
e.g. selecting species human
- Use Advanced Search to narrow your search:  
Boolean operators AND, OR, NOT  
e.g. to retrieve articles on CPSI that are less likely to be about prostatitis score,  
search for CPSI NOT prostatitis
- Search for phrases in quotes  
e.g. “breast cancer”
- Use Wildcards \* to expand your query

\*Results can be saved  
locally, so you can review  
them at a later time

**Phosphoryl\***



Expanded Query



# Hands-On #1: Protein Search

- Search for information about HEXA
  - What is its biochemical function?
  - What disease is it associated with?
  - Other information?

Divide into groups and each group use a different searching method (Google (not Wikipedia), Google Scholar, Wikipedia, PubMed)

# Discussion

- Did you find the information you were looking for?
- What were some pros and cons of the search method/resource you used?

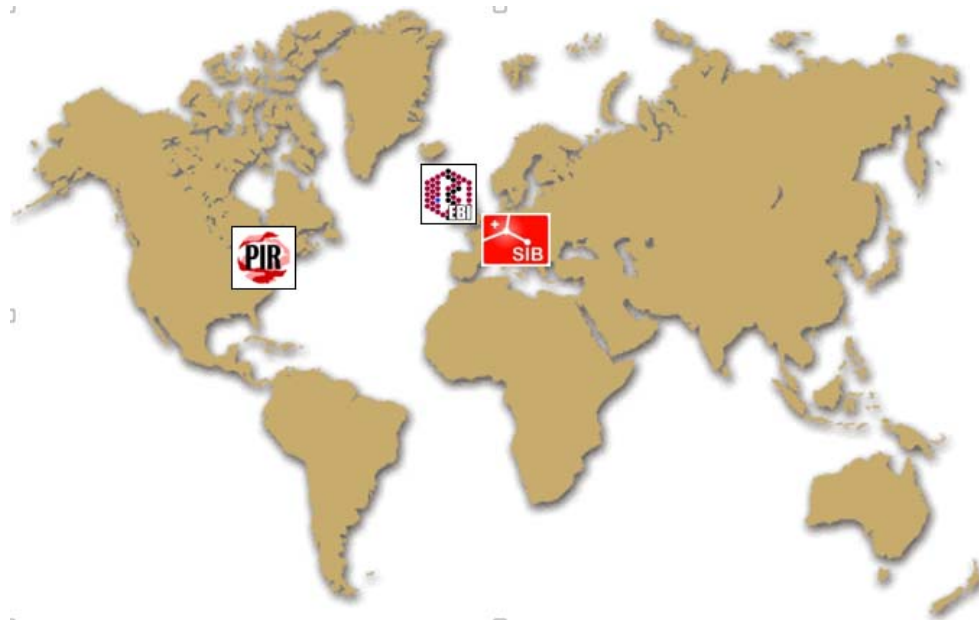
# III. Protein Resources

## UniProtKB Database



# The Universal Protein Resource

[www.uniprot.org](http://www.uniprot.org)



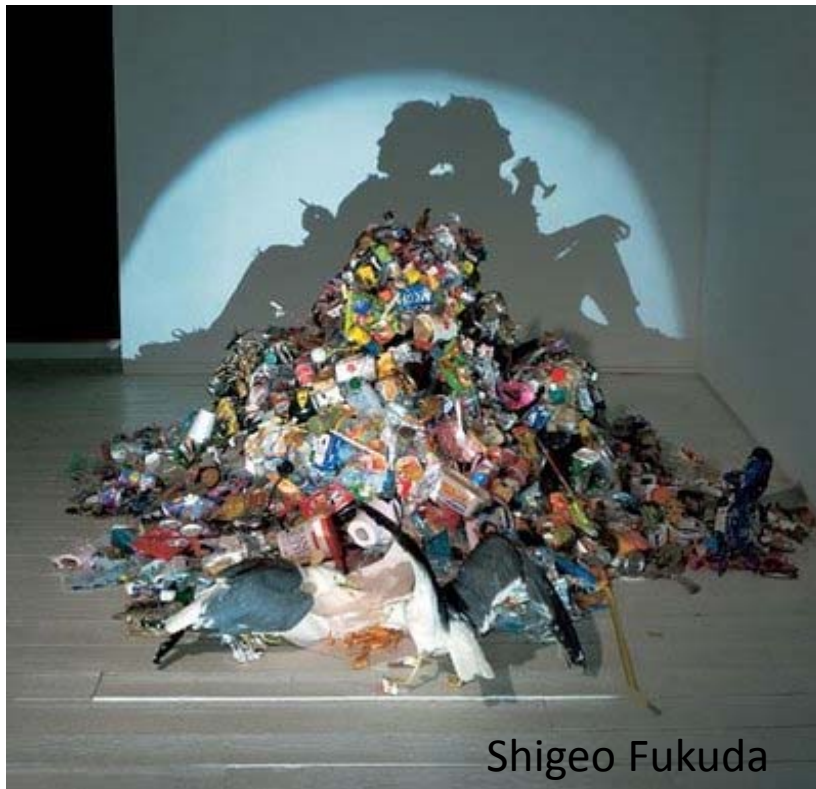
- ✓ **comprehensive**
- ✓ **high quality**
- ✓ **freely accessible**

The mission of [UniProt](http://www.uniprot.org) is to provide the scientific community with a comprehensive, high-quality and freely accessible resource of protein sequence and functional information.





# UniProtKB, the Knowledge base component of UniProt



Where **data**  
becomes **structured**  
**knowledge**

**Central hub for the collection of functional information on proteins.** The core data mandatory for each UniProtKB entry:

- amino acid sequence
- protein name or description
- taxonomic data
- citation information



# What's in UniProtKB?



Unique Identifier

UniProtKB - P02489 (CRYAA\_HUMAN)

Records for ~62.5 million proteins

- ~500K manually reviewed
- 62 million unreviewed (automated annotation)

Reviewed

Unreviewed

Protein | Alpha-crystallin A chain

Gene | CRYAA

Organism | Homo sapiens (Human)

Sections of the Record

None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Function
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Names & Taxonomy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subcellular location
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pathology & Biotech
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PTM / Processing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expression
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interaction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family & Domains
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sequence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross-references
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publications
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entry information
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Similar proteins

▲ Top

## Function<sup>i</sup>

Contributes to the transparency and refractive index of the lens. Has chaperone-like activity, preventing aggregation of various proteins under a wide range of stress conditions.

1 Publication

### GO - Molecular function<sup>i</sup>

- identical protein binding Source: IntAct
- metal ion binding Source: UniProtKB-KW
- structural constituent of eye lens Source: UniProtKB-KW
- unfolded protein binding Source: UniProtKB

Evidence

## Pathology & Biotech<sup>i</sup>

### Involvement in disease<sup>i</sup>

Alpha-crystallin A 1-172 is found at nearly twofold higher levels in diabetic lenses than in age-matched control lenses.

### Cataract 9, multiple types (CTRCT9) 6 Publications

The disease is caused by mutations affecting the gene represented in this entry.

**Disease description:** An opacification of the crystalline lens of the eye that frequently results in visual impairment or blindness. Opacities vary in morphology, are often confined to a portion of the lens, and may be static or progressive. In general, the more posteriorly located and dense an opacity, the greater the impact on visual function. CTRCT9 includes nuclear, zonular central nuclear, anterior polar, cortical, embryonal, anterior subcapsular, fan-shaped, and total cataracts, among others. In some cases cataract is associated with microcornea without any other systemic anomaly or dysmorphism. Microcornea is defined by a corneal diameter inferior to 10 mm in both meridians in an otherwise normal eye.

See also OMIM:604219

Feature key	Position(s)	Length	Description
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	12 - 12	1	R → C in CTRCT9. 1 Publication
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	21 - 21	1	R → L in CTRCT9; associated with macular hypoplasia and a generally hypopigmented fundus. 1 Publication
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	49 - 49	1	R → C in CTRCT9; nuclear cataract. 1 Publication



# What's in UniProtKB?



## UniProtKB - P02489 (CRYAA\_HUMAN)

Protein | Alpha-crystallin A chain

Gene | CRYAA

Organism | Homo sapiens (Human)

### Sections of the Record

- None
- ☒ Function
  - ☒ Names & Taxonomy
  - ☒ Subcellular location
  - ☒ Pathology & Biotech
  - ☒ PTM / Processing
  - ☒ Expression
  - ☒ Interaction
  - ☒ Structure
  - ☒ Family & Domains
  - ☒ **Sequence**
  - ☒ Cross-references
  - ☒ Publications
  - ☒ Entry information
  - ☒ Miscellaneous
  - ☒ Similar proteins
- ▲ Top

### Download Sequence

Sequence status: **Complete**  
Sequence processing: **Displayed sequence is further processed into a mature form.**

P02489-1 [UniParc] [FASTA](#) [Add to basket](#)

« Hide

```
10      20      30      40      50
MDVTIQHPWF KRTLGPFPYS RLFDQFFGEG LFEYDLLPFL SSTISPYRQ
60      70      80      90     100
SLFRTVLDSG ISEVRSRDK FVIFLDVKHF SPEDLTVKVQ DDFVEIHGKH
110     120     130     140     150
NERQDDHGYI SREFHRRYRL PSNVDQSALS CSLSADGMLT FCGPKIQTGL
160     170
DATHAERAIP VSREEKPTSA PSS
```

### FASTA Format: Common input format for sequence analysis

```
>sp|P02489|CRYAA_HUMAN Alpha-crystallin A chain OS=Homo
sapiens GN=CRYAA PE=1 SV=2
MDVTIQHPWFKRTLGPFPYSRLFDQFFGEG LFEYDLLPFLSSTISPYRQSLFRTVLDSG
ISEVRSRDKFVIFLDVKHFSPEDLTVKVQDDFVEIHGKHNERQDDHGYISREFHRRYRL
PSNVDQSALSCSLSADGMLTFCGPKIQTGLDATHAERAIPVSREEKPTSA PSS
```

#### Header Line:

- Starts with ">"
- Contains ID and description

### Sequence

## Hands On #2 – UniProtKB

1. Go to UniProtKB (<http://www.uniprot.org/>) and search for the entry for human HEXA
2. What is the UniProtKB identifier for this protein?
3. What is the function of this protein?
4. What disease is associated with defects in this protein?
5. Give an example of a genetic variant with publication support that leads to the infantile form of the disease.
6. Download the sequence of Isoform 1 in FASTA format



# Hands On #2 – UniProtKB (Answers)

1. Go to UniProtKB (<http://www.uniprot.org/>) and search for the entry for human HEXA
2. What is the UniProtKB identifier for this protein? **P06865**
3. What is the function of this protein? **Degrades GM2-gangliosides. A ganglioside is a type of glycolipid (sugar + lipid).**
4. What disease is associated with defects in this protein? **GM2-gangliosidosis 1 (aka Tay-Sachs Disease)**
5. Give an example of a genetic variant with publication support that leads to the infantile form of the disease. **Several examples in the variant table in the Pathology & Biotech section of the entry.**

## Hands On #2 – UniProtKB (Answers)

6. Download the sequence of Isoform 1 in FASTA format. **Click FASTA button in above Isoform 1 sequence in Sequence section.**

```
>sp|P06865|HEXA_HUMAN Beta-hexosaminidase subunit alpha
OS=Homo sapiens GN=HEXA PE=1 SV=2
MTSSRLWFSLLLAAAFAGRATALWPWPQNFQTSQRYVLYPNNFQFQYDVSSAAQPGCSV
LDEAFQRYRDLLFGSGSWPRPYLTGKRHTLEKNVLVVSVVTPGCNQLPTLESVENYTLTI
NDDQCLLLSETVWGALRGLETFSQLVWKS AEGTFFINKTEIEDFPRFPHRGLLLDTSRHY
LPLSSILDTLDVMAYNKLNVFHWHLVDDPSFPYESFTFPELMRKGSYNPVTHIYTAQDVK
EVIEYARLRGIRVLA EFDTPGHTLSWGPGIPGLLTPCYSGSEPSGTFGPVNPSLNNTYEF
MSTFFLEVSSVFPDFYLHLGGDEVDFTCWKS NPEIQDFMRKKGFGE DFKQLESFYIQTLL
DIVSSYGKGYVWVQEVFDNKVKIQPDTIIQVWREDIPVNYMKELELVTKAGFRALLSAPW
YLNRI SYGPDWKDFYIVEPLAFEGTPEQKALVIGGEACMWGEYVDNTNLVPRLWPRAGAV
AERLWSNKLTSDLTFAYERLSHFRCELLRRGVQAQPLNVGFCEQEFEQT
```

# Hands On #2 – UniProtKB (Answers)

## Searching for a protein in UniProtKB

UniProtKB results

Filter by

- Reviewed (111)
- Unreviewed (1,568)

Popular organisms

- Human (33)
- Mouse (10)
- Fruit fly (8)
- Zebrafish (6)
- B. subtilis (2)
- Other organisms

Did you mean exa? 43,696 result(s) found

Protein names	Gene names	Organism	Length	Prot
Hexosaminidase subunit alpha	HEXA	Homo sapiens (Human)	529	Glyco 20 fa
Beta-hexosaminidase subunit alpha	Hexa	Mus musculus (Mouse)	528	Glyco 20 fa
DNA mismatch repair protein HexA	hexA spr1888	Streptococcus pneumoniae (strain ATCC BAA-255 / R6)	844	DNA repa
DNA mismatch repair protein HexA	hexA SP_2076	Streptococcus pneumoniae serotype 4	844	DNA repa

UniProtKB (<http://www.uniprot.org/>)

# Hands On #2 – UniProtKB (Answers)

## Search Results

UniProtKB  Advanced Search

BLAST Align Retrieve/ID mapping Help Contact

### UniProtKB results

[About UniProtKB](#) Basket 11

Filter by <sup>i</sup>

- Reviewed (111)
- Unreviewed (1,568)

Popular organisms

- Human (33)
- Mouse (10)
- Fruit fly (8)
- Zebrafish (6)
- B. subtilis (2)

Other organisms  Go

Download Add to basket Columns

1 to 25 of 1,679 Show 25

mean exa? 43,696 result(s) found

<input type="checkbox"/>	Entry name	Protein names	Gene names	Organism	Length	Prot
<input type="checkbox"/>	P06865 HEXA_HUMAN	Beta-hexosaminidase subunit alpha	HEXA	Homo sapiens (Human)	529	Glyco 20 fa
<input type="checkbox"/>	P29416 HEXA_MOUSE	Beta-hexosaminidase subunit alpha	Hexa	Mus musculus (Mouse)	528	Glyco 20 fa
<input type="checkbox"/>	P0A3R4 HEXA_STRR6	DNA mismatch repair protein HexA	hexA spr1888	Streptococcus pneumoniae (strain ATCC BAA-255 / R6)	844	DNA repai
<input type="checkbox"/>	P0A3R3 HEXA_STRPN	DNA mismatch repair protein HexA	hexA SP_2076	Streptococcus pneumoniae serotype 4	844	DNA repai

# Hands On #2 – UniProtKB (Answers)

## UniProtKB Entry Page I

UniProtKB - P06865 (HEXA\_HUMAN)

Basket 11

BLAST Align Format Add to basket History

Feedback Help video Other tutorials and videos

Sections of the Record

Basic Info

Functional Information

Functional Information (Controlled Vocabulary)

- Feature
- None
- ✓ Function
  - ✓ Names & Taxonomy
  - ✓ Subcellular location
  - ✓ Pathology & Biotech
  - ✓ PTM / Processing
  - ✓ Expression
  - ✓ Interaction
  - ✓ Structure
  - ✓ Family & Domains

Protein | Beta-hexosaminidase subunit alpha

Gene | HEXA

Organism | Homo sapiens (H)

Status | Reviewed - A Experimental evidence at protein level<sup>i</sup>

### Function<sup>i</sup>

Responsible for the degradation of GM2 gangliosides, and a variety of other molecules containing terminal N-acetyl hexosamines, in the brain and other tissues. The form B is active against certain oligosaccharides. The form S has no measurable activity.

#### Catalytic activity<sup>i</sup>

Hydrolysis of terminal non-reducing N-acetyl-D-hexosamine residues in N-acetyl-beta-D-hexosar

#### Sites

Feature key	Position(s)	Length	Description
Active site <sup>i</sup>	323 – 323	1	Proton donor <a href="#">By similarity</a>

#### GO - Molecular function<sup>i</sup>

- acetylglucosaminyltransferase activity [Source: UniProtKB](#)
- beta-N-acetylhexosaminidase activity [Source: UniProtKB-EC](#)
- protein heterodimerization activity [Source: MGI](#)

#### GO - Biological process<sup>i</sup>

- carbohydrate metabolic process [Source: Reactome](#)
- chondroitin sulfate catabolic process [Source: Reactome](#)
- chondroitin sulfate metabolic process [Source: Reactome](#)
- glycosaminoglycan biosynthetic process [Source: UniProtKB](#)
- glycosaminoglycan metabolic process [Source: Reactome](#)
- glycosphingolipid metabolic process [Source: Reactome](#)
- hyaluronan catabolic process [Source: Reactome](#)
- hyaluronan metabolic process [Source: Reactome](#)
- keratan sulfate catabolic process [Source: Reactome](#)
- keratan sulfate metabolic process [Source: Reactome](#)
- small molecule metabolic process [Source: Reactome](#)
- sphingolipid metabolic process [Source: Reactome](#)

Complete GO annotation...

#### Keywords - Molecular function<sup>i</sup>

Glycosidase, Hydrolase



# Hands On #2 – UniProtKB (Answers)

## Disease and Variant Information

### Involvement in disease<sup>i</sup>

GM2-gangliosidosis 1 (GM2G1) 22 Publications ▼

The disease is caused by mutations affecting the gene represented in this entry.













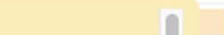
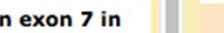
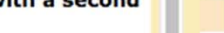

**Disease description:** An autosomal recessive lysosomal storage disease marked by the accumulation of GM2 gangliosides in the neuronal cells. It is characterized by GM2 gangliosides accumulation in the absence of HEXA activity, leading to neurodegeneration and, in the infantile form, death in early childhood. It exists in several forms: infantile (most common and most severe), juvenile and adult (late-onset).

See also OMIM:272800

Feature key	Position(s)	Length	Description	Graphical view	Feature identifier	Actions
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	25 – 25	1	P → S in GM2G1; late infantile. 1 Publication ▼		VAR_003202	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	39 – 39	1	L → R in GM2G1; infantile.		VAR_003203	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	127 – 127	1	L → F in GM2G1.  1 Publication ▼		VAR_022439	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	127 – 127	1	L → R in GM2G1; infantile.		VAR_003204	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	166 – 166	1	R → G in GM2G1; late infantile. 1 Publication ▼		VAR_003205	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	170 – 170	1	R → Q in GM2G1; infantile; inactive or unstable protein.  1 Publication ▼		VAR_003206	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	170 – 170	1	R → W in GM2G1; infantile. 1 Publication ▼		VAR_003207	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	178 – 178	1	R → C in GM2G1; infantile; inactive protein.		VAR_003208	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	178 – 178	1	R → H in GM2G1; infantile; inactive protein.		VAR_003209	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	178 – 178	1	R → L in GM2G1; infantile.		VAR_003210	

# Hands On #2 – UniProtKB (Answers)

## Disease and Variant Information

Feature key	Position(s)	Length	Description	Graphical view	Feature identifier	Actions
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	25 – 25	1	P → S in GM2G1; late infantile.  1 Publication ▼		VAR_003202	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	39 – 39	1	L → R in GM2G1; infantile.		VAR_003203	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	127 – 127	1	L → F in GM2G1.  1 Publication ▼		VAR_022439	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	127 – 127	1	L → R in GM2G1; infantile.		VAR_003204	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	166 – 166	1	R → G in GM2G1; late infantile.  1 Publication ▼		VAR_003205	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	170 – 170	1	R → Q in GM2G1; infantile; inactive or unstable protein.  1 Publication ▼		VAR_003206	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	170 – 170	1	R → W in GM2G1; infantile.  1 Publication ▼		VAR_003207	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	178 – 178	1	Manual assertion based on experiment in <sup>i</sup>		VAR_003208	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	178 – 178	1			VAR_003209	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	178 – 178	1			VAR_003210	
Natural variant <sup>i</sup>	180 – 180	1			VAR_003211	

**"A new Tay-Sachs disease B1 allele in exon 7 in two compound heterozygotes each with a second novel mutation."**

Fernandes M., Kaplan F., Natowicz M., Prenc E., Kolodny E., Kaback M., Hechtman P.  
Hum. Mol. Genet. 1:759-761(1992) [PubMed] [Europe PMC] [Abstract]

Ensembl J.



# Hands On #2 – UniProtKB (Answers)

## Sequence Information

☒ SEQUENCE

Download  
Sequence

**Isoform 1** (identifier: **P06865-1**) [UniParc] [FASTA](#) [Add to basket](#)

*This isoform has been chosen as the 'canonical' sequence. All positional information in this entry refers to it. This is also the sequence that appears in the downloadable versions of the entry.*

[« Hide](#)

10	20	30	40	50
MTSSRLWFSL	LLAAAFAGRA	TALWPWPQNF	QTSDQRYVLY	PNNFQFYDV
60	70	80	90	100
SSAAQPGCSV	LDEAFQRYRD	LLFGSGSWPR	PYLTKGRHTL	EKNVLVVSVV
110	120	130	140	150
TPGCNQLPTL	ESVENYTLTI	NDDQCLLLSE	TVWGALRGLE	TFSQLVWKSA
160	170	180	190	200
EGTFFINKTE	IEDFPRFPHR	GLLLDTSRHY	LPLSSILDTL	DVMAYNKLV
210	220	230	240	250
FHWHLVDDPS	FPYESFTFPE	LMRKGSYNPV	THIYTAQDVK	EVIEYARLRG
260	270	280	290	300
IRVLAEFDTP	GHTLSWGPGI	PGLLTPCYSG	SEPSGTFGPV	NPSLNNTYEF
310	320	330	340	350
MSTFFLEVSS	VFPDFYLHLG	GDEVDFTCWK	SNPEIQDFMR	KKGFGEDFKQ
360	370	380	390	400
LESFYIQTLL	DIVSSYGKGY	VWQEVFDNK	VKIQPDTHIQ	VWREDIPVNY
410	420	430	440	450
MKELELVTKA	GFRALLSAPW	YLNRIISYGP	WKDFYIVEPL	AFEGTPEQKA
460	470	480	490	500
LVIGGEACMW	GEYVDNTNLV	PRLWPRAGAV	AERLWSNKLT	SDLTFAYERL
510	520			
SHFRCELLRR	GVQAQPLNVG	FCEQEFEQT		

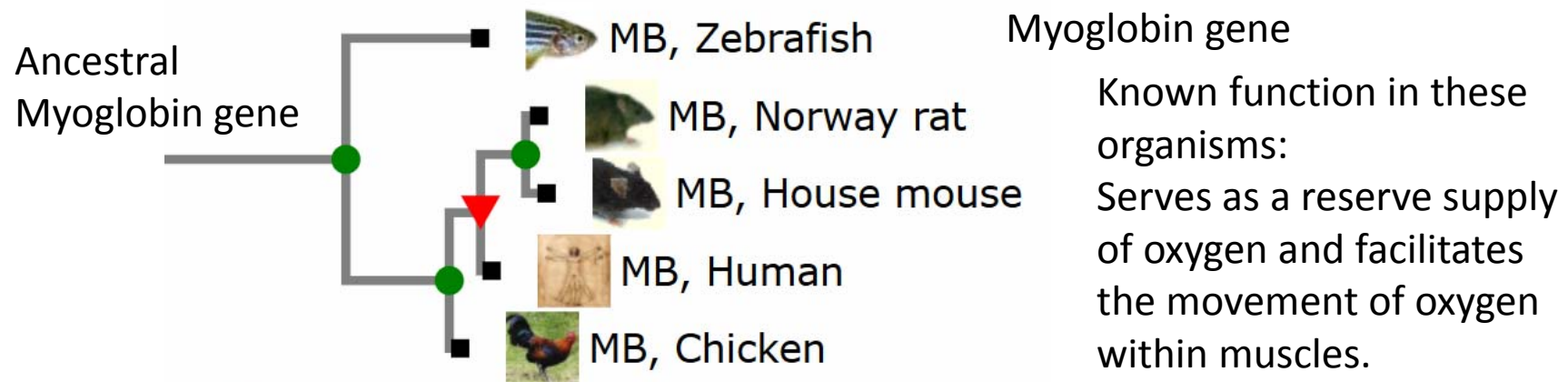
# Question

How did searching UniProtKB compare to searching other resources (e.g., Google, PubMed) for finding information about a protein and associated diseases?

# IV. Protein Sequence Similarity Search

# Important Concepts

**Homologous** sequences share a **common ancestor**

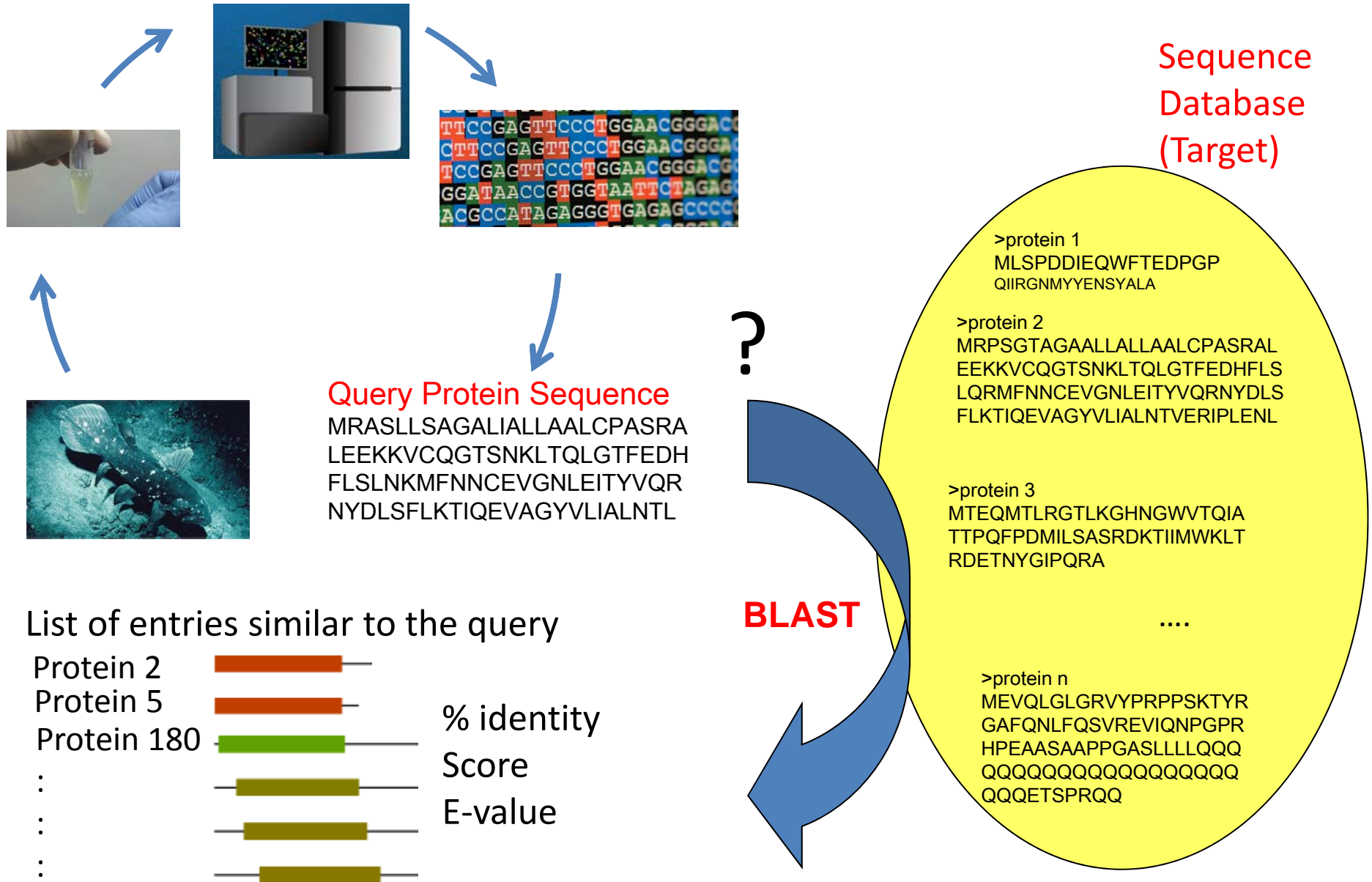


From: <http://www.treefam.org/family/TF332967>

At the molecular level, homology is similarity between sequences that is due to their shared ancestry

We use **sequence similarity that is statistically significant** as evidence of homology

# Searching for similar sequences



# Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST)

- Use of a set of algorithms to **compare a query sequence to all the sequences** in a specific database and find high scoring pairs of alignments
- Based on **Pair-Wise Alignments**
- The **score** of each comparison reflects the degree of similarity between the two sequences (the higher the greater the degree of similarity)
- The **Expectation value or E-value** tells you how many alignments with a given score are expected by chance (the closer to 0 the better)

# Sequence comparison

Sequences are compared directly, position by position.

<b>Score Key</b> match: +1 no match: -1 gap: -1	S I M I L _ A R I T Y	Matches=	8
		No matches=	2
	F A M I L I A R I T Y	Gaps=	1
	<div>Score= <math>8*(+1)+2*(-1)+1*(-1)=5</math></div>		

- In reality, **some amino acid substitutions are more likely** than others **to be tolerated** during natural selection/evolution
- The **frequency of occurrence of the 20 amino acids** within proteins **varies** a lot

Leucine, Isoleucine, Alanine are frequently found in proteins

Tryptophan and Cysteine occur with less frequency



# Scoring Matrix Example

W

E

L

D

I

N

G

|

|

|

|

C

E

I

L

I

N

G

Substitution is typically selected against

Substitution is tolerated

C	Cys	12																				
S	Ser	0	2																			
T	Thr	-2	1	3																		
P	Pro	-3	1	0	6																	
A	Ala	-2	1	1	1	2																
G	Gly	-3	1	0	-1	1	5															
N	Asn	-4	1	0	-1	0	0	2														
D	Asp	-5	0	0	-1	0	1	2	4													
E	Glu	-5	0	0	-1	0	0	1	3	4												
Q	Gln	-5	-1	-1	0	0	-1	1	2	2	4											
H	His	-3	-1	-1	0	-1	-2	2	1	1	3	6										
R	Arg	-4	0	-1	0	-2	-3	0	-1	-1	1	2	6									
K	Lys	-5	0	0	-1	-1	-2	1	0	0	1	0	3	5								
M	Met	-5	-2	-1	-2	-1	-3	-2	-3	-2	-1	-2	0	0	6							
I	Ile	-2	-1	0	-2	-1	-3	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	2	5						
L	Leu	-6	-3	-2	-3	-2	-4	-3	-4	-3	-2	-2	-3	-3	4	2	6					
V	Val	-2	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	2	4	2	4				
F	Phe	-4	-3	-3	-5	-5	-5	-4	-6	-5	-5	-2	-4	-5	0	1	2	-1	9			
Y	Tyr	0	-3	-3	-5	-3	-5	-2	-4	-4	-4	0	-4	-4	-2	-1	-1	-2	7	10		
W	Trp	-8	-2	-5	-6	-6	-7	-4	-7	-7	-5	-3	2	-3	-4	-5	-2	-6	0	0	17	
		C	S	T	P	A	G	N	D	E	Q	H	R	K	M	I	L	V	F	Y	W	

# Running Protein BLAST from UniProt

(<http://www.uniprot.org>)

The image shows the UniProt website's BLAST interface. A red circle highlights the 'BLAST' link in the top navigation bar. A green box labeled 'UniProt identifier of human alpha crystallin' points to the input field containing 'P02489'. Another green box labeled 'BLAST Parameters' points to a red-outlined area containing the search parameters: Target database (UniProtKB), E-Threshold (10), Matrix (Auto), Filtering (None), Gapped (yes), and Hits (1000). The interface also includes a search bar at the top, a 'Basket' with 11 items, and various database statistics on the left.

UniProt

UniProtKB

UniRef

UniParc

Proteomes

News

BLAST

How to use this tool

The Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) finds regions of local similarity between sequences, which can be used to infer functional and evolutionary relationships between sequences as well as help identify members of gene families.

1. Enter either a protein or nucleotide sequence or a UniProt identifier (e.g. P00750 or A4\_HUMAN or UPI0000000001) into the form field.
2. Optionally, change the program parameters with the dropdown menus under the form.
3. Click the Run BLAST button.

UniProt identifier of human alpha crystallin

P02489

Target database<sup>i</sup>

UniProtKB

E-Threshold<sup>i</sup>

10

Matrix<sup>i</sup>

Auto

Filtering<sup>i</sup>

None

Gapped<sup>i</sup>

yes

Hits<sup>i</sup>

1000

Run Blast in a separate window.

Clear

Run BLAST

BLAST Parameters

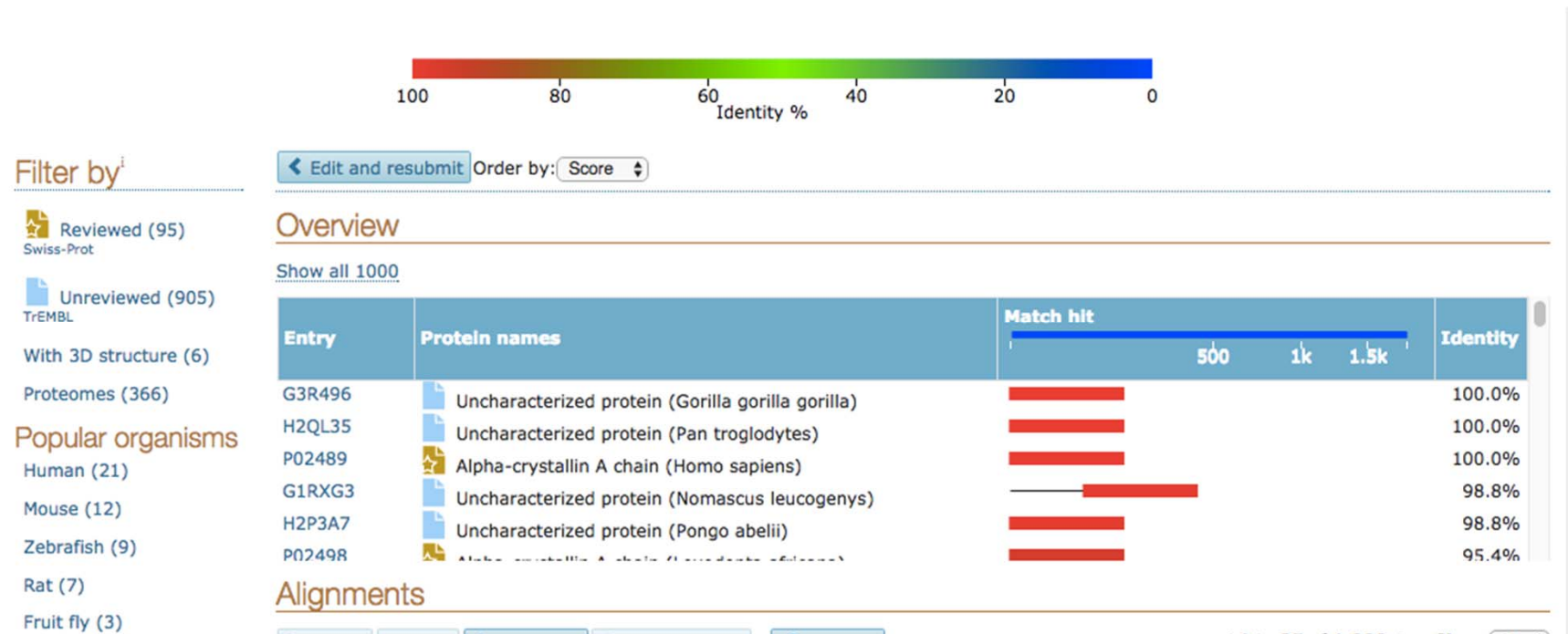
# Protein BLAST Parameters

Target database <sup>i</sup>	E-Threshold <sup>i</sup>	Matrix <sup>i</sup>	Filtering <sup>i</sup>	Gapped <sup>i</sup>	Hits <sup>i</sup>
UniProtKB	10	Auto	None	yes	1000

Adjusting BLAST parameters can affect the outcome of your analysis.

- Target database: database against which the search is performed
- E-Threshold: maximum E-value that will be displayed
- Matrix: scoring matrix that will be used (common scoring matrices are call PAM or BLOSUM followed by a number (e.g., BLOSUM62)
- Filtering: allows you to filter out regions of low-complexity sequence that tend to give meaningless matches
- Gaps: sets whether gaps in alignments are allowed
- Hits: sets the number of returned hits

# BLAST Results I



- Overview box shows UniProt identifier, name, matched region, and percent identity ranked in order of score
- Filters can be used to restrict results to reviewed entries only or to particular organisms of interest

# BLAST Results II

## Alignments

BLAST

Align

Download









Add to basket

Columns

1 to 25 of 1,000

Show

25

Entry	Alignment overview	Info	Status
<input type="checkbox"/> Query: sp P02489 CRYAA_HUMAN B20160412468PZIEDUP			
<input type="checkbox"/> G3R496	G3R496_GORGO - Uncharacterized protein - Gorilla gorilla ... - View alignment 	E-value: 1.7E-123 Score: 916 Ident.: 100.0%	
<input type="checkbox"/> H2QL35	H2QL35_PANTR - Uncharacterized protein - Pan troglodytes ... - View alignment 	E-value: 1.7E-123 Score: 916 Ident.: 100.0%	
<input type="checkbox"/> P02489	CRYAA_HUMAN - Alpha-crystallin A chain Homo sapiens (Human) - View alignment 	E-value: 1.7E-123 Score: 916 Ident.: 100.0%	
<input type="checkbox"/> G1RXG3	G1RXG3_NOMLE - Uncharacterized protein - Nomascus leucoge... - View alignment 	E-value: 270E-123 Score: 909 Ident.: 98.8%	

- Alignments panel shows matching regions as well as E-value, score, and percent identity for each result.

- Color indicates percent identity.





# Hands On #3 – Protein BLAST

Go to <http://www.uniprot.org> and run protein BLAST on the following sequence. The sequence is an uncharacterized protein from *Latimeria chalumnae* (West Indian ocean coelacanth).

>Mystery Sequence

```
ALEYKCNINMTAETADCFNSSQITASEQEALVKPKQLLLKLLKCAGAQKDIFTMKEVIYY  
LGQYIMAKQLYDKNQQHIVHCSNDLLGELFGVQSFSVKEPRRLYAMISKNLLPVNQEDPI  
GIHVSMKETRCHRGSETGVKDNTQE VAGEKPAAPVTASCSTTSCRRTFSETEDAVSDDPL  
SERRRKRHKSDSISLTFDDSLSWCVISGLRRDRSSSESTESPSNPDSDVVSVSSENSKDSW  
FDQDSDSDHFSVEFEVESVYSENYS DNEEAQDVTDEDEDFYQVTIYEAE DSDDSFTEDTE  
ISVADYWTCTECEEVNPPLPRHCNRCWALRKDWLPENTKSSSCKSLDLKEPDREEGIDVP  
DCKKTKEDPSCDSNVDVNEEDMTVQSSESQETNISQPSTSSSFIGGSQEE SRETEREESS  
ESTLPLTCLEPCVICQSRPKNGCIVHGRTGHLMACYTCAKKLKRRNKPCPVCRQPIQMVV  
LTYFS
```



*Latimeria chalumnae*



# Hands On #3 – Protein BLAST

Look at the BLAST results

1. What is the top result?

Filter by reviewed entries, and look over the top 10 results.

1. Do they have significant e-values?
2. Approximately what % identity do they have to the query protein?
3. Is the similarity over the full length of the protein?
4. What are the names of the top hits?

Do not close the window with the BLAST results!! You will need it again.

# Hands On #3 – Protein BLAST (Answers)

Look at the BLAST results

1. What is the top result?

H3APM8 Uncharacterized Protein from *Latimeria chalumnae*. This is the UniProt record for the sequence you input into BLAST. It shows 100% identity over the full length (as you would expect).

Filter by reviewed entries, and look over the top 10 results.

1. Do they have significant e-values? Yes—0 to 11E-165.
2. Approximately what % identity do they have to the query protein? 53%-62%
3. Is the similarity over the full length of the protein?  
For the first eight results, yes. In the last two cases, Q00987-8 and P56950-2 the match does not include the N-terminal region of the query protein.
4. What are the names of the top hits?  
E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase Mdm2

# V. Multiple Sequence Alignment (MSA)

# Multiple Sequence Alignment

- So far, we have talked about BLAST, which aligns pairs of sequences and comes up with a relatedness score based on how similar the amino acids are at each position.

Pairwise alignment:

Protein 1	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>
Protein 2	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>

- Multiple sequence alignment (MSA) extends the same idea and provides more information

Multiple sequence alignment:

Protein 1	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>
Protein 2	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>
Protein 3	<b>c</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>f</b>
⋮					

# Multiple Sequence Alignment

“Two homologous  
sequences whisper...”

```
AGFSVTIPYKKTVPFELDELSPEALSIGAVN.  
GENVTIIPYKTKILKYIEKLVYPADKIGAVN.
```

A multiple sequence  
alignment shouts”

Prof. Arthur M Lesk

```
AGFSVTIPYKKTVPFELDELSPEALSIGAVN  
GENVTIPYKTKILKYIEKLVYPADKIGAVN  
GGNVTIPHKEAERLADRPDELSAELGAAN  
GCNITS PFKERAYQLADEYSQRAKLAEACN  
GVNLTLP LKEAALAHLDWVSPEAQRI GAVN  
GANVTVPFKEEAFARADELTERAALAGAVN  
GANVTLPFKERAFQICDKIKGIALECASVN  
GLNVTIPYKEQVIPFELDELDKDTAKIGAVN
```

# Multiple Sequence Alignment

MSA can reveal patterns of conservation in sequences that allow us to determine which residues are under **selective constraint** (may be important for protein function)

```

1  -MAFDGTWKVDNRNENYKFMKMGVNVVKKRLGA--HDNLKLTITQEGNKFTVKRESSNFR 57 P02693 FABPI_RAT
1  -MAFDSTWKVDNRNENYKFMKMGVNVVKKRLAA--HDNLKLTITQEGNKFTVKRESSAFR 57 P12104 FABPI_HUMAN
1  -MAFDGTWKVDNRNENYKFMKMGVNVVKKRLGA--HDNLKLTITQEGNKFTVKRESSNFR 57 P55050 FABPI_MOUSE
1  -MAFDGTWKVDNRNENYKFMKMGVNVVKKRLGA--HDNLKLTITQEGNKFTVKRESSNFR 57 Q91775 FABPI_XENLA
1  -MAFDGAWKIDNRNENYKFMKMGVNVVKKRLAA--HDNLKLTITQEGNKFTVKRESSNFR 57 Q45KW7 FABPI_PIG
1  MPNFAGTWKMRSSNFDELLKALGVNAMLKRVAVAAASKPHVEIRQDGDQFYIKTSTTVR 60 P62965 RABP1_MOUSE
1  MPNFAGTWKMRSSNFDELLKALGVNAMLKRVAVAAASKPHVEIRQDGDQFYIKTSTTVR 60 P62964 RABP1_BOVIN
1  MPNFAGTWKMRSSNFDELLKALGVNAMLKRVAVAAASKPHVEIRQDGDQFYIKTSTTVR 60 P40220 RABP1_CHICK
1  MPNFAGTWKMRSSNFDELLKALGVNAMLKRVAVAAASKPHVEIRQDGDQFYIKTSTTVR 60 P29762 RABP1_HUMAN
   *  .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***:

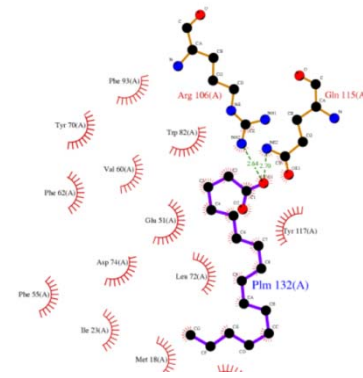
58  NIDVVFELGVDFAYSADGTELTG--TWTMEGNKLVGKFKRVDNGKELIAVREISGNELI 115 P02693 FABPI_RAT
58  NIEVVFELGVTFNYNLADGTELRG--TWSLEGKLIKGKFRVDNGNELNTRVREIIGDELV 115 P12104 FABPI_HUMAN
58  NIDVVFELGVNPFYSLADGTELTG--AWTIEGNKLIKGKFRVDNGKELIAVREISGNELI 115 P55050 FABPI_MOUSE
58  NIEIKFTLAQPFYSLADGTELTG--AWFLQDNQLLGTFTTRKDNQKVLQTRRQIIGDELV 115 Q91775 FABPI_XENLA
58  NIEIVFELGVTFNYSADGTELTG--NWNLEGKLVGKFKRVDNGKELNTRVREIIGDEM 115 Q45KW7 FABPI_PIG
61  TTEINFKVGEGFEETVDGRKCRSLPTWENENKIHTQTLLLEGDGPKTYWTRRLANDELI 120 P62965 RABP1_MOUSE
61  TTEINFKVGEGFEETVDGRKCRSLPTWENENKIHTQTLLLEGDGPKTYWTRRLANDELI 120 P62964 RABP1_BOVIN
61  TTEINFKIGSEFEETVDGRKCRSLATWENENKIHTQTLLLEGDGPKTYWTRRLANDELI 120 P40220 RABP1_CHICK
61  TTEINFKVGEGFEETVDGRKCRSLATWENENKIHTQTLLLEGDGPKTYWTRRLANDELI 120 P29762 RABP1_HUMAN
   .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***:

116 QYTYEGVEAKRIFKKE 132 P02693 FABPI_RAT
116 QYTYEGVEAKRIFKKE 132 P12104 FABPI_HUMAN
116 QYTYEGVEAKRIFKKE 132 P55050 FABPI_MOUSE
116 QYTYEGVEAKRIFKKE 132 Q91775 FABPI_XENLA
116 QYTYEGVEAKRIFKKE 132 Q45KW7 FABPI_PIG
121 LTFGADDVVCRIYVRE 137 P62965 RABP1_MOUSE
121 LTFGADDVVCRIYVRE 137 P62964 RABP1_BOVIN
121 LTFGADDVVCRIYVRE 137 P40220 RABP1_CHICK
121 LTFGADDVVCRIYVRE 137 P29762 RABP1_HUMAN
   *  .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***: .:***:
  
```

You may add additional sequences to this alignment (in FASTA format)

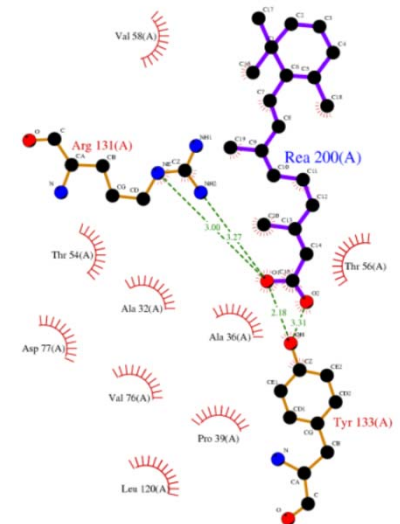
Gunasekaran et. al, 2004, *Proteins: Structure, Function, and Bioinformatics*, 54, 2:179-194.

FABP



Arg and Gln  
conserved in all  
FABPs

CRABP



Arg and Tyr  
conserved in all  
CRABPs



# Performing MSA with UniProt

Select several UniProt search results to align...

UniProtKB results

Filter by: Reviewed (189) Swiss-Prot Unreviewed (4,444) TrEMBL

Popular organisms: Human (39) Zebrafish (24) C. elegans (23) Fruit fly (17) Mouse (16)

Other organisms

Search terms: Filter "alpha crystallin" as: protein name (1,706)

View by: Taxonomy Keywords

1 to 25 of 4,633 Show 25

Align Download Add to basket Columns

Entry	Entry name	Protein names	Gene names	Organism	Length	Protein families
3 result(s) selected. (Clear selection)						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P2489	CRYAA_HUMAN	Alpha-crystallin A chain	CRYAA CRYA1,HSPB4	Homo sapiens (Human)	173	Small heat shock protein (HSP20) family
<input type="checkbox"/> P24623	CRYAA_RAT	Alpha-crystallin A chain	Cryaa Crya1	Rattus norvegicus (Rat)	196	Small heat shock protein (HSP20) family
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P2511	CRYAB_HUMAN	Alpha-crystallin B chain	CRYAB CRYA2,HSPB5	Homo sapiens (Human)	175	Small heat shock protein (HSP20) family
<input type="checkbox"/> P23928	CRYAB_RAT	Alpha-crystallin B chain	Cryab	Rattus norvegicus (Rat)	175	Small heat shock protein (HSP20) family
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P2470	CRYAA_BOVIN	Alpha-crystallin A chain	CRYAA CRYA1	Bos taurus (Bovine)	173	Small heat shock protein (HSP20) family
<input type="checkbox"/> P23927	CRYAB_MOUSE	Alpha-crystallin B chain	Cryab Crya2	Mus musculus (Mouse)	175	Small heat shock protein (HSP20) family
<input type="checkbox"/> P9WMK1	ACR_MYCTU	Alpha-crystallin	hspX acr,Rv2031c,MTV018.18c	Mycobacterium	144	Small heat shock

# Performing MSA with UniProt

...or select several BLAST results to align

BLAST **Align** Download Add to basket Columns 1 to 25 of 185 Show 25

6 result(s) selected. (Clear selection)

Entry	Alignment overview	Info	Status
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Query: sp P42930 HSPB1_RAT B2016041375ZM4SGQNZ		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P42930	HSPB1_RAT - Heat shock protein beta-1 - Rattus norvegicu... - View alignment	E-value: 1.5E-150 Score: 1,088 Ident.: 100.0%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P14602	HSPB1_MOUSE - Heat shock protein beta-1 Mus musculus (Mouse) - View alignment	E-value: 43E-147 Score: 1,059 Ident.: 97.1%	
<input type="checkbox"/> P15991	HSPB1_CRILO - Heat shock protein beta-1 - Cricetulus longi... - View alignment	E-value: 84E-141 Score: 1,018 Ident.: 93.0%	
<input type="checkbox"/> P14602-2	HSPB1_MOUSE - Isoform B of Heat shock protein bet... Mus musculus (Mouse) - View alignment	E-value: 4.9E-135 Score: 985 Ident.: 91.9%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P42929	HSPB1_CANLF - Heat shock protein beta-1 - Canis lupus fami... - View alignment	E-value: 210E-129 Score: 936 Ident.: 85.2%	
<input type="checkbox"/> Q5S1U1	HSPB1_PIG - Heat shock protein beta-1 Sus scrofa (Pig) - View alignment	E-value: 1.6E-126 Score: 930 Ident.: 84.7%	

# UniProt Alignment Results

## Alignment

 How to print an alignment in color

Query B2016041375ZM4SGQNZ  
Heat Shock P14602 HSPB1\_MOUSE  
P42929 HSPB1\_CANLF  
P04792 HSPB1\_HUMAN  
Crystallin P23928 CRYAB\_RAT  
P23927 CRYAB\_MOUSE  
P02511 CRYAB\_HUMAN

## Highlight

### Annotation

- ☐ Helix
- ☐ Region
- ☐ Beta strand
- ☒ Modified residue
- ☐ Alternative sequence
- ☐ Sequence conflict
- ☐ Chain
- ☐ Turn
- ☐ Glycosylation
- ☐ Natural variant
- ☐ Mutagenesis
- ☐ Site
- ☒ Metal binding

B2016041375ZM4SGQNZ  
P14602 HSPB1\_MOUSE  
P42929 HSPB1\_CANLF  
P04792 HSPB1\_HUMAN  
P23928 CRYAB\_RAT  
P23927 CRYAB\_MOUSE  
P02511 CRYAB\_HUMAN  
  
B2016041375ZM4SGQNZ  
P14602 HSPB1\_MOUSE  
P42929 HSPB1\_CANLF  
P04792 HSPB1\_HUMAN  
P23928 CRYAB\_RAT  
P23927 CRYAB\_MOUSE  
P02511 CRYAB\_HUMAN

```

1 MTERRVPFSLLRSPSWEPFRDWY--PAHSRLFDQAFGVPRFPDEWSQWFSSAGWPGYVRP      58
1 MTERRVPFSLLRSPSWEPFRDWY--PAHSRLFDQAFGVPRLPDEWSQWFSAAWPGYVRP      58
1 MTERRVPFSLLRSPSWDPFRDWY--PAHSRLFDQAFGLPRLPEEWAQWFGHSGWPGYVRP      58
1 MTERRVPFSLLRGPSWDPFDRDWY--P-HSRLFDQAFGLPRLPEEWSQWLGGSSWPGYVRP      57
1 -----MDIAIHHPWI-RRPFFPFHSPSRLFDQFFGEHLLESDFST-ATSLSPFYL--      49
1 -----MDIAIHHPWI-RRPFFPFHSPSRLFDQFFGEHLLESDFST-ATSLSPFYL--      49
1 -----MDIAIHHPWI-RRPFFPFHSPSRLFDQFFGEHLLESDFST-ATSLSPFYL--      49
          :.: * * :. :***** * :.: . : * :.

59 LPAATAEGPAAVTLARPAFSRALNRQLSSGVSEIRQTADRWRVSLDVNHFAPEELTVKTK      118
59 LPAATAEGPAAVTLAAPAFSRALNRQLSSGVSEIRQTADRWRVSLDVNHFAPEELTVKTK      118
59 IPPAVEGPAAAAAAAPAYSRAISRQLSSGVSEIRQTADRWRVSLDVNHFAPEELTVKTK      118
58 LPPAAIESPA---VAAPAYSRAISRQLSSGVSEIRHTADRWRVSLDVNHFAPEELTVKTK      114
50 -----RPPSFLRA-PSWIDTGLSEMRLEKDRFSVNLVDVKHFSPEELKVVL      94
50 -----RPPSFLRA-PSWIDTGLSEMRLEKDRFSVNLVDVKHFSPEELKVVL      94
50 -----RPPSFLRA-PSWIDTGLSEMRLEKDRFSVNLVDVKHFSPEELKVVL      94
          *:: ** :.:***:* ** :*****:***:***.

119 EGVVEITGKHEERQDEHGYSRCFTRKYTLPPGVDPTLVSSSLSPGTLTVEAPLPKAVT      178
119 EGVVEITGKHEERQDEHGYSRCFTRKYTLPPGVDPTLVSSSLSPGTLTVEAPLPKAVT      178
119 DGVVEITGKHEERQDEHGYSRRLTPKYTLPPGVDPTLVSSSLSPGTLTVEAPMPKPAT      178
115 DGVVEITGKHEERQDEHGYSRCFTRKYTLPPGVDPTQVSSSLSPGTLTVEAPMPKAT      174
95 GDVIEVHGKHEERQDEHGFIREFHRKYRIPADVDPLTITSSSLSDGVLTVNGPRKQASG      154
95 GDVIEVHGKHEERQDEHGFIREFHRKYRIPADVDPLTITSSSLSDGVLTVNGPRKQVSG      154
95 GDVIEVHGKHEERQDEHGFIREFHRKYRIPADVDPLTITSSSLSDGVLTVNGPRKQVSG      154
          *::: *****:*** : ** : * ** :***** :*****:.. :

179 QSAEITIPVTFEARAQIGGPESEQSG---AK      206
179 QSAEITIPVTFEARAQIGGPEAGKSEQSGAK      209
179 QSAEITIPVTFEARAQIGGPEAGKSEQSGAK      209
175 QSNEITIPVTFESRAQLGGPEAAKSDATAAK      205
155 --PERTIPITREEKPAVTAAPKK-----      175
155 --PERTIPITREEKPAVAAAPKK-----      175
155 --PERTIPITREEKPAVTAAPKK-----      175
          * ***:* * : : .
    
```

- Modified residues of heat shock group are also found in query
- 3 of 4 metal binding residues of crystallin group are conserved in heat shock group  
-> Maybe heat shock group also binds metal at these sites?

## Hands On #4 - MSA

- Go back to the results page for your BLAST of the *Latimeria chalumnae* uncharacterized protein.
- If you have not already done so, filter results for reviewed entries
- Select the query sequence and the top five BLAST results and perform an alignment.
- Experiment with highlighting the alignment according to different annotations or amino acid properties. Observe whether your mystery sequence is conserved in the highlighted regions.



## Hands On #4 – MSA Part II

Highlight the alignment according to the mutagenesis annotation.  
(This means that the UniProt entry has information about mutagenesis experiments for these residues)

1. Find the highlighted residue at position 374 of the human sequence Q00987. Is this residue conserved in the mystery protein?
2. In a separate tab, go to the UniProtKB record for Q00987. What was the consequence of mutagenesis at position 374?
3. In the alignment, find the highlighted residues at positions 452, 455, and 457. Are these conserved in the mystery protein?
4. What are the consequences of mutagenesis of positions 452, 455, and 457?
5. Based on these results, do you think it is possible that the mystery protein has ubiquitin ligase activity like the human protein Q00987?

## Hands On #4 – MSA Part II (Answers)

Highlight the alignment according to the mutagenesis annotation.  
(This means that the UniProt entry has information about mutagenesis experiments for these residues)

1. Find the highlighted residue at position 374 of the human sequence Q00987. Is this residue conserved in the mystery protein? **No**
2. In a separate tab, go to the UniProtKB record for Q00987. What was the consequence of mutagenesis at position 374? **No loss of ubiquitin ligase activity.**
3. In the alignment, find the highlighted residues at positions 452, 455, and 457. Are these conserved in the mystery protein? **Yes**
4. What are the consequences of mutagenesis of positions 452, 455, and 457? **Loss or significant decrease in ubiquitin ligase activity.**



## Hands On #4 – MSA Part II (Answers)

5. Based on these results, do you think it is possible that the mystery protein has ubiquitin ligase activity like the human protein Q00987?

At least some of the residues that are important for ubiquitin ligase activity (452, 455, and 457) are conserved in the mystery protein. The one residue that we checked that was not conserved (374) seems to be less important for activity. These results are consistent with the possibility that the mystery protein has ubiquitin ligase activity, but we would need to check other critical residues and ultimately do experiments on the mystery protein to see if it really does have the activity.

# Take Home Messages

- Pubmed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>) is an excellent resource for searching high-quality scientific literature. Using advanced querying techniques can help to target your searches to articles you are most interested in.
- UniProtKB (<http://www.uniprot.org/>) is a centralized resource for protein sequence and function information.
- Protein BLAST and multiple sequence alignments (MSA) can help in assigning functions to uncharacterized proteins and in determining evolutionary relationships among proteins.

# More Resources

- UniProtKB tutorials on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/uniprotvideos>
- A good introductory paper on BLAST:  
Using BLAST to Teach “E-value-tionary” Concepts  
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<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3032543/>
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