



#### PROTOCOL FOR INFLUENZA A VIRUS GLOBAL SWINE H1 CLADE CLASSIFICATION

January 23, 2017

#### 1. Background

Swine H1 viruses have diversified into three major genetic lineages over time. Recently, Anderson et al. (2016) proposed a global classification scheme for swine H1 influenza A virus based on the phylogenetic relationships of the H1 HA segment sequences. This new global swine H1 clade classification scheme extends the previous US swine H1 classification scheme implemented in the Influenza Research Database (IRD, 2015) by incorporating additional swine sequences from outside North America, in particular Europe and Asia. To make the new classification scheme more accessible to the influenza research community, Anderson and other swine influenza experts at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have collaborated with IRD and implemented the global swine H1 clade classification tool in IRD. This document describes both the global swine H1 clade classification tool and the corresponding clade classifications in IRD.

## 2. Automatic Assignment of Global Swine H1 Clades

The primary goal of the global swine H1 classification is to assign clades to unclassified HA/H1 sequences. An automated pipeline was developed for clade classification, whereby:

- 2.1 From the global swine H1 classification phylogeny developed by Anderson at al. (2016), a few representatives were selected for each defined clade. This selection led to a global swine H1 reference tree containing 239 H1 viruses of predominantly swine origin, with a few H1 viruses from human and avian hosts to represent the diversity of non-swine H1 viruses.
- 2.2 Input data are all HA/H1 segment sequences in IRD regardless of host and NA subtype.
- 2.3 A query sequence is aligned against the alignment of the sequences from the global swine H1 reference tree.
- 2.4 The query sequence is placed into the reference tree using pplacer (Matsen, 2010), with the reference tree serves as a "scaffold" where the query sequence is hung.
- 2.5 The clade for the query sequence is inferred from its local environment in the phylogeny:
  - When a query sequence is placed unequivocally within the bounds of a single defined clade, this clade name is assigned to the query.
  - When a query sequence does not fall within a defined clade, it is classified by the neighborhood of its placement, using a "-like" annotation. For example, the tool assigns the classification "1B.2.2-like" to viruses ancestral to both the 1B.2.2.1 and 1B.2.2.2 clades but not placed within the 1B.2.2 clade.
- 2.6 The output clade annotations are stored in the database and then displayed on the Sequence Search Results page and the Segment/Protein Details page (Section 3). In addition, a global swine H1 clade search option is provided under the Search Data drop-down menu (Section 3).

# 3. Display of H1 Clade Classifications

IRD-annotated H1 clade classifications are displayed in the Strain Information section on the Strain/Segment/Protein Details page (Figure 1), Sequence Search Results page (Figure 2). H1 clade annotations can also be used as one of the sequence search criteria on the Swine H1 Clade Sequence Search page (**Search Data > Search Sequences > Swine H1 Clade** [https://www.fludb.org/brc/influenza h1clade search segment.spg?method=ShowCleanSearch&decorator=influenza], Figure 3).





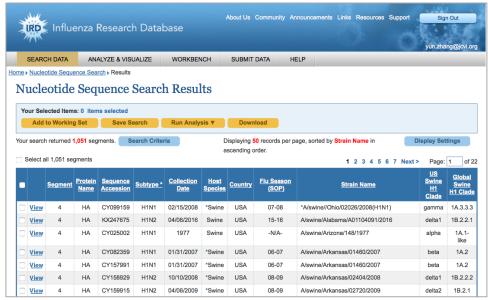


Figure 1. A section of the Nucleotide Sequence Search Results page

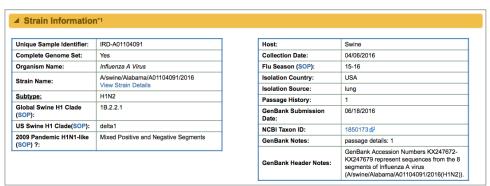


Figure 2. An example of the Strain Information section on the Segment/Protein Details page





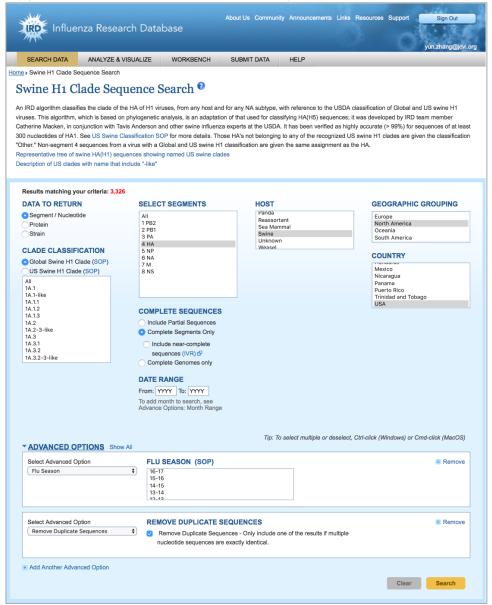


Figure 3. The Swine H1 Clade Sequence Search page

### 4. Clade Classification of Custom Sequences

The Swine H1 Clade Classification tool is also made available as a stand-alone tool for annotating user-provided H1 sequences. The tool is accessible from **Analyze & Visualize** > **Swine H1 Clade Classification Tool** 

[https://www.fludb.org/brc/h1CladeClassifier.spg?method=ShowCleanInputPage&decorator=influenza]. User sequences can be provided by uploading a file, pasting in FASTA-formatted sequences, or a sequence file uploaded to the Workbench (Figure 4). Both the Global & the US Swine H1 Clade Classification tools will be run against the input sequences. The Clade





Classification Report provides both the clade assignment and the phylogenetic tree used to assign the clade designation to the input sequence (Figure 5).

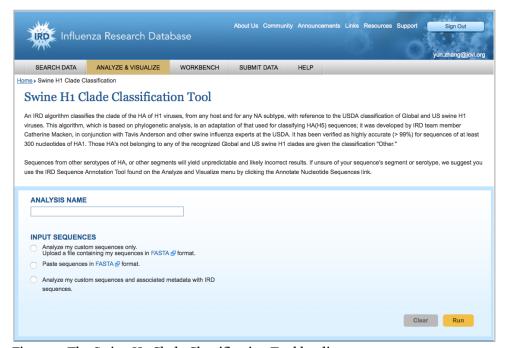


Figure 4. The Swine H1 Clade Classification Tool landing page

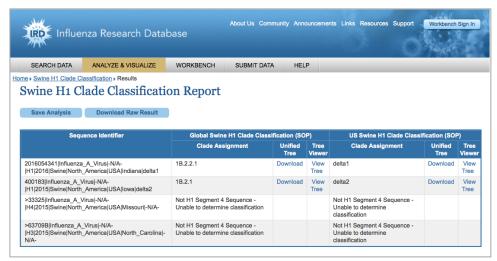


Figure 5. An example of the Swine H1 Clade Classification Report

#### References

Anderson TK, et al. A Phylogeny-Based Global Nomenclature System and Automated Annotation Tool for H1 Hemagglutinin Genes from Swine Influenza A Viruses. mSphere. 2016, 1(6): e00275-16. PMID: 27981236.





Influenza Research Database. IRD US swine H1 hemagglutinin clade classification tool. <a href="https://www.fludb.org/brcDocs/documents/SOP\_SwineH1CladeClassn\_062415.pdf">https://www.fludb.org/brcDocs/documents/SOP\_SwineH1CladeClassn\_062415.pdf</a>

Matsen FA, et al. pplacer: linear time maximumlikelihood and Bayesian phylogenetic placement of sequences onto a fixed reference tree. BMC Biomathematics. 2010, 11:538. PMID: 21034504.