### Find a Gene Project Assignment

1. Tell me the name of a protein you are interested in. Include the species and the accession number. This can be a human protein or a protein from any other species as long as its function is known. If you do not have a favorite protein, select human RBP4 or KIF11. Do not use beta globin as this is in the worked example report that I provide you with online.

Name: tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily, member 6B, decoy

**Accession:** NP\_003814 **Species:** Homo sapiens

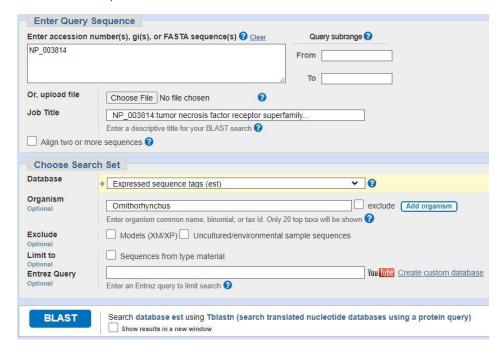
2. Perform a BLAST search against a DNA database, such as a database consisting of genomic DNA or ESTs. The BLAST server can be at NCBI or elsewhere. Include details of the BLAST method used, database searched and any limits applied (e.g. Organism).

Method: TBLASTN searched against Ornithorhynchus

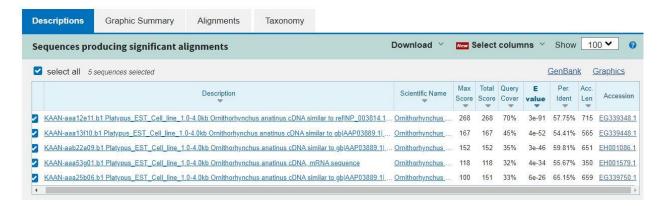
**Database:** Expressed Sequence Tags (est) **Organism:** Ornithorhynchus (Taxid: 9257)

Also include the output of that BLAST search in your document. If appropriate, change the font to Courier size 10 so that the results are displayed neatly. You can also screen capture a BLAST output (e.g. alt print screen on a PC or on a MAC press  $\Re$ -shift-4. The pointer becomes a bulls eye. Select the area you wish to capture and release. The image is saved as a file called Screen Shot [].png in your Desktop directory). It is not necessary to print out all of the blast results if there are many pages.

#### See search setup in screen-shot below:



The search yielded 5 results, a screen shot of the results is shown below:



**Chosen match:** Accession EG339348.1, a 715 base pair cDNA clone from *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*. See below for alignment details.

# **Alignment Details:**

```
Query: tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 6B precursor [Homo
sapiens] Query ID: NP 003814.1 Length: 300
>KAAN-aaa12e11.b1 Platypus EST Cell line 1.0-4.0kb Ornithorhynchus anatinus
cDNA similar to ref[NP 003814.1] tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily,
member 6b; decoy receptor 3 [Homo sapiens] ref|NP 116563.1| tumor necrosis
factor receptor superfamily, member 6b; decoy receptor 3 [Homo sapiens]
sp|095407|TR6B HUMAN Tumor necrosis fact, mRNA sequence
Sequence ID: EG339348.1 Length: 715
Range 1: 63 to 701
Score: 268 bits(686), Expect:3e-91,
Method: Compositional matrix adjust.,
Identities: 126/213(59%), Positives: 162/213(76%), Gaps: 1/213(0%)
           PTYPWRDAETGERLVCAOCPPGTFVORPCRRDSPTTCGPCPPRHYTOFWNYLERCRYCNV
Ouerv 34
           PTY W+D+ T ERL C QCPPGT+V + C R SPT C PCP HYTQ+WNYL++CRYCNV
           PTYSWKDSTTQERLQCQQCPPGTYVSQHCSRTSPTQCQPCPTLHYTQYWNYLDKCRYCNV
                                                                         242
Query 94
           LCGEREEEARACHATHNRACRCRTGFFAHAGFCLEHASCPPGAGVIAPGTPSQNTQCQPC
                                                                         153
                     C ATHNR C+C+ G++A+ FC+EH++CP G+GV++ GTP++NT+CQ C
Sbjct 243 FCGAQEEEVHPCSATHNRVCQCQPGYYAYMDFCIEHSTCPLGSGVVSQGTPTKNTECQEC
                                                                         422
Query 154 PPGTFsassssssEQCQPHRNCTALGLALNVPGSSSHDTLCTSCTGFPLSTRVPGAEECER
                                                                         213
           P GTFS +SS +E CQ H+NCT LG+ +NVPG+ HDTLCT C F L++ PG ++CE+
Sbjct 423 PRGTFSDNSSRTEPCQSHQNCTLLGMKVNVPGNRFHDTLCTRCDNFQLNSSEPGNKDCEQ 602
Query 214 AVIDFVAFQDISIKRLQRLLQAL-EAPEGWGPT 245
           A+IDFVA+QDI +KRL RL Q L EAP
Sbjct 603 ALIDFVAYQDIPLKRLLRLQQVLGEAPGAAGQT 701
```

3. Gather information about this "novel" protein. At a minimum, show me the protein sequence of the "novel" protein as displayed in your BLAST results from [Q2] as FASTA format (you can copy and paste the aligned sequence subject lines from your BLAST result page if necessary) or translate your novel DNA sequence using a tool called EMBOSS Transeq at the EBI. Don't forget to translate all six reading frames; the ORF (open reading frame) is likely to be the longest sequence without a stop codon. It may not start with a methionine if you don't have the complete coding region. Make sure the sequence you provide includes a header/subject line and is in traditional FASTA format

> O. anatinus protein (sequence taken from BLAST results)
TKKLGTFVLAVTFPMGSNNPPTYSWKDSTTQERLQCQQCPPGTYVSQHCSRTSPTQCQPCPTLHYTQYWNYLDKCRYCN
VFCGAQEEEVHPCSATHNRVCQCQPGYYAYMDFCIEHSTCPLGSGVVSQGTPTKNTECQECPRGTFSDNSSRTEPCQSH
QNCTLLGMKVNVPGNRFHDTLCTRCDNFQLNSSEPGNKDCEQALIDFVAYQDIPLKRLLRLQQVLGEAPGAAGQTRGFQ

Here, tell me the name of the novel protein, and the species from which it derives. It is very unlikely (but still definitely possible) that you will find a novel gene from an organism such as S. cerevisiae, human or mouse, because those genomes have already been thoroughly annotated. It is more likely that you will discover a new gene in a genome that is currently being sequenced, such as bacteria or plants or protozoa.

Name: Ornithorhynchus tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily, member 6B, decoy Species: Ornithorhynchus anatinus

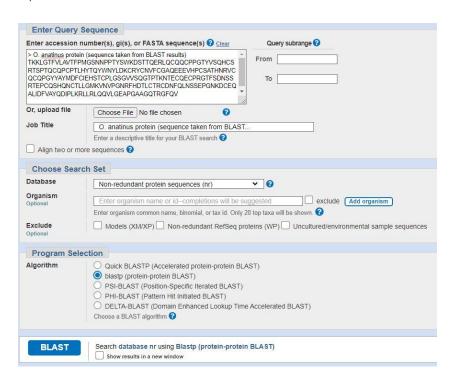
Eukaryota; Opisthokonta; Metazoa; Eumetazoa; Bilateria; Deuterostomia; Chordata; Craniata; Vertebrata; Gnathostomata; Teleostomi; Euteleostomi; Sarcopterygii; Dipnotetrapodomorpha; Tetrapoda; Amniota; Mammalia; Prototheria; Monotremata; Ornithorhynchidae; Ornithorhynchus

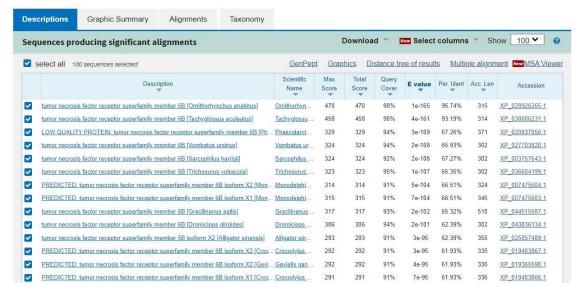
- 4. Prove that this gene, and its corresponding protein, are novel. For the purposes of this project, "novel" is defined as follows. Take the protein sequence (your answer to [Q3]), and use it as a query in a blastp search of the nr database at NCBI.
  - If there is a match with 100% amino acid identity to a protein in the database, from the same species, then your protein is NOT novel (even if the match is to a protein with a name such as "unknown"). Someone has already found and annotated this sequence, and assigned it an accession number.
  - If the top match reported has less than 100% identity, then it is likely that your protein is novel, and you have succeeded.
  - If there is a match with 100% identity, but to a different species than the one you started with, then you have likely succeeded in finding a novel gene.
  - If there are no database matches to the original query from [Q1], this indicates that you have partially succeeded: yes, you may have found a new gene, but no, it is not actually homologous to the original query. You should probably start over.

#### **Details:**

A BLASTP search against NR database was used (see setup in first screen-shot below). This yielded a top hit result is to a protein from Ornithorhynchus anatinus (Platypus) See additional screen shots below for top hits and selected alignment details:

The first hit has a 95.74% identity with our query, thus since the percent identify reported is less than 100% it is likely that our gene is novel as defined in the question. So we have succeeded as required.





#### ▲ Download ▼ GenPept Graphics tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 6B [Ornithorhynchus anatinus] Sequence ID: XP\_028926265.1 Length: 315 Number of Matches: 1 ▼ Next Match A Previous Match Range 1: 17 to 250 GenPept Graphics Score Expect Method **Identities** Positives 470 bits(1209) 1e-165 Compositional matrix adjust. 225/235(96%) 227/235(96%) 1/235(0%) LGTFVLAVTFPMGSNNPPTYSWKDSTTQERLQCQQCPPGTYVSQHCSRTSPTQCQPCPTL GTFVLAVTFPMGSNNPPTYSWKDSTTQERLQCQQCPPGTYVSQHCSRTSPTQCQPCPTL FGTFVLAVTFPMGSNNPPTYSWKDSTTQERLQCQQCPPGTYVSQHCSRTSPTQCQPCPTL Query 4 Sbjct 17 Query 64 HYTQYWNYLDKCRYCNVFCGAQEEEVHPCSATHNRVCQCQPGYYAYMDFCIEHSTCPLGS HYTŐYWNYLDKCRYCNVFCGAŐEEEVHPCSATHNRVCŐCŐPGYYAYMDFCIEHSTCPLGS Sbjct 77 HYTŐYWNYLDKCRYCNVFCGAŐEEEVHPCSATHNRVCŐCŐPGYYAYMDFCIEHSTCPLGS Query 124 GVVSQGTPTKNTECQECPRGTFSDNSSRTEPCQSHQNCTLLGMKVNVPGNRFHDTLCTRC GVVSŐGTPTKNTECŐECPRGTESDNSSRTEPCŐSHÖNCTI I GMKVNVPGNREHDTI CTRO Sbict 137 GVVSÖGTPTKNTECÖECPRGTFSDNSSRTEPCÖSHÖNCTLLGMKVNVPGNRFHDTLCTRC 196 DNFQLNSSEPGNKDCEQALIDFVAYQDIPLKRLLRLQQVLGEAPGAAGQTRGFQV Query 184 DNFQLNSSEPGNKDCEQALIDFVAYQDIPLKRLLRLQQVLG+ G Sbjct 197 DNFQLNSSEPGNKDCEQALIDFVAYQDIPLKRLLRLQQVLGKR-GGRRSDQGFQV

5. Generate a multiple sequence alignment with your novel protein, your original query protein, and a group of other members of this family from different species. A typical number of proteins to use in a multiple sequence alignment for this assignment purpose is a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 20 - although the exact number is up to you. Include the multiple sequence alignment in your report. Use Courier font with a size appropriate to fit page width. Side-note: Indicate your sequence in the alignment by choosing an appropriate name for each sequence in the input unaligned sequence file (i.e. edit the sequence file so that the species, or short common, names (rather than accession numbers) display in the output alignment and in the subsequent answers below). The goal in this step is to create an interesting an alignment for building a phylogenetic tree that illustrates species divergence.

#### Re-labeled sequences for alignment

>Human|ref|NP\_000509.1|Human tumor necrosis factor decoy receptor 6B [Homo sapiens]
MRALEGPGLSLLCLVLALPALLPVPAVRGVAETPTYPWRDAETGERLVCAQCPPGTFVQRPCRRDSPTTCGPCPPRHYT
QFWNYLERCRYCNVLCGEREEEARACHATHNRACRCRTGFFAHAGFCLEHASCPPGAGVIAPGTPSQNTQCQPCPPGTF
SASSSSSEQCQPHRNCTALGLALNVPGSSSHDTLCTSCTGFPLSTRVPGAEECERAVIDFVAFQDISIKRLQRLLQALE
APEGWGPTPRAGRAALQLKLRRRLTELLGAQDGALLVRLLQALRVARMPGLERSVRERFLPVH

> Ornithorhynchus tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily, member 6B, decoy (sequence taken from BLAST results); AltName: Ornithorhynchus TNFRSF6B
TKKLGTFVLAVTFPMGSNNPPTYSWKDSTTQERLQCQQCPPGTYVSQHCSRTSPTQCQPCPTLHYTQYWNYLDKCRYCN
VFCGAQEEEVHPCSATHNRVCQCQPGYYAYMDFCIEHSTCPLGSGVVSQGTPTKNTECQECPRGTFSDNSSRTEPCQSH
QNCTLLGMKVNVPGNRFHDTLCTRCDNFQLNSSEPGNKDCEQALIDFVAYQDIPLKRLLRLQQVLGEAPGAAGQTRGFQ

>Platypus|ref|XP\_028926265.1| tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 6B [Ornithorhynchus anatinus]

MPTQCPKLRSCLSRWAFGTFVLAVTFPMGSNNPPTYSWKDSTTQERLQCQQCPPGTYVSQHCSRTSPTQCQPCPTLHYT QYWNYLDKCRYCNVFCGAQEEEVHPCSATHNRVCQCQPGYYAYMDFCIEHSTCPLGSGVVSQGTPTKNTECQECPRGTF SDNSSRTEPCQSHQNCTLLGMKVNVPGNRFHDTLCTRCDNFQLNSSEPGNKDCEQALIDFVAYQDIPLKRLLRLQQVLG KRGGRRSDQGFQVVMQKKLLQQLMEKKEAQTSDALITELLQALRTVKLYGLIEKIQKHFSLHSDNLTSTSAPWTYLVL

>Short-beaked echidna|ref|XP\_038606231.1| tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 6B [Tachyglossus aculeatus]

 $\label{thm:convergence} $$\operatorname{MPTQCPKLRSCLSRWAFGTFVLAVTFPMGSNNPPTYPWKDSVTQERLQCQQCPPGTYVSQHCSRTSPTQCQPCPTLHYT} $$\operatorname{QYWNYLDKCRYCNVFCGAQEEEVHPCSATHNRVCQCQSGYYTYMDFCIEHSTCPLGSGVVSQGTPTKNTQCQECPRGTF} $$\operatorname{SDNSSRTEPCQSHQNCTLLGMKVNVPGNRFHDTLCTRCDNFQLNSSEPGNRDCEQALIDFVAYQDIPLKRLLRLQQVLG} $$\operatorname{RRGGRRTDQGFQVVMQKKLLQQLMEKREAQTSDALITELLQALRTVKLYGLIEKIQKHFSLHMDNLTSTAAPWTLVL} $$$ 

>Common wombat|ref|XP\_027703820.1|tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 6B [Vombatus ursinus]

>Tasmanian devil|ref|XP $_003757643.1<math>|$  tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 6B [Sarcophilus harrisii]

>Common brushtail possum|ref|XP\_036604199.1| tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 6B [Trichosurus vulpecula]

MDLTAQNIKFLRIVSTLLLLMVMPRDAGNFPTYSWRDAETQEWLLCDQCPPGTFVKHHCSYRSRTVCQPCPSLHYTQYW NYLEKCRYCNVFCGEHEEEAQACNATHNRACRCQLGYYAHADFCIEHSACPPGSGVVTLGTPNQNTQCQPCPKGTFSDN SSSTEKCQPHRNCTTLGMFLNVPGTSFHDAICTRCAGFLSSTPEPGDKECEQAVIDFVAFQNISLKRLMRLQQALEGPG SWHRQWPEPESRAAVQKELLHRLTELSETQGSSALLLQLLQALRKAKLTTLERNIQKHFSLDIKD

## Alignment

# Obtained using MUSCLE (version 3.8) at EBI

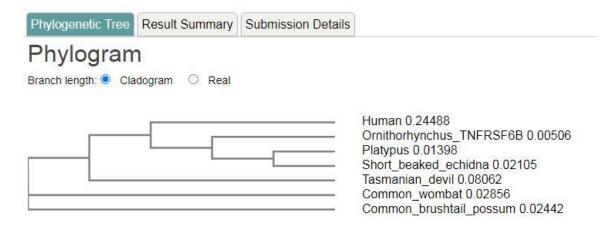
# Human Ornithorhynchus\_TNFRSF6B Platypus Short\_beaked\_echidna Tasmanian\_devil Common\_wombat Common brushtail possum

Human
Ornithorhynchus\_TNFRSF6B
Platypus
Short\_beaked\_echidna
Tasmanian\_devil
Common\_wombat
Common brushtail possum

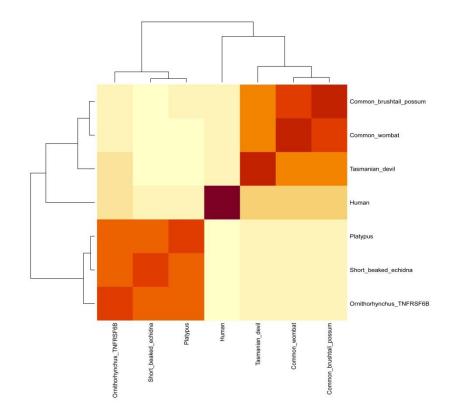
Human
Ornithorhynchus\_TNFRSF6B
Platypus
Short beaked echidna
Tasmanian\_devil
Common wombat
Common brushtail possum

6. Create a phylogenetic tree, using either a parsimony or distance-based approach. Bootstrapping and tree rooting are optional. Use "simple phylogeny" online from the EBI or any respected phylogeny program (such as MEGA, PAUP, or Phylip). Paste an image of your Cladogram or tree output in your report.

The multiple sequence alignments generated in question 6 were imported into the Simple Phylogeny tool at EBI to create a neighbor-joining tree.



7. Generate a sequence identity based heatmap of your aligned sequences using R. If necessary convert your sequence alignment to the ubiquitous FASTA format (Seaview can read in clustal format and "Save as" FASTA format for example). Read this FASTA format alignment into R with the help of functions in the Bio3D package. Calculate a sequence identity matrix (again using a function within the Bio3D package). Then generate a heatmap plot and add to your report. Do make sure your labels are visible and not cut at the figure margins.



8. Using R/Bio3D (or an online blast server if you prefer), search the main protein structure database for the most similar atomic resolution structures to your aligned sequences. List the top 3 unique hits (i.e. not hits representing different chains from the same structure) along with their Evalue and sequence identity to your query. Please also add annotation details of these structures. For example, include the annotation terms PDB identifier (structureId), Method used to solve the structure (experimental Technique), resolution (resolution), and source organism (source).

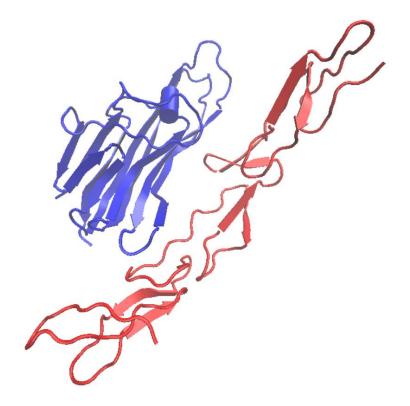
HINT: You can use a single sequence from your alignment or generate a consensus sequence from your alignment using the Bio3D function consensus(). The Bio3D functions blast.pdb(), plot.blast() and pdb.annotate() are likely to be of most relevance for completing this task. Note that the results of blast.pdb() contain the hits PDB identifier (or pdb.id) as well as Evalue and identity. The results of pdb.annotate() contain the other annotation terms noted above.

Note that if your consensus sequence has lots of gap positions then it will be better to use an original sequence from the alignment for your search of the PDB. In this case you could chose the sequence with the highest identity to all others in your alignment by calculating the rowwise maximum from your sequence identity matrix.

ID	Technique	Resolution	Source	E-value	Identity
4E4D	X-ray Diffraction	2.7	Mus musculus	5E-38	46.30
3WVT	X-ray Diffraction	1.6	Equus Caballus	1E-10	34.84
3IJ2	X-ray Diffraction	3.75	Rattus Norvegicus	2E-07	32.56

9. Generate a molecular figure of one of your identified PDB structures using VMD. You can optionally highlight conserved residues that are likely to be functional. Please use a white or transparent background for your figure (i.e. not the default black).
Based on sequence similarity. How likely is this structure to be similar to your "novel" protein? Generate a molecular figure of one of your identified PDB structures using VMD. You can optionally highlight conserved residues that are likely to be functional. Please use a white or transparent background for your figure (i.e. not the default black). Based on sequence similarity. How likely is this structure to be similar to your "novel" protein?

A molecular figure of the 4E4D PDB structure was generated. While it is possible that this structure may share some large similarities with the Ornithorhynchus tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily, member 6B, decoy, it is unlikely that the two proteins will be similar in their entirety given that their two respective sequence do not have a relatively high sequence similarity (>50%). In the figure below the red chain is a conserved region that is similar to a protein region in the Ornithorhynchus tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily, member 6B, decoy subject of this report.



10. Perform a "Target" search of ChEMBEL ( https://www.ebi.ac.uk/chembl/ ) with your novel sequence. Are there any Target Associated Assays and ligand efficiency data reported that may be useful starting points for exploring potential inhibition of your novel protein?

CHEMBL details 405131 binding assays, and 675927 functional assays, and no ligand efficeny data.

A functional assay and SAR analysis tested a set Human immunodeficiency virus 1 HXB2 containing reverse transcriptase V179D with the results suggesting "a potential Antiviral activity against Human immunodeficiency virus 1 HXB2 containing reverse transcriptase V179D, Y181C mutant relative to Human immunodeficiency virus 1 3B"

#### Citation:

Azijn, H., Tirry, I., Vingerhoets, J., de Béthune, M. P., Kraus, G., Boven, K., Jochmans, D., Van Craenenbroeck, E., Picchio, G., & Rimsky, L. T. (2010). TMC278, a next-generation nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI), active against wild-type and NNRTI-resistant HIV-1. Antimicrobial agents and chemotherapy, 54(2), 718–727. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1128/AAC.00986-09">https://doi.org/10.1128/AAC.00986-09</a>

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19933797/