# Find a Gene Project

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[Q1] 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 it's 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: major intrinsically disordered NOTCH2-binding receptor 1-like (MINAR2)

Accession: NP\_001244237.1 Species: Homo Sapiens

Function: MINAR2 prevents cancer development and activate cell defense system by negatively

regulating following:

- Angiogenesis

- Cell growth

- Cell population proliferation

- Neuron projection development

- Protein ubiquitination

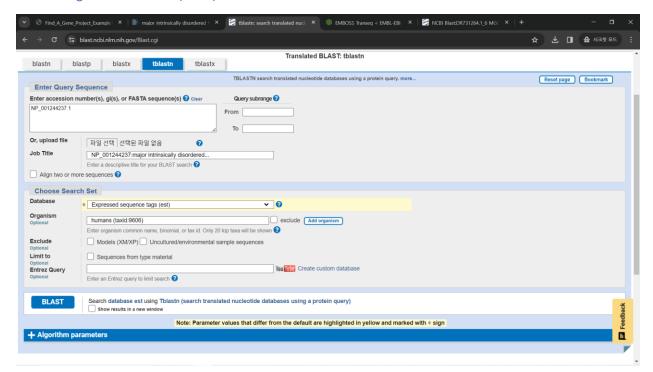
- TOR signaling

[Q2] 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).

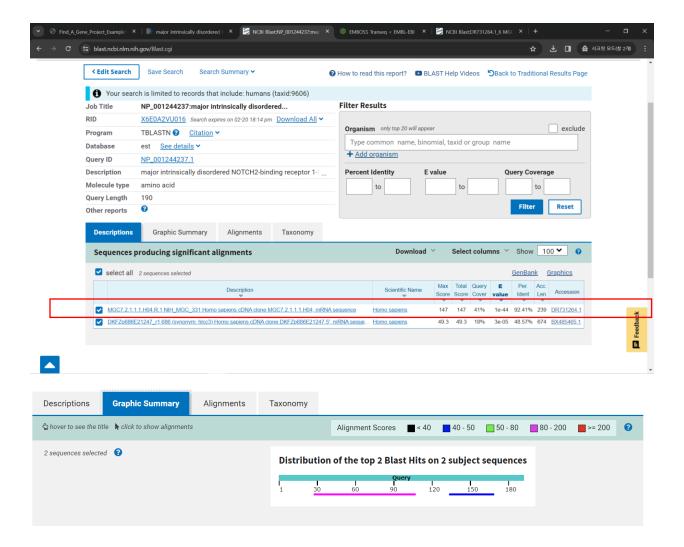
Blast method: tblastn

Database searched: Expressed sequence tags (est)

Limited organism: Humans (9606)



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 #-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.



Chosen match- top match (highlighted with red box in the screenshot above)

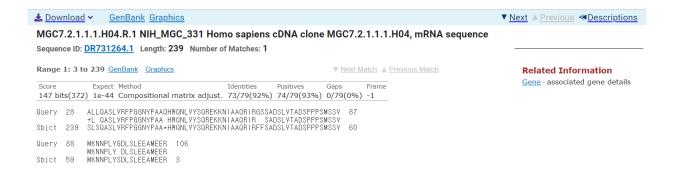
Accession: DR731264.1

Name: MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04.R.1 NIH MGC 331 Homo sapiens cDNA clone MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04, mRNA

sequence

Species: Homo sapiens Total/Max score: 147, 147

Query cover, E-value, percent identity: 41%, 1e-44, 92.41% (other scores in screenshot above and below)



#### Alignment details:

Query: major intrinsically disordered NOTCH2-binding receptor 1-like [Homo sapiens]

Query ID: NP 001244237.1 Length: 190

>MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04.R.1 NIH\_MGC\_331 Homo sapiens cDNA clone MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04, mRNA sequence

Sequence ID: DR731264.1 Length: 239

Range 1: 3 to 239

Score:147 bits(372), Expect:1e-44, Method: Compositional matrix adjust.

Identities:73/79(92%), Positives:74/79(93%), Gaps:0/79(0%)

Query 28 ALLQASLVRFPGGNYPAAQHWQNLVYSQREKKNIAAQRIRGSSADSLVTADSPPPSMSSV 87 +L QASLVRFPGGNYPAA HWQNLVYSQREKKNIAAQRIR SADSLVTADSPPPSMSSV Subject 239 SLSQASLVRFPGGNYPAA\*HWQNLVYSQREKKNIAAQRIRFFSADSLVTADSPPPSMSSV 60

Query 88 MKNNPLYGDLSLEEAMEER 106 MKNNPLY DLSLEEAMEER Subject 59 MKNNPLYSDLSLEEAMEER 3

On the BLAST results, clearly indicate a match that represents a protein sequence, encoded from some DNA sequence, that is homologous to your query protein. I need to be able to inspect the pairwise alignment you have selected, including the E value and score. It should be labeled a "genomic clone" or "mRNA sequence", etc. - but include no functional annotation.

In general, [Q2] is the most difficult for students because it requires you to have a "feel" for how to interpret BLAST results. You need to distinguish between a perfect match to your query (i.e. a sequence that is not "novel"), a near match (something that might be "novel", depending on the results of [Q4]), and a non-homologous result. If you are having trouble finding a novel gene try restricting your search to an organism that is poorly annotated.

[Q3] 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.

# **EMBOSS Transeq result:**

>DR731264.1\_1 MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04.R.1 NIH\_MGC\_331 Homo sapiens cDNA clone MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04, mRNA sequence

FLSSIASSKLRSL\*SGLFFITDDMDGGGLSAVTRLSALKNLIR\*AAIFFFSLCE\*TRFCQCYAAG\*FPPGNLTRLA\*ERX

>DR731264.1\_2 MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04.R.1 NIH\_MGC\_331 Homo sapiens cDNA clone MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04, mRNA sequence

FFLP\*LPPNLGHYRVGYSS\*LMTWMVGGYQQ\*QGCLH\*KT\*FVEQQYSSFPSVSRQGFAS VMQQDNFHPETSPGWPERGX

>DR731264.1\_3 MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04.R.1 NIH\_MGC\_331 Homo sapiens cDNA clone MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04, mRNA sequence

SFFHSFLQT\*VTIEWVILHN\*\*HGWWGAISSDKAVCTEKPNSLSSNILLFPL\*VDKVLPV LCSRIISTRKPHQAGLREG

>DR731264.1\_4 MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04.R.1 NIH\_MGC\_331 Homo sapiens cDNA clone MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04, mRNA sequence

PLSGQPGEVSGWKLSCCITLAKPCLLTEGKEEYCCSTN\*VFQCRQPCHC\*\*PPTIHVISY EE\*PTL\*\*PKFGGSYGRKK

>DR731264.1\_5 MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04.R.1 NIH\_MGC\_331 Homo sapiens cDNA clone MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04, mRNA sequence

PSLRPAW\*GFRVEIILLHNTGKTLSTHRGKRRILLLNELGFSVQTALSLLIAPHHPCHQL \*RITHSIVT\*VWRKLWKKEX

>DR731264.1\_6 MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04.R.1 NIH\_MGC\_331 Homo sapiens cDNA clone MGC7.2.1.1.1.H04, mRNA sequence

 ${\tt SLSQASLVRFPGGNYPAA*HWQNLVYSQREKKNIAAQRIRFFSADSLVTADSPPPSMSSVMKNNPLYSDLSLEEAMEERX}$ 

Chosen sequence for blastp was highlighted in red. Green is sequences that returned no result when blastp was done.

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.

Protein name: Homo sapiens major intrinsically disordered NOTCH2-binding receptor (MINAR)

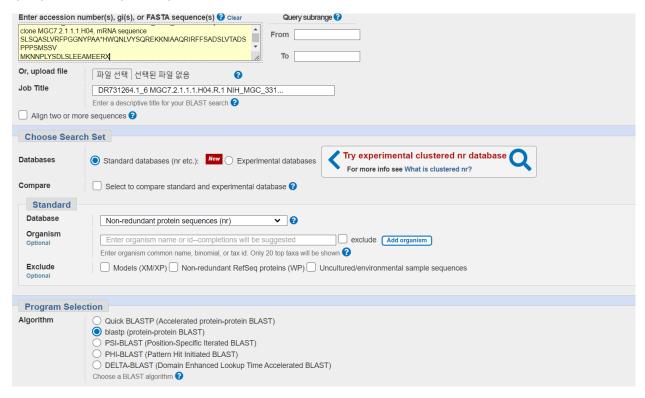
Species: Homo sapiens

Eukaryota; Metazoa; Chordata; Craniata; Vertebrata; Euteleostomi; Mammalia; Eutheria;

Euarchontoglires; Primates; Haplorrhini; Catarrhini; Hominidae; Homo.

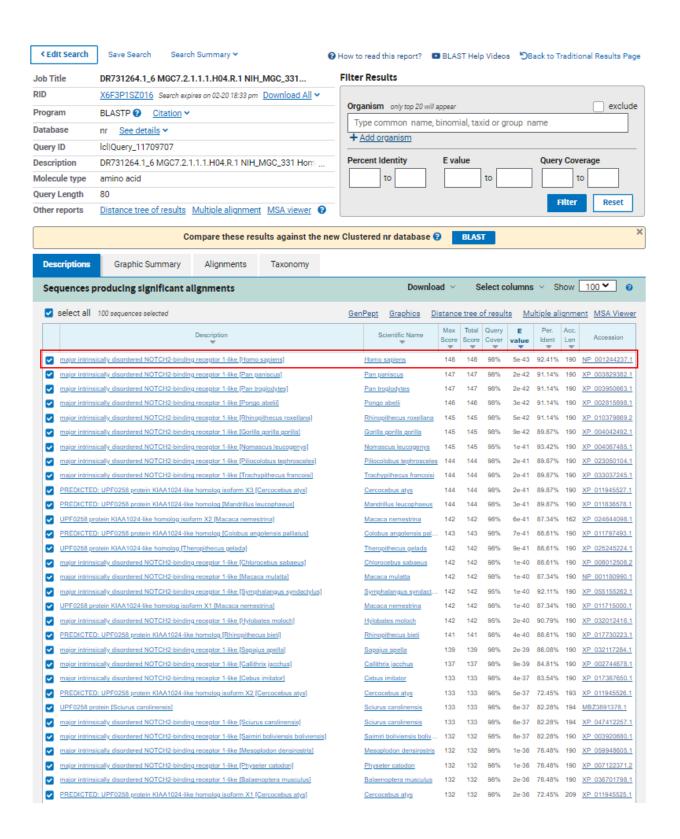
[Q4] Prove that this gene, and its corresponding protein, are novel. For the purposes of this project, "novel" is defined as follows. Take the protein sequence (your answer to [Q3]), and use it as a query in a blastp search of the nr database at NCBI.

- 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.



None of blastp result had 100% identity, and <95% identity with low E-value indicates that the results are likely to be a novel protein. The top match was "major intrinsically disordered NOTCH2-binding receptor 1-like" from Homo sapiens, where there total score/max score/query coverage/e-value/percent identity are 148/148/96%/5e-32/92.41, respectively. Alignment detail is shown in the screenshot below.

<sup>\*</sup>Result wasn't filtered just for Homo sapiens as top hit was the only result from corresponding species.



# major intrinsically disordered NOTCH2-binding receptor 1-like [Homo sapiens]

Sequence ID: NP\_001244237.1 Length: 190 Number of Matches: 1

 $\underline{\mathsf{See}\; \mathsf{4}\; \mathsf{more}\; \mathsf{title}(\underline{\mathsf{s}})} \; \boldsymbol{\vee} \; \underline{\mathsf{See}\; \mathsf{all}\; \mathsf{Identical}\; \mathsf{Proteins}(\mathsf{IPG})}$ 

## Range 1: 28 to 106 GenPept Graphics

▼ Next Match ▲ Previous Match

Score 148 bi	ts(374		Method Compositiona	ıl matrix adiust.	Identities 73/79(92%)	Positives 74/79(93%)	Gaps 0/79(0%)
Query	1	SLSQASLY	RFPGGNYPAA*H	·HWQNLYYSQREKKNI/	AAQRIRFFSADSLV	, , ,	60
Sbjct	28				IAAQRIR SADSL' IAAQRIRGSSADSL'		87
Query	61		DLSLEEAMEER	79			
Sbjct	88		DLSLEEAMEER DLSLEEAMEER	106			

## **Related Information**

Gene - associated gene details AlphaFold Structure - 3D structure displays Genome Data Viewer - aligned genomic context Identical Proteins - Identical proteins to NP\_001244237.1