



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health
National Library of Medicine
FOIA/PA Office, RKL 1, 4th Floor
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

June 9, 2022

Karoline Corin
U.S. Right to Know
4096 Piedmont Ave. #963
Oakland, CA 94611

Re: FOIA Case Number: 58433

Dear Dr. Corin:

This is our final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request addressed to National Library of Medicine (NLM), National Institutes of Health (NIH), dated June 1, 2022 and received June 2, 2022. You requested:

1. The full nucleotide and amino acid sequences of all Basic Locator Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) query inputs that result in one of the following as one of 5 alignments listed in your letter;
2. All protein sequence alignment queries that have one or more of the 33 sequences in your letter contained within them;
3. All nucleotide sequence alignment queries that have one or more of the 56 sequences in your letter contained within them.

For all parts above, you requested the full query as input by the user accessing the NCBI BLAST server for the blastn or blastp suites. Your request also included all queries using the NCBI webpage, as well as those made through other interfaces such as RESTful interfaces and cloud platforms like Google Cloud Platform and Amazon Web Services/Amazon Cloud. You agreed to limit the time frame for this request from January 1, 2016 to September 30, 2019, but requested that as part of your FOIA request, the date and time of each and every query and all identifying information about it, such as the originating institution, IP address, and geographical location be provided.

NLM and the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) has no responsive records for the time period listed in your request. While we believe that an adequate search of appropriate files was conducted for the records you requested, you have the right to appeal this determination that no records exist which would be responsive to your request. Should you wish to do so, your appeal must be sent within ninety (90) days of the date of this letter, following the procedures outlined in Subpart F of the HHS FOIA Regulations (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/10/28/2016-25684/freedom-of-information-regulations>) to:

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs/Agency Chief FOIA Officer
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Room 729H
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201
FOIARequest@hhs.gov
FAX: 202-690-8320

Please feel free to call the analyst processing your request, Nikki Meadows, on 301-496-9737 for additional information or to inquire about your request.

If you are not satisfied with the processing and handling of this request, you may contact the NLM FOIA Public Liaison and/or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS):

NLM FOIA Public Liaison

Marianne Manheim
Rockledge I, 4th Floor
Bethesda, MD 20892
301-496-9739 (phone)
301-402-3604 (fax)
marianne.manheim@nih.gov (email)

OGIS

National Archives and Records Admin.
8601 Adelphi Rd – OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
1-877-684-6448 (toll-free)
202-741-5769 (fax)
ogis@nara.gov (email)

In certain circumstances, provisions of the FOIA and HHS FOIA Regulations allow us to recover part of the cost of responding to your request. Because the cost is below the \$25 minimum, there is no charge for the enclosed materials.

Thank you for your interest in the NLM.

Sincerely,
/S/
Valery Gheen
Government Information Specialist, NLM