Integrated Microbial Genomes & Microbiomes/Viruses(IMG/VR): A Database for Professional Analysis of Viral DNA

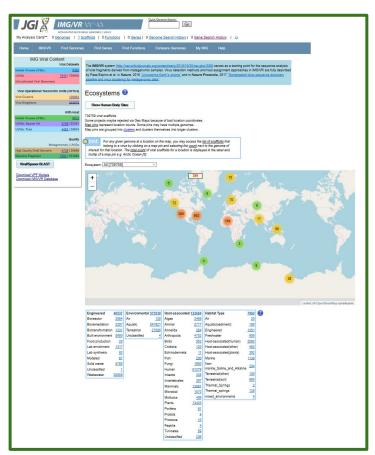
Christina Dominguez and Aby Mesfin
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Loyola Marymount University

- IMG/VR: A public database for virgal genomics
- Successful in its Content Domain and Biologically Relevant
- Offers Current Information and Links to Other Databases
- Browsing the Database
- A Professional Database with Limited Navigation
- Summary

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IMG/VR is a Public Database for Viral Genomics

- Owned by The Regents of University of Southern California
 - Publically funded
- Secondary Curated Source Data
 - Worldwide scientists are encouraged to submit their own data
 - Application process for submissions



Viruses

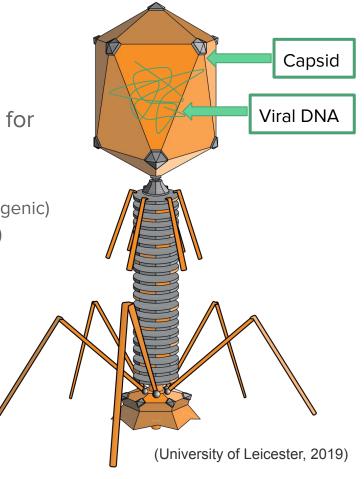
Biological agents that insert DNA into host cells for replication

• Viral capsids contain viral DNA to be injected into host

Inserted DNA can be integrated into host genome (lysogenic)
 or quickly transcribed/translated by host enzymes (lytic)

Not considered "alive"

- Missing some of the characteristics of living things
 - Are not made of cells
 - Require a host for reproduction
 - Do not require energy for survival



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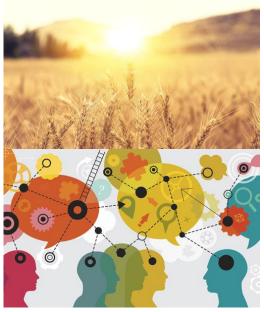
Successfully Proves its Content Domain

- Mission: "annotation, analysis, and distribution" of genome and microbiome datasets
 - Species content includes viruses
 - 8,389 cultivated viruses
 - 735,112 viral genomic fragments
 - ANALYSIS and ANNOTATION
 - Offers many analytical tools for dataset evaluation ex. BLAST
 - GenBank processed through IMG submission system and annotation pipeline
 - DISTRIBUTION
 - Public forum for access to information

Biologically Relevant Database

- Comparative analysis between genome datasets
 - Visualize similarities and differences
- Answers biological questions related to viruses in:
 - Human health
 - Animal health
 - Environmental and Crop health
 - Model organisms in research

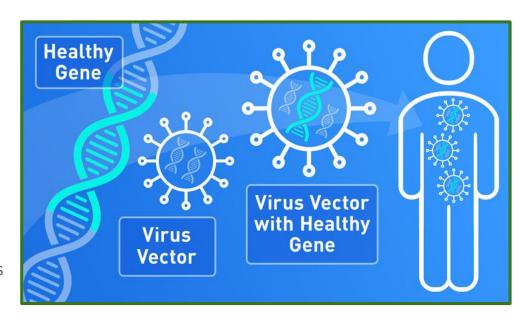




(Nautilus, 2019)

Applications of Studying Viral Genomics

- Immunology
 - Understanding pathogenic viruses
 - Phage therapy to target pathogenic bacteria in patients
 - Gene therapy
- Biological Research and Genetic Engineering
 - Genetically modifying cells with viruses
 - Viruses can serve as DNA vectors.



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IMG/VR Offers Current Information

- Up to Date
 - Started in 2016
 - Updated on a quarterly basis
 - Last update: September 2019
- Content Timely
 - Virus research needed as it impacts human health
 - Extends to the scientific community and beyond

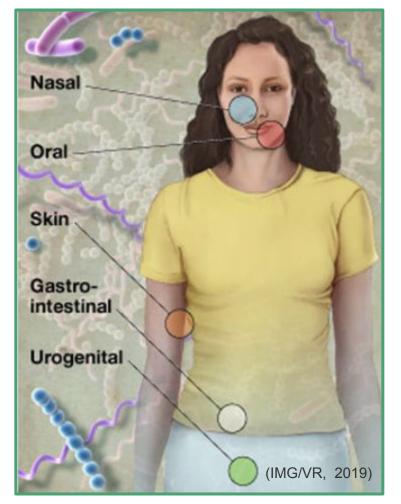
IMG/VR links to other databases as well

- Within IMG/VR are links to...
 - a. NCBI BLAST → comparing genomic information across species and viral strains
 - b. IMG/M → analyzing genomic information of bacteria, archaea, eukarya, and plasmids as well
 - IMG/M ER → analyzing genomic information of microbes
 - d. IMG/ABC → a database of biosynthetic clusters

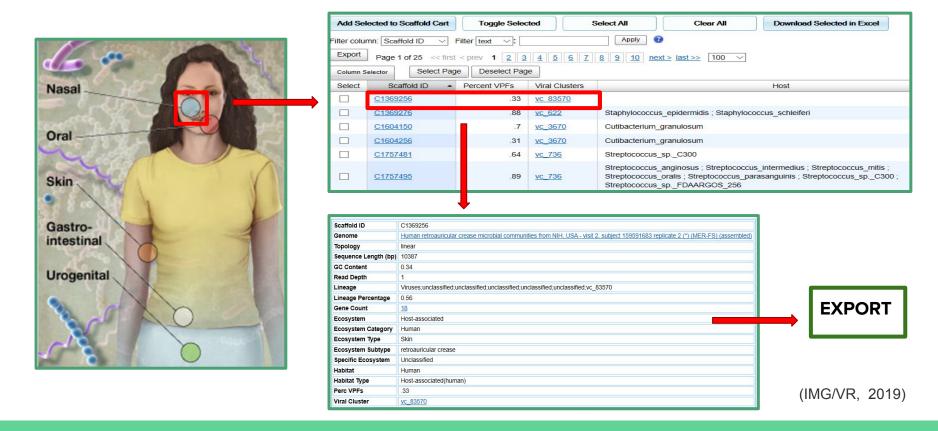
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Browsing Genomes on IMG/VR

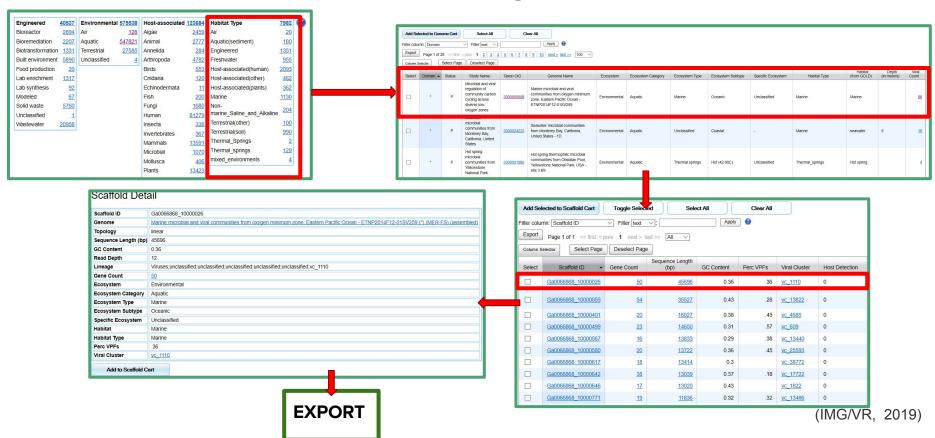
- Viral genomic data is organized
 - Human body navigation tool
 - Nasal, Oral,Gastrointestinal, Skin, andUrogenital
 - Environmental
 - Air, aquatic, terrestrial
 - Host Association
 - Birds, insects, fungi, etc.



Human Body Navigation Tool



Environmental and Host Navigation Tools

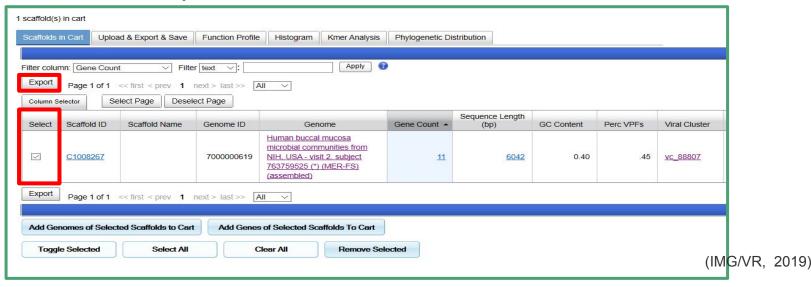


Genome Information Provided by IMG/VR

- The genomic data offered entails:
 - a. Scaffold ID Number
 - b. Name of the Organism
 - c. Length of the Sequence
 - d. Gene Count
 - e. Guanine and Cytosine Content
 - f. Predicted Host
 - g. Habitat

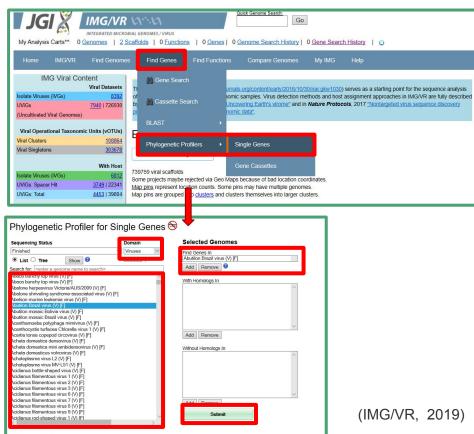
Exporting Data from IMG/VR as an Tab Delimited Excel Sheet

- 1. Select the data
- 2. Add the data to your cart
- 3. Click on the export tab



Browsing Single Genes on IMG/VR

- 1. Select "Find Gene" Tab
- 2. Select "Phylogenetic Profiler"
- 3. Select "Single Gene"
- 4. Choose the Organism
 - a. Choose "Viruses" in the Domain tab
 - b. Click "Show"
 - c. Select the Organism and add to the "Selected Genomes" Tab
 - d. Press "Submit"



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A Professional Database with Limited Navigation

- Requires experience in bioinformatics and general biology
 - Infers professional use
- Difficulty in navigating sources of information
- The single gene data was inaccessible due to a recurring error page or "forbidden" page
- Frequently referred to "Help" page and "FAQ" page



Summary

- Public database for viral genomics
- Successful in its Content Domain and Biologically Relevant
 - Fulfills its mission of "annotation, analysis, and distribution" of genome datasets
 - Potential to answer a wide range of questions in biology
- Easy Navigation between other databases
- Browsing the Database
 - Navigation within database is direct
- Database allows for analysis of viral genomics at a more professional level
 - Requires experience

Acknowledgments

Thank You
Dr. Dahlquist
LMU Biology Department

References

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