

# Reverse Vaccinology for lactococcosis (Bioinformatics workflow)



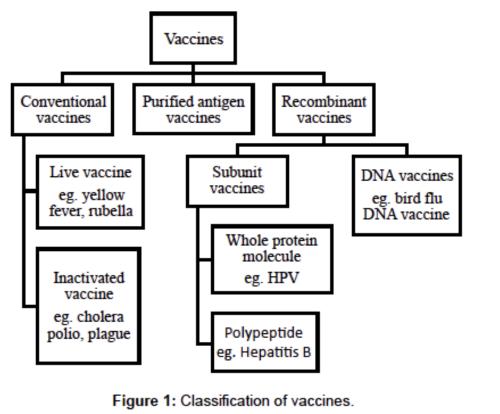


Vaccinology in the era of genomics

The concept of reverse vaccinology

- Disease prevention is the most effective approach for health
- Development of vaccines has proved a milestone in prevention of diseases



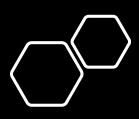




- Reverse Vaccinology (RV) is a genome-based approach developed for the first time in early 1990's by Rappuoli to identify protein vaccine candidates against meningococcus
- RV approach adopts computerized screening of protein sequences from the pathogen as the first step of the process, to select a subset of promising antigens, as potential vaccine candidates
- offers advantages ٠ two main compared to traditional vaccine development approaches: (i) identification of candidate antigens without the need to grow the pathogen (ii) identification of any antigen independently by its purified quantity to be suitable for vaccine testing.









The use of genomic information with aid of computer for the preparation of vaccines without culturing microorganism is known as reverse vaccinology (RV).

• RV explores the protein coding sequences that can be used as a potential target for vaccine preparation

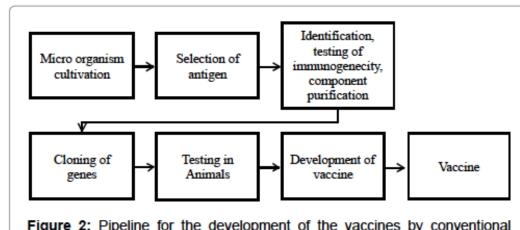
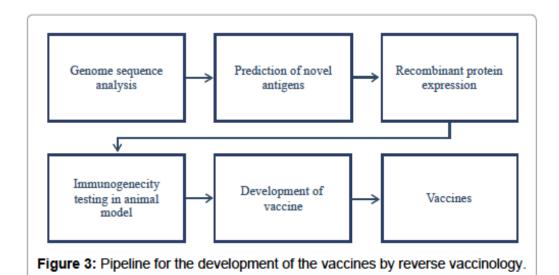


Figure 2: Pipeline for the development of the vaccines by conventional means.







- The genome sequences provide at once all protein antigens that the pathogen can express at any time. What follows:
- 1. Genome sequences
- 2. Computer analysis
- 3. Prediction of epitope/ antigen
- 4. construction of candidate vaccine

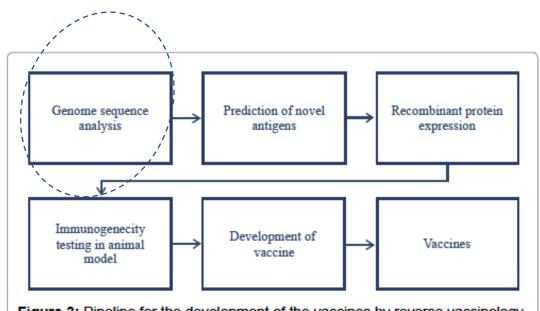


Figure 3: Pipeline for the development of the vaccines by reverse vaccinology.







#### Role of Epitope Prediction in Reverse Vaccinology

The original idea behind reverse vaccinology:

To screen in silico the entire genome of a pathogen to identify epitopes in proteins which are suitable vaccine targets, for example, proteins that are predicted to be surface exposed and are well conserved between strains.

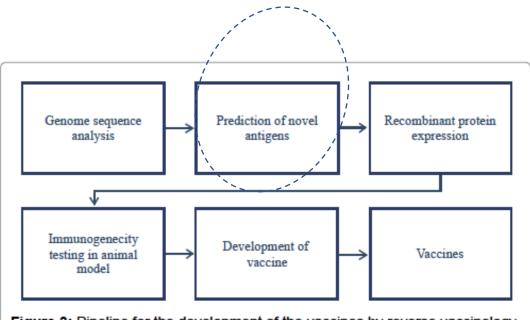


Figure 3: Pipeline for the development of the vaccines by reverse vaccinology.



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• Role of Epitope Prediction in Reverse Vaccinology

How can we screen in silico for new epitopes?

- Improved sequencing technologies have greatly increased the number of genomes available and reverse vaccinology has evolved to include the analysis of several genomes within a species (pan-genomic analysis)
- Between closely related species-(comparative-genomic analysis)
- or between pathogenic and commensal members of the same species (comparative/subtractive genomics)

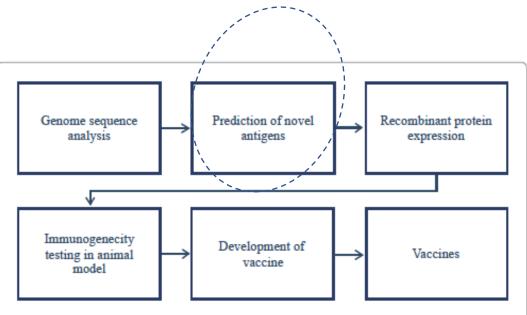


Figure 3: Pipeline for the development of the vaccines by reverse vaccinology.



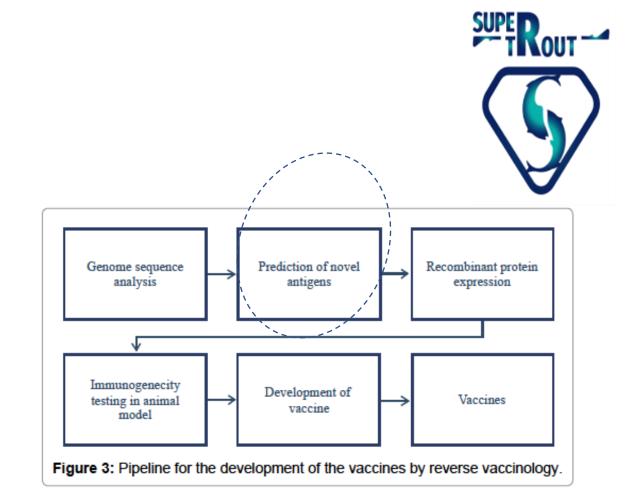


#### **Role of Epitope Prediction in Reverse Vaccinology**

- The identification of antigens to induce immunogenic responses is crucial for the development of an effective vaccine. An epitope is an antigenic determinant that plays an important role in immunity of an organism.
- What kind of epitopes we try to identify?
- **T-Cell Epitope Mapping and Prediction.** T cell recognizes the antigenic peptides only when they are presented by MHC I or II, with the help of the CD4 and CD8 molecules. The target is to predict epitopes against a panel of MHC class I and/or class II alleles.
- B-Cell Epitope Mapping and Prediction

The B-cell epitopes are defined by a specific surface region of an antigenic protein and may be divided into two different types of epitopes: linear epitopes and conformational epitopes.

The linear epitopes are short peptides while conformational epitopes composed of amino acid folded in 3- dimensional protein structure







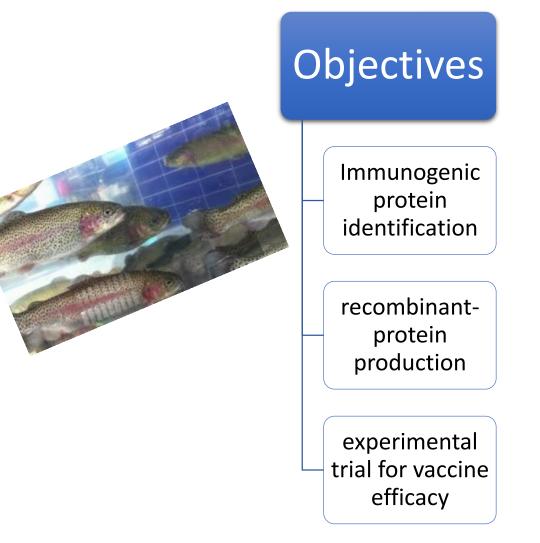


# Reverse Vaccinology for lactococcosis (Bioinformatics workflow)

#### A case study:

In this work, we are introducing an integrated framework that combines immuno-informatics approaches, bioinformatics tools, and supervised machine learning-based tools for vaccine construction against lactococcosis in supertrouts

To develop a recombinant subunit-protein vaccine against lactococcosis to be administered by immersion.



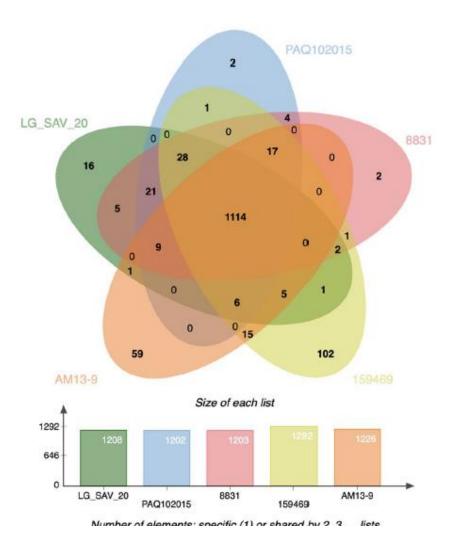






What we know for lactococcosis in rainbow trout

- *Lactococcus garvieae*, a highly diverse species, is considered to be the causative agent of the disease
- However, genomic information provides new insights into the role of novel species: *Lactococcus petauri* as an etiological agent of lactococcosis





# First steps towards polypeptide vaccine construction



- 1. Protein selection and identification of highly conserved amino-acid loci
- 2. Prediction of Cytotoxic T Lymphocytes epitopes (CTL)
- 3. Prediction of Helper T Lymphocytes epitopes (HTL)
- 4. Prediction of B cell linear epitopes
- 5. Comparative analysis and selection of the best-fitted epitopes

# Lactococcus petauri strains from Rainbow Trout



In an early approach, we retrieved the core genome data from 6 complete genome sequences of *L. petauri* strains isolated from diseased fish and employed the first steps of a reverse vaccinology analysis for the prediction of potential vaccine candidates. More sequences of *L. garvieae* and *L. petauri* isolated from lactococcosis cases from Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey will be included in the study.

- 1. Five *L. petauri* strains isolated and analyzed at VRI in Greece (LG-SAV-20, LG1, LG3, LG5, LG6)
- 2. One *L. petauri* strain isolated at Faculty of Marine Sciences in Turkey (D375?)







we performed a detailed analysis of the genomic dataset of *L. garvieae* and *L. petauri* to shortlist 7 proteins as possible vaccine antigen candidates using properties such as mucus binding ability, surface-exposed nature, fibrogen-binding

#### **Target Proteins:**

- 1. PsaA, metal ABC transporter substrate-binding protein Cytoplasmic Membrane
- 2. Muc, mucus binding protein (MucBP domain)
- 3. Fibronectin/Fibrinogen-binding protein
- 4. LPXTG cell wall anchor domain-containing protein I (107 AA)
- 5. LPXTG cell wall anchor domain-containing protein II (225 AA)
- 6. LPXTG cell wall anchor domain-containing protein III (924 AA)
- 7. LPXTG cell wall anchor domain-containing protein IV (988 AA)





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18 LNIQNGIIYAQNIEKELSKKDPQNKEDYQKNLKVYTDKLQQLDTEAKAKIATIPQEDRILVTSEGAFKYF

19 SKOYGLTAEYIWEINTDNQGTPAQLNRINTIVKDKNVKALFVETSVSPKTMESVSROTGVKIYSKIFTDS

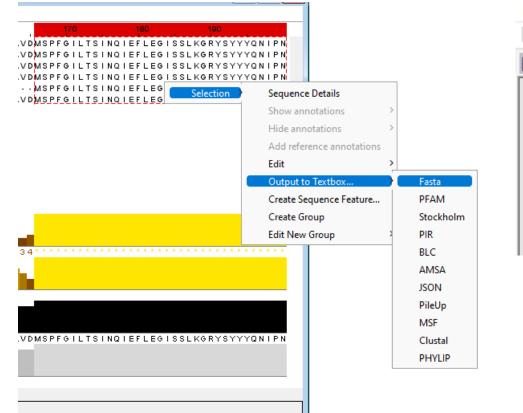
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#### **Multiple allignment of proteins**

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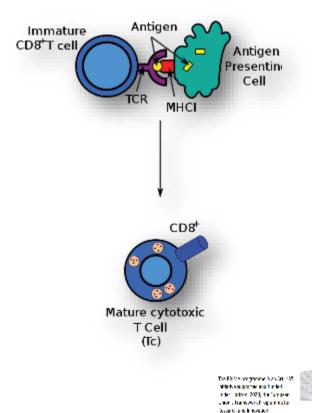




## **T-cell epitope prediction**

The objective of T-cell epitope prediction is to identify short peptide sequences within an antigen that can act as a stimulant of CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells. More specifically:

Selection of cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) epitopes. It predicts the MHC-class I binding peptide sequences
 Selection of helper T cells (HTL) epitopes



**1. Selection of cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) epitopes, t**here is no selection of fish MHC I alleles to perform the analysis and **this is a major limitation** 

But there is a solution :

NetMHCpan 4.1 & IPD-MHC Database, is a tool for predicting the binding capacity of protein regions that we submit. What interests us about this particular tool and differentiates it from the rest, is that there is an option to submit our own MHC I sequence and have the analysis done based on it.





#### Salmonids

Q Alleles

Welcome to the IPD-MHC FISH database, a specialist database for the Major Histo database includes at present two salmonid species: Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) *i* Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout possess a single classical MHC class I locus, UBA, ar encoded by closely linked DAA (IIA) and DAB (IIB) loci. Included in the database are binding domain-coding sequences from published studies and from the EMBL and NCBI

For those readers who would like to know more about MHC sequences in salmonids, plea

Species

≡ Align

## **IPD-MHC**

#### 2. Salmonids species

Below all organisms belonging to the *Salmonids* group are listed. The official designations are assigned by the Comparative MHC Nomenclature Committee as established by the International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG) who are affiliated to the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) - Veterinary Immunology Committee (VIC). Organism four-letters codes are written in parentheses.

If you are working on MHC nomenclature and your species is not represented, please <u>scontact</u> the Comparitive MHC Nomenclature Committee.

List all Salmonids alleles 🕽	Species b group >		Multi locus inter- and intra- species alignment >	Species		Common Name		Class I	Class II
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				Salmo salar (Sasa)		Atlantic Salmon		UBA	DAA, DAB
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		FISH08148	Onmy-UBA*01:0	3	UBA	Onmy			
		FISH08149	Onmy-UBA*01:0	4	UBA	Onmy			
		FISH08150	Onmy-UBA*02:0	1	UBA	Onmy			

### Evaluation of Antigenic, Allergenic, Immunogenicity, and Toxicity of CTL epitopes

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## **T-cell epitope prediction**

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H-2-TAb

KFLRVSFSPYVYGNL

**2. Selection of helper T cells (HTL) epitopes.** As in the case of CTL epitopes, antigen presentation is required, but they take part in the MHC Class II process.

**The problem:** There is no tool that can do anything like what we did with MHC I. The only choices are human, bovine, or mouse available MHC II. Therefore, we chose to perform the analysis based on mouse histocompatibility molecules.

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	2-TAb	TYRITYSRILPSFFR	mac a	1333	8-2-18b	TYRITYSRILPSFFR	TRUC TRUC		TTYSRILPS	0.615	0.503	217.63	0.60			Core_Histogram	
	2-1Ab	OTTELT TO BE THE REPORT OF THE	max 4	1332	8-2-13b	CEVEL PERMIT		- 2	TTYSETLIN	0.665	0.499	225.02	0.60			Core_Histogram	
	2-IND	YEITYSSILDSFTSA	mus 2	1334	B-2-IND	YEITYSBLLPSFF5A	INC.		ITYSBILPS	0.695	0.491	246.38	0.70	NA.		Core_Histogram	
	2-135	FSPSGAVPSVSLS58	muc 0	7144	II-2-IAb	F5P55AVP5V5L55N	TRUC		PSPSGAVPG	0.500	0.480	278.50	0.80	SA.		Core Histogram	
	2-IAb	VGTYKITYSRILPSF	muc 5	1331	H-2-IAb	VGTYKITYSRILPSP	TATC	5	TTYSRILPS	0.645	0.477	255.03	0.90	NA.		Core Histogram	
	2-TAB	KITYSRILPSPESAR	mag 1	1335	H-2-TAb	KITYSKILPSPEAR	TRUC	ī	TTYSRILPS	0.005	0.456	361.59	1.30	NA.		Core_Histogram	4
	0 - 1.8b	XXYYYJNI PNPKI CT	noc 3	Y 26	e-2-1Ab	TREASURE AND A DESCRIPTION OF A DESCRIPR	TRUC.	â	YYGNLENDE	0.615	0.440	392.51	1.40			Core_Histogram	or subload a file in NASIA format directly from your local dirk:
	2-IAb	RYSYTYONIPMPTIC	muq 4	x 25	8-2-15b	RYSYYYONIPMPTIC	190.0		YYGNIDMPY	0.680	0.437	441.72	1.70	BA.		Core Mistogram	
	2-IAb	GRYSYYYCMIPSPF1		Y 24	H-2-IAb	GRYSIYYONIPSPFI	INV.C	5	YYOSIDMPF	0.650	0.434	454.88	1.80	SA.		Core Histogram	Endayi apyaka Ack endaybya, kakiwa apyaka
	2 TAb	KVGTYKITYSRILPS	made 6	1330	II-2-IAb	KVGTYKITYSRILPS	19440	6	TTYSDILPS	0.500	0.431	470.94	1.90	1576		Core Histogram	or hand come complexient
H-1	2-IAb	ENGEYSAVATITVE	mag S	2349	H-2-IAb	ENGEYSAVATITVE	562.0	5	VERVATION	0.440	0.425	501.13	2.50	15.26		Core Histogram	Low some contraction of the
н-	2-IAb	STTYQNIENPPIGIK	mag 2	Y 27	H-2-1Ab	STTYQNIPNPPIGIK	TIG C	2	YYONTENER	0.640	0.424	507.26	2.50	15.00	<=28	Core_Histogram	LIDED SOFT BH ENDI
H-1	2-18b	QUEYRSVAT ITVERS	max 3	x351	H-2-150	QUEYEAVATITVEDA	INC.O	3	YESVATITY	0.495	0.416	\$56.97	2.50	50.		Core_Histogram	PEPTIDE LENGTH (specify variable length as a communisciparated list):
	2-IAb	NOCEYSAVATIEVED	mue 6	x850	H-2-IMb	NOCEYSAVATITVED	INC.C	0	YEAVATITY	0.445	0.416	554.90	2.50	SA.	<-93	Core_Histogram	and they report to be of a strain of the state of the sta
	2-IMb	ITTRFLOWSFORTVY	muc 5	ZI 98	B-2-13b	ITTEFLOWSFORTVY	550.0	5	LEVERSPIC	0.460	0.414	565.75	2.50	574.	<-75		Use contest encoding 🗆 \Theta
	2-IAb	TYRFLEVSFSPTVYS			II-2-IAb	TYRFLRVSFSFTVVS	TRAC.	4	TEADDORAN	0.505	0.412	576.35	2.50	82.	<=910		And consists encoding C A
	2-IAb	YEPLEVSPSPYVYSN	mac 3	1100	R-2-IAb	YEPLEVSPSPYVYSN	EV.LC	3	LEVSPOPTV	0.525	0.403	639.00	3.00	1074	<=913		
	2-TAb	<b>YYYON IPHPPIGIKS</b>	mod 1	A. 58	R-2-TAb	<b>YYYQNIPNPPIGIKS</b>	0000	1	YYQNTEMPP	0.610	0.398	674.22	3.00	NA.	<=28		
	2-18b	ILLSBITLSLESVEN	mue 0	1336	8-2-180	111381T26LESVEN	HIGO:	0	ILLES IT IS NOT THE	0.415	0.396	689.42	3,50	80.	< 98		SELECT SPECIES LOCE
	2-IMb	<b>MENOGEYGAWATITV</b>	muc 6	X348	H-2-IMb	AENOGEYGAVATITV	BRUC:		XCAWARITY.	0.395	0.394	703.64	3.50	SA.	<-95		
	2-135	GITYKFLOVSFSBYV	muc 6	21.97	11-2-132b	GITYKFLOVSFGFYV	EB0.0		LEVERSPYT	0.415	0.393	711.87	3.50	574.	<-95		Manas (11-7) 🛛 👻
	2-IAb	TIDGRARAAPVEVTV	mad 5	A162	H-2-TAD	TIDGRARAAPVEVTV	EV1C	2	AKAAPVEVT	0.350	0.391	728.04	3.50	NA.	<=912		
	2-TAb	GRYSAVATTTVEDAQ	mac 2	V352 ALE3	H-2-TAb	GRYSAVATITVEDAQ	mac.	2	YRAVATITY	0.395	0.307	758.22	3.50	KA.	<=918		Select Allalatic (max. 20 per submitation)
	2 - TAIs	TRRAKAADVEVTVN	mag 4		H-O-TAIS	THRRAKAADVEVTVN	THE C	- 2	ARAAPVEEP		0.386	770.05		80			
	2-IND	RCHARALAGNIENDA	800 6	X 28	H-2-IND	RCHARALAGWILMDA	19000		A AGENT DATA	0.675	0.379	831.59	4.00	NA.	<-W8		H 2 M (
	2-IAb 2-IAb	DEBAKAAPVEVEVIVIV	muc 3	A154 A137	H-2-IAb H-2-IAb	DEBAKRAPVEVEVINV	EBC/C	-	AKAAPVEVE AKPOPOGAV	0.450	0.379	827.98	4.00		<=93 <=93		H2 Ed
H-1	2-1825	LADINARTSPOGAVP	mac 5	ML 57	31-2-1AD	LADINARPSPOGAVP	E¥1.0	-	ALC: NO PERSONAL PROPERTY AND INCOME.	0.370	0.377	841.94	4.00	82.	1.442		152.05

2 LEVSFSPTV

TIME C

0.525

0.374

074.65

4.50

NA <=28

#### . . . . . . . . . .

Additional properties of HTL epitopes (interferon-γ inducing ability, prediction of toxicity, prediction of pro-inflammatory cytokine production)

# ToxinPred

Designing and prediction of toxic peptides

#### PIP-EL: a new ensemble learning method for improved pro-inflammatory inducing peptide predictions

HOME ALGORITHM

DATA SETS README

CONTACT

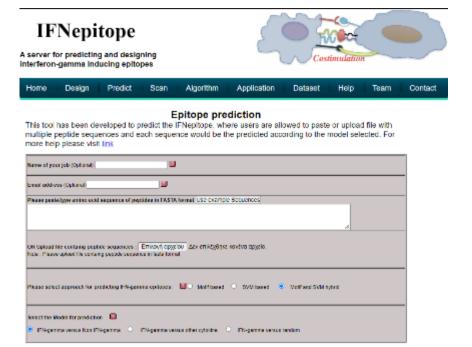
#### Welcome to the Home Page of PIP-EL

PIP-EL is web based prediction server for pro-inflammatory inducing peptides. Lechnically, PIP-EL was the fusion of bill independent RE-models, where each of the five different compositions including amino acid, dipeptide, composition-transitiondistribution, physicochemical properties and amino acid index contained 10 RE-models. For a given peptide, PIP-EL predicts its calss and probability values.

#### Enter the protein sequences in FASTA format (Example)

Submit Reset

File: Επιλογή αρχείου Δεν επιλέχθηκε κανένα αρχεία. Upload



Submit Peptides for Prediction

Clear Form

## **B-Cell epitope prediction**

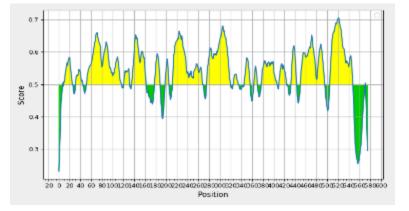
B-cell epitopes are two types, linear (continuous) and conformational (discontinuous).

In the case of vaccine design, only the linear epitopes are considered

Predicted peptides:

IEDB Analysis Resource
Home Help Example Reference Download Contact
Antibody Epitope Prediction
Specify Input
Enter a Swiss-Prot ID (example: P02185)
Or enter a protein sequence in plain formet (50000 residues maximum, 250 residues for Bepipred 2.0)
Choose a method:
Beggred Linear Episoe Prediction 2.0
Begipted Linear Epilope Prediction
Chou & Fasman Bela-Turn Prediction
C Emini Surface Accessibility Prediction
Kerplus & Schulz Flexibility Frediction
O Kolaskar & Tonpaonkar Anticemicity
O Parker Hydrophilidty Frediction
Submit Reset

No. 🔹	Start 🔹	End 🔶	Peptide •	Length
1	8	8	T	1
2	10	25	INQIEFLEGISSLKGR	16
3	32	45	NIPNPFIGIKGERV	14
4	53	117	APNIFEYESAIDTFKTKVEDGREQIVSAGFAYTPFGDPLTSVSEGITYKFLRVSFSPYVYGNLVI	65
5	122	132	EIDYDVNSSVS	11
6	137	163	LADINAKFSPSGAVPGVSLSSNFSETV	27
7	179	189	LPDTIDSRAKA	11
8	199	205	KNTSIKA	7
9	213	268	VDEDGKPIPNVSAQTISGNVGDSYDATTDVYKLSIDGYTLDESKLPANGKGSLSDK	56
10	277	320	KQTKDQSTVTVHDSELIVGDTWEPEDNFDSATDYDGNAVPFSHI	44
11	326	336	VDTSKVGTYKI	11
12	347	357	SAENQGEYSAV	11
13	365	370	AQPVKG	6
14	378	407	IDTDGNKISDDIVKTGSVGETYKTEQKAID	30
15	411	425	FKEVQGNMSGQFTDQ	15
16	427	427	Q	1
17	434	443	TKNEIPNITG	10
18	451	496	DTDGNKISEDIVKSGTVGEGYSTEKKAIEGYTFKEVQGNTTGQFTE	46
19	506	548	TKNRVNSEPKPENKQSSNDKNNNQGTISSTQHGLPETGENERM	43
20	572	572	К	1



# Initial results and further developments

- 1. Analysis completed for MHC-I alleles of rainbow trout
- 2. CTL epitopes were examined for their antigenicity, immunogenicity, allergenicity and toxicity.
- 3. For HTL epitopes there is no available reference MHC II alleles for rainbow trout.
- 4. Analysis completed for B-cell epitopes

Further steps are needed:

Analyses of the physicochemical properties of the peptide, 3D modelling, molecular docking, immuno-response simulations, etc.

More L. petauri strains and L. garvieae isolates are needed...

#### The workflow ends in the construction of a multi-epitope vaccine

The vaccine construct will be designed with the inclusion of high scored T-cell and B-cell epitopes predicted from various epitope prediction tools and exhibiting high immunogenicity, non-toxicity, non-allergenic and strong binding affinity to a maximum number of HLA alleles.







# Reverse Vaccinology for lactococcosis (Bioinformatics workflow)

In conclusion:

Despite significant advancements in vaccinology, computational proteomics, machine learning, and reverse vaccinology, finding vaccine candidates, producing them in the laboratory, and confirming their efficacy in animal models remains a complicated undertaking.

