

# Metagenòmica Clínica per al diagnòstic de malalties infeccioses

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 Montbrí del Camp 14-15 OCT. 2022



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## “Omics” Era: Genomics

- Microbiome analyses
- Environmental / animal / clinical metagenomics
- Pathogen discovery
- Public health disease surveillance (outbreak investigation)
- Massively multiplex testing applications (detection of adventitious agents in food/water; blood screening)
- Clinical infectious disease diagnosis by metagenomic next-generation sequencing (mNGS)
  - *metagenomic sequencing, unbiased sequencing, agnostic sequencing, non-targeted sequencing, shotgun sequencing*

### Genomic analysis of uncultured marine viral communities

**2002**

Mya Breitbart<sup>1\*</sup>, Peter Salamon<sup>2</sup>, Bjarne Andresen<sup>3</sup>, Joseph M. Mahaffy<sup>4</sup>, Anca M. Segall<sup>5</sup>, David Mead<sup>6</sup>, Farooq Azam<sup>7</sup>, and Forest Rohwer<sup>1†</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Biology, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182-4614; <sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematical Sciences, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182-7720; <sup>3</sup>Nordal Laboratory, University of Copenhagen, Universitetsparken 5, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark; <sup>4</sup>Logan, Madison, WI 53522; and <sup>5</sup>Marine Biology Division, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA 92037

Communicated by Alan Campbell, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, August 14, 2002 (received for review February 22, 2002)

Viruses are the most common biological entities in the oceans by an order of magnitude. However, very little is known about their diversity. Here we report a genomic analysis of two uncultured marine viral communities. Over 45% of the sequences were not significantly similar to previously reported sequences, suggesting that much of the diversity is previously uncharacterized. The most common significant hits among the known sequences were to

by pulse field gel electrophoresis (1); however, this method will not recover all viruses (e.g., large eukaryotic viruses and ssRNA phages). After CsCl purification, the viruses were freed by using a formamide extraction, and the DNA was recovered by an isopropanol precipitation and a cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) extraction (12).

Construction of the Shiga library. The amount of viral DNA in an environmental sample is very low (~10 µg/100 liters). Viral genomes often contain modified nucleosides that cannot be directly cloned into *Escherichia coli*. Additionally, because viral

*The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE*

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**2019**

### Clinical Metagenomic Sequencing for Diagnosis of Meningitis and Encephalitis

M.R. Wilson, H.A. Sample, K.C. Zorn, S. Arevalo, G. Yu, J. Neuhaus, S. Federman, D. Stryke, B. Briggs, C. Langelier, A. Berger, V. Douglas, S.A. Josephson, F.C. Chow, B.D. Fulton, J.L. DeRisi, J.M. Gelfand, S.N. Naccache, J. Bender, J. Dien Bard, J. Murkey, M. Carlson, P.M. Vespa, T. Vijayan, P.R. Allyn, S. Campeau, R.M. Humphries, J.D. Klausner, C.D. Gannon, F. Memar, N.A. Ocampo, L.L. Zimmermann, S.H. Cohen, C.R. Polage, R.L. DeBiasi, B. Haller, R. Dallas, G. Maron, R. Hayden, K. Messacar, S.R. Dominguez, S. Miller, and C.Y. Chiu



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## Clinical metagenomic sequencing (mNGS)

- Metagenomics is sequencing all DNA and RNA in a sample
- Don't need to know what to look for
- Any virus, bacteria, fungi, parasite in one shot
- Can detect unusual, unexpected, divergent pathogens
- mNGS is increasingly being used in virology laboratories for difficult to diagnose cases

## Clinical metagenomic sequencing (mNGS)

- Meningitis / Encephalitis: *40-60% unknown cause*
- Pneumonia: *15 – 25% unknown cause*
- Fever / Sepsis *~20% unknown cause*
- Failure to obtain a timely diagnosis leads to delayed / inappropriate therapy, increased mortality, and excess healthcare costs
- Current main clinical application of mNGS is meningitis / encephalitis, but considered useful in a growing number of other clinical syndromes (pneumonia, sepsis, etc.)

# Diagnostic approach

## Single target

HSV-1, 2; VZV; ENV, HHV-6...  
(IS): CMV, ADV, EBV, JCV,  
Flu, Mumps/Measles

## Syndromic panels

Gastro panel  
Respiratory panel  
Parvo/Rubella/Paraecho

## mNGS

**All pathogens**

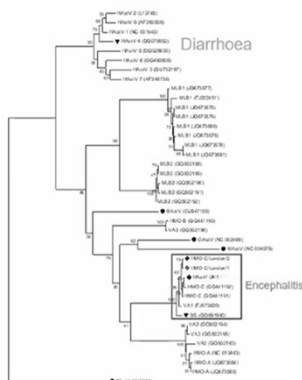
25+ targets, Sufficient specimen?

One sample for all

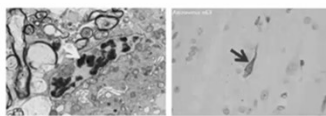
# Astrovirus Encephalitis revealed by mNGS

HAsTV-VA1 now a recognized cause of encephalitis in immunocompromised

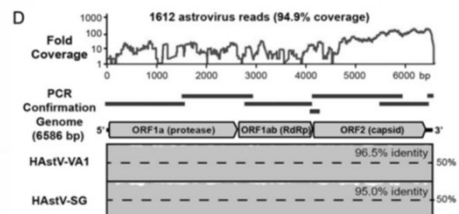
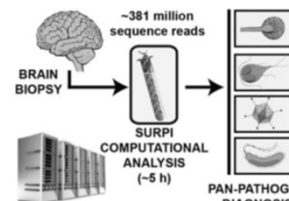
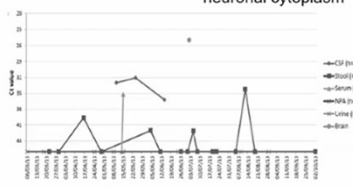
## “Encephalitic” Astrovirus Clade in Humans



Brown, CID 2015



Crystalline inclusions Specific staining of neuronal cytoplasm



Naccache, CID 2015

# Neuroleptospirosis revealed by mNGS

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

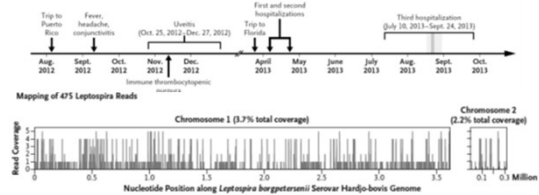
- 14 y.o. Male, SCID
- Fever, headache
- 3 hospitalizations in 4 months
- Progressed to hydrocephalus, status epilepticus
- 44 days in ICU
- Brain biopsy, induced coma
- >100 tests (inconclusive)
- **mNGS in CSF:**

*Leptospira santarosai*  
*Leptospira borgpetersenii*  
 unclassified  
*Leptospira interrogans*  
*Propionibacterium acnes*

## BRIEF REPORT

### Actionable Diagnosis of Neuroleptospirosis by Next-Generation Sequencing

Michael R. Wilson, M.D., Samia N. Naccache, Ph.D., Erik Samayoa, B.S., C.L.S., Mark Biagtan, M.D., Hiba Bashir, M.D., Guixia Yu, B.S., Shahriar M. Salamat, M.D., Ph.D., Sneha Somasekar, B.S., Scot Federman, B.A., Steve Miller, M.D., Ph.D., Robert Sokolic, M.D., Elizabeth Garabedian, R.N., M.S.L.S., Fabio Candotti, M.D., Rebecca H. Buckley, M.D., Kurt D. Reed, M.D., Teresa L. Meyer, R.N., M.S., Christine M. Seroogy, M.D., Renee Galloway, M.P.H., Sheryl L. Henderson, M.D., Ph.D., James E. Gern, M.D., Joseph L. DeRisi, Ph.D., and Charles Y. Chiu, M.D., Ph.D.



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# ENNGS from 2018 to date

- **Workshop on viral metagenomics**
  - 2018: Leiden, NL
  - 2019: Valencia, ES
  - 2020: cancelled due to COVID pandemic
  - 2021: cancelled due to COVID pandemic
  - 2022: Antalya, Turkey
- **Recommendation paper Part I on wet lab procedures:**  
*López-Labrador et al. J Clin Virol 2021*
- **Recommendation paper Part II on dry lab procedures:**  
*de Vries et al. J Clin Virol 2021*
- **Benchmark of metagenomic pipelines for viral pathogen detection:**  
*de Vries et al. J Clin Virol 2021*



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ESC NETWORK ON NEXT-GENERATION SEQUENCING



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Recommendations for the introduction of metagenomic high-throughput sequencing in clinical virology, part I: Wet lab procedure

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Facility / floor plan: requirements for diagnostics

- Physical separation of reagent preparation, pre-amplification and post-amplification library preparation.
- Dedicated materials and reagents for each process (sample processing, library preparation, post-library preparation).
- Physical separation of metagenomic library preparation from sample preparation of series of positive samples (e.g. for typing), e.g. by using a dedicated biosafety cabinet (BSC) with restricted use for metagenomic workflows.
- Extensive cleaning of materials and surfaces with 10% sodium hypochlorite and/or ammonium compound before and after processing, more frequently than regularly performed for molecular assays.

Clean area	Pre-PCR area	Post-PCR area	
<b>i) Reagent preparation</b>	<b>ii, iii) Sample preparation &amp; assay set-up</b>	<b>iv) Amplification</b>	<b>v) Post-PCR</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(m)HTS and PCR reagent storage</li> <li>Preparation of PCR master mix</li> </ul>	<b>ii) NA extraction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RNA/DNA extraction for (m)HTS and PCR</li> <li>Negative and internal control preparation</li> <li>Addition of external positive controls (working dilution)</li> <li>Series of positive samples for targeted WGS (e.g. typing)</li> </ul> <b>iii) mHTS library preparation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-PCR mHTS library preparation (ds DNA synthesis, fragmentation, adapter ligation)</li> <li>Pre-PCR sequence capture by probes</li> <li>Pre-PCR preparation of series of positive samples for targeted WGS (e.g. typing)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(m)HTS library amplification</li> <li>Regular PCR amplification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sequencing</li> <li>Library re-amplification</li> <li>Post-PCR sequence capture by probes</li> <li>Nested PCR</li> <li>Gel electrophoresis of products</li> <li>Virus/bacterial cultures</li> <li>Cloned DNA</li> </ul>

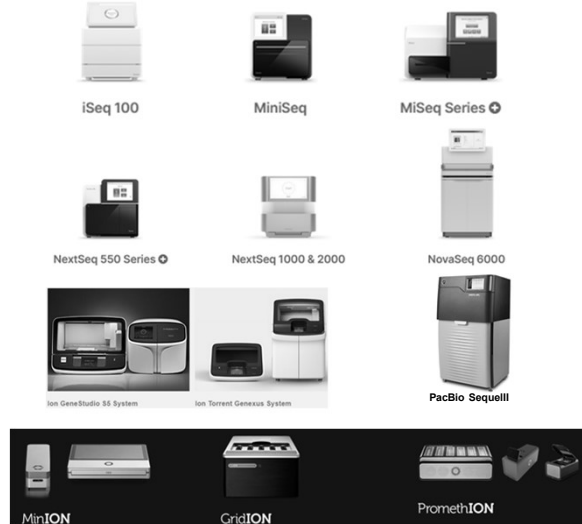
López-Labrador et al. J Clin Virol 2021



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# Sequencing platform: which one?

- Choice depending on the application and intended use (metagenomics, whole genome sequencing, fieldwork).
- Restrict low output sequencers use for a limited number of specimens (due to their lower throughput and multiplexing and deep sequencing capacity).
- Consider the number of samples per run in relation with batch-wise sequencing and consequences for turn-around-time. Outsourcing of parts of the process may be carefully considered with attention to quality, safety, transparency and flexibility to desired adaptations of the protocol.



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# Assay design and development

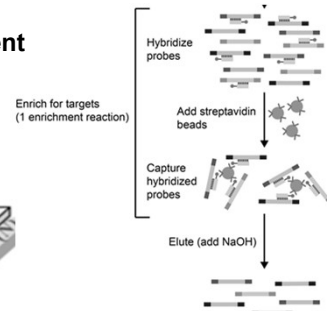
- DNA and RNA can be co-extracted or isolated separately, with impact on the mHTS results (sensitivity, coverage), and separate protocols should be validated individually.
- Avoid the use of high concentrations of carrier RNA during extraction for RNA mHTS.
- Advantages of target enrichment should be weighed against the potential bias introduced by the specific protocol.
- SISPA and MDA should not be used when performing viral metagenomics aiming at quantification of viral species, since this may result in over- and underrepresentation of the true proportions for certain viruses.
- The minimum number of post-ligation amplification cycles should be used, in order to minimize amplification bias.



<http://www.nature.com/scitable/topicpage/toll-like-receptors-sensors-that-detect-infection-14396559>

## DNaseq improves detection of DNA viruses (and bacteria / fungus / parasite)

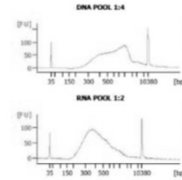
### Validate enrichment



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# Assay design and development

- 13 The library size distribution should be checked for the expected fragment size, to discard degraded libraries (excess short fragments) or incomplete fragmentation (excess long fragments). Accurate library quantitation ensures adequate library pooling in the sequencing run.
- 14 A no-template control that will undergo all steps from sample extraction to sequencing should be used in every individual sequencing run.
- 15 More upfront negative controls are recommended to identify sources of potential contamination, such as a library preparation buffer and a pathogen-negative sequence controls (e.g. phage lambda prepared with different reagents).
- 16 To control for the success of NA extraction, preparation and sequencing, clinical samples should be spiked with encapsidated RNA or DNA viruses that do not infect humans (vertebrates), e.g. bacteriophages.



**Reagents contain multitudes of (bacterial) contaminants**  
**Normalize to eliminate background:**  
**( Ratio of Patient / NTC )**



**Low / no reads in spiked-in controls =**  
**Low reads (< 5M)**  
**Inadequate DNA data / high background**  
**Inadequate RNA data / degradation?**



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# Validation and accreditation

- 17 The following wet lab parameters in the validation process should be included in the validation: sample type, sample volume, extraction protocol, library preparation protocol.
- 18 The following sequencing parameters should be included in the validation process: precision, accuracy of sequence output, sequence depth, analytical sensitivity, specificity, limit of detection.
- 19 Result interpretation: a cut-off for defining a positive result (read count, coverage) should be determined based on validation data, e.g. comparison with PCR results, using prototype viruses. For defining a positive result, use a threshold of three distinctly covered genome regions after background subtraction based on negative controls.
- 20 An external quality assessment programs (EQA) should be adhered to evaluate the performance of metagenomics protocols applied in diagnostic settings, assessing both qualitative (correct pathogen detection) and quantitative characteristics (target read numbers).

**Validation for each sample type: volume, extraction, library prep.**

**Sequencing: precision, sensitivity, specificity, LOD**

		Clinical Dx* (direct detection CSF testing)		Clinical Dx* (direct detection CSF testing)	
		Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg
mNGS	Pos	32	3	27	1*
	Neg	8	164	13	164

Conventional testing (direct detection CSF testing)

sensitivity = 80.0%    PPV = 91.4%    sensitivity = 67.5%    PPV = 96.4%  
 specificity = 98.2%    NPV = 95.3%    specificity = 99.4%    NPV = 92.7%

Wilson et al., 2019 N Eng J Med 380:2327-2340

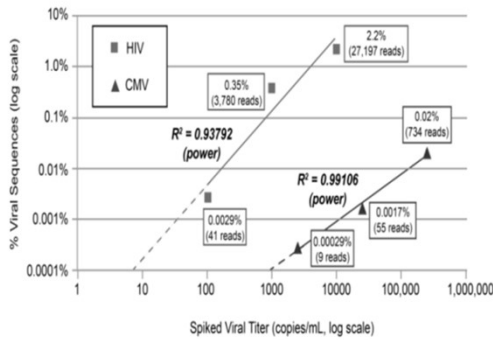


**Metagenomic Control Material (bacteria)**  
**Viral Metagenomics NGS EQA (Q4 - Pilot Study)**



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# Validation: sensitivity, cutoff, threshold, contamination



RNA viruses detected to <100 copies/ml (~ Real-time PCR)

DNA viruses detected to ~1000 copies/ml (100-fold < Real-time PCR) (~ 16S pan-bacterial PCR)

Miller et al. *Genome Research*, 2019, 29(5):831-84.

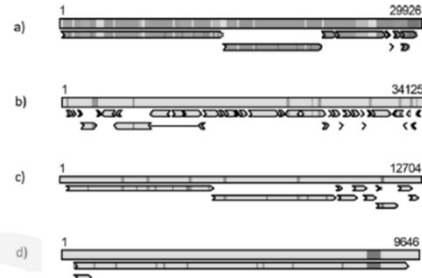


Fig. 1. Examples of coverage plots [46] with rule positive mNGS findings (a-c) confirmed by PCR in real clinical samples: a) human coronavirus HKU-1, 3951 reads, 99 % genome coverage, b) human mastadenovirus A, 19 reads, 9% genome coverage, >3 genome locations, and c) spiked-in equine arteritis virus, 14 reads, 9% genome coverage >3 genome locations, and d) an example of a false positive mNGS finding plotting a mapped hepatitis C virus amplicon contaminant, 133,213 reads, 4% coverage but only 1 genome location. Top bar represents nucleotide alignment, bottom bar(s) represents amino acid alignment, green zone: matching sequences. Distribution of reads over the genome is an important parameter for defining a positive result.

de Vries et al. *J Clin Virol* 2021



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## Recommendations for the introduction of metagenomic next-generation sequencing in clinical virology, part II: bioinformatic analysis and reporting

Jutte J.C. de Vries<sup>a,\*</sup>, Julianne R. Brown<sup>b</sup>, Natacha Couto<sup>c</sup>, Martin Beer<sup>d</sup>, Philippe Le Mercier<sup>e</sup>, Igor Sidorov<sup>a</sup>, Anna Papa<sup>f</sup>, Nicole Fischer<sup>g</sup>, Bas B. Oude Munnink<sup>h</sup>, Christophe Rodriguez<sup>i</sup>, Maryam Zaheri<sup>j</sup>, Arzu Sayiner<sup>k</sup>, Mario Hönemann<sup>l</sup>, Alba Perez Cataluna<sup>m</sup>, Ellen C. Carbo<sup>a</sup>, Claudia Bachofen<sup>n</sup>, Jakub Kubacki<sup>n</sup>, Dennis Schmitz<sup>o</sup>, Katerina Tsioka<sup>f</sup>, Sébastien Matamoros<sup>p</sup>, Dirk Höper<sup>d</sup>, Marta Hernandez<sup>q</sup>, Elisabeth Puchhammer-Stöckl<sup>r</sup>, Aitana Lebrand<sup>e</sup>, Michael Huber<sup>j</sup>, Peter Simmonds<sup>s</sup>, Eric C.J. Claas<sup>a</sup>, F. Xavier López-Labrador<sup>t,u,v,\*</sup>, on behalf of the ESCV Network on Next-Generation Sequencing

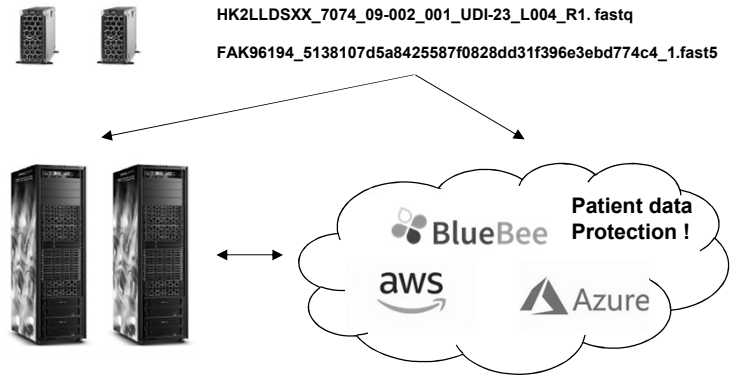


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# IT equipment, software, data security and storage

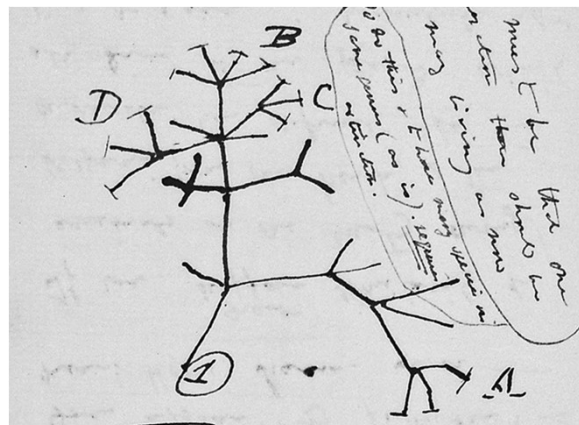
1. Given the amount of data and pipelines for metagenomic analysis, the use of a cluster server, usually situated within a dedicated physically separated "core" IT infrastructure facility for central data processing facilities is recommended, either accessible directly or via external providers of the analysis pipelines.
2. It is recommended to have written agreements with cloud service providers on the management of protection information for unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction, confidentiality and timely/reliable access to and use of information. The agreement should also include the management of new releases of software versions to enable validation prior to using a new version for patient care.
3. NGS FASTQ data and metadata files should be stored with file names and folders having unique and identifying names helpful in classifying and sorting (<https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/manage-data/format/organising.aspx>)



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# Version control (pipeline & database)

5. The reference database should consist of genomes that cover the entire genetic diversity of relevant organisms and should be curated in order not to contain any artificial, low-quality or incorrectly named genome sequences.
6. It is recommended to periodically update the reference databases used for taxonomic profiling, and to validate this update. The frequency of the update is dependent on the need to classify at subtype or isolate level, and on the appearance of novel viruses in the updated public databases.



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## Benchmark of thirteen bioinformatic pipelines for metagenomic virus diagnostics using datasets from clinical samples

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ENNGS NETWORK ON NEXT-GENERATION SEQUENCING



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## Benchmarking: datasets

- 13 clinical metagenomic datasets, well-characterized samples by PCR
- Patients with encephalitis or respiratory complaints
  - CSF (n=4)
  - Brain biopsies (n=3)
  - Nasopharyngeal swabs (n=3)
  - Nasal washings (n=1)
  - Bronchoalveolar lavage (n=1)
  - Plasma (n=1)



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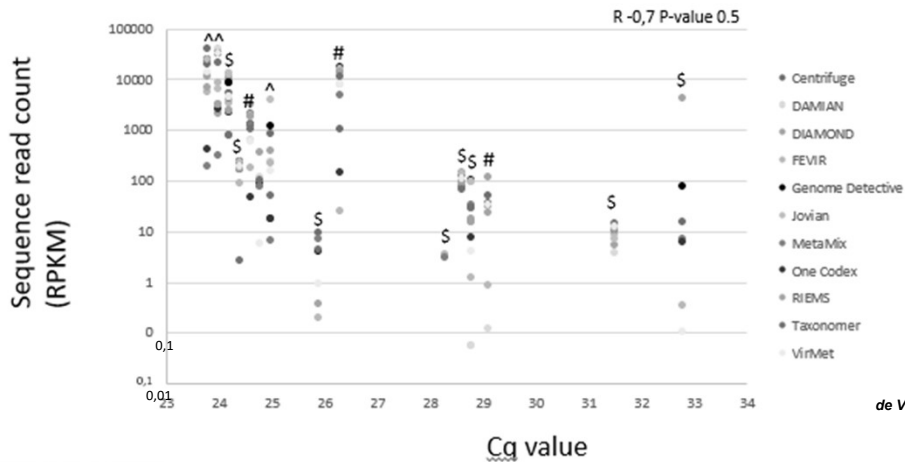


ENNGS NETWORK ON NEXT-GENERATION SEQUENCING



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## Semi-quantitative results, sensitivity



de Vries et al. *J Clin Virol* 2021

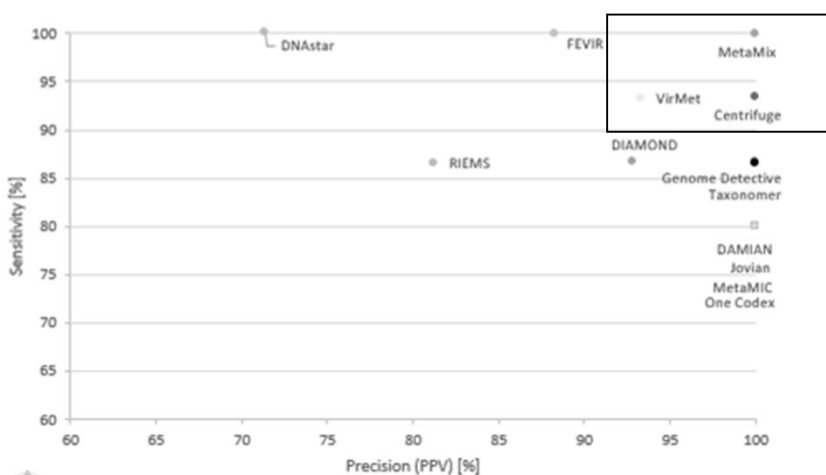


^ mRNA sequencing, S RNA/DNA sequencing, and #: a captured approach using probes targeting vertebrate viruses



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## Overall score (sensitivity/PPV)



	PCR+	PCR -	
mNGS +	TP	FP	PPV
mNGS -	FN	TN?	NPV
	Sensitivity	Specificity	

de Vries et al. *J Clin Virol* 2021



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# Result review and reporting

- Before reporting, the mNGS data need to be technically evaluated and reviewed, for quality, possible laboratory contaminations and plausibility.
- Hits of known reagent contaminants, misassignments, bacteriophages, and common (retro)viral endogenous sequences should not be reported to the clinician.

The result of mNGS should be reported to the clinician in a compact format and facilitate decision making

The reports should be comprehensible, but yet easy to read and contain only clinically relevant or potentially relevant information.



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# User-friendly output formats

Assignment	# Contigs	# Reads	Coverage (%)	Depth of Coverage	Identity (%)	Report	Genomic Coverage
Equine herpes virus	1	276818	89.8	28971.6	100	Report	

### metaMix hosted by Bluebee

#### RNA-Seq Encephalitis Diagnostics

**Pipeline Run Details**

User Reference: **GOSHmeta3** | Pipeline: **GOSH RNA-Seq Encephalitis Diagnostics 1.2.0**  
 Request Date: **Sep, 10 2019 10:58:33** | Start Date: **Sep, 10 2019 11:00:23**  
 Duration: **14h 58m 35s** | Requestor: **Dr. Julianne Brown**  
 User Tags:

**Input Data**

UCLONS1212-13M1974-B\_87\_R1\_001.fastq.gz  
 File Name: **UCLONS1212-13M1974-B\_87\_R1\_001.fastq** | File Path: **UCLONS1212-13M1974-B\_87\_R1\_001.fastq.gz**  
 Size: **5.57 GB** | Format: **FASTQ**  
 Creation Date: **Sep, 10 2019 08:55:02** | User Tags:  
 Run In Tags: **GOSHmeta3** | Connector Tags: **Upload**

UCLONS1212-13M1974-B\_87\_R2\_001.fastq.gz  
 File Name: **UCLONS1212-13M1974-B\_87\_R2\_001.fastq** | File Path: **UCLONS1212-13M1974-B\_87\_R2\_001.fastq.gz**  
 Size: **5.7 GB** | Format: **FASTQ**  
 Creation Date: **Sep, 10 2019 08:47:18** | User Tags:  
 Run In Tags: **GOSHmeta3** | Connector Tags: **Upload**

**Results**

"taxonID"	"sci-taxName"	"Eukarya(percentage)"	"poetaxr-prob"	"Log10RP"
"8"	"Eukaryota"	30490	1	88
"11"	"Bacteria"	28086	1	28977.647240774
"6"	"Bacteroidetes"	2423	1	8542.9932904605
"13"	"Fungi"	536	1	684.05970005247
"2"	"Chloroflexi"	25	1	330.8203630078
"14"	"Mycobacteriales"	19	0.89	27.42744424128
"9"	"Bifidobacteriales"	14	1	129.87658892052
"5"	"Bifidobacteriales"	11	0.94	14.984042337849

List of detected species (pressEnter\_key=Results)



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## Conclusions

- For some clinical syndromes, such as encephalitis, there is a need to extend the diagnostic portfolio with mNGS.
- For many others, cost and turn-around-time constraints preclude mNGS of completely replacing conventional diagnostic testing in the near future.
- Technical, procedural and financial parameters will develop rapidly: future developments will support the progressive and broad introduction of clinical metagenomic sequencing.
- Bioinformatic software tools and platforms will develop very fast, which will support the progressive and broad introduction of metagenomic sequencing into Clinical Microbiology and Public Health laboratories
- ESCV recommendations are intended to guide laboratories on the implementation of mNGS and bioinformatics diagnostic workflows.
- Future: Real-time sequencing and simultaneous transcriptome analysis in development



European Society for Clinical Virology

## ENNGS network and collaborators

 ENNGS

ESCV NETWORK ON NEXT-GENERATION SEQUENCING

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