
FOIA request to CDC re: purification of "rabies virus"

Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>
To: "FOIA Requests (CDC)" <FOIARequests@cdc.gov>
Bcc: [REDACTED]

Sun, Nov 28, 2021 at 10:55 AM

November 28, 2021

To:
Roger Andoh
Freedom of Information Officer
1600 Clifton Rd NE MS T-01
Atlanta, Georgia 30333
Email: FOIARequests@cdc.gov
Phone: 770-488-6277
Fax: 770-488-6200

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

This is a formal request for access to general records, made under the *Freedom of Information Act*.

Description of Requested Records:

All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) describing the **purification** (i.e. via filtration, ultracentrifugation and chromatography) of any "**rabies virus**", directly from a sample taken from a diseased host (i.e. bat, raccoon, skunk, fox, dog, human, etc.), where the sample was not first combined with any other source of **genetic** material (i.e. a cell line; fetal bovine serum).

Please note that I am not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to **purify** the suspected "virus" and instead:

- cultured something, and/or
- performed an amplification test (i.e. PCR), and/or
- fabricated a "genome", and/or
- produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things.

I am already aware that according to virus theory a "virus" requires host cells in order to replicate. I am not requesting records describing the **replication** of a "virus" without host cells, or records that describe a suspected "virus" floating in a vacuum, or a strict fulfillment of Koch's Postulates, or private patient records.

I simply request records that describe "its" **purification** (**separation** from everything else in the patient sample, as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other very small things).

Please note that my request includes any study/report matching the above description, **authored by anyone, anywhere**.

If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each one with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it). Please provide URLs where possible.

Format:

Pdf documents sent to me via email; I do not wish for anything to be shipped to me.

Contact Information:

Last name: Massey
First name: Christine
Address: [REDACTED] Peterborough, ON, Canada

Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: cmssyc@gmail.com

Thank you in advance and best wishes,
Christine Massey, M.Sc.



Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

Your CDC FOIA Request #22-00417-FOIA

MNHarper@cdc.gov <MNHarper@cdc.gov>
To: cmssyc@gmail.com

Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 2:18 PM

December 16, 2021

Request Number: 22-00417-FOIA

Dear Ms. Massey:

This is regarding your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of November 29, 2021, for request for all studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) describing the purification (i.e. via filtration, ultracentrifugation and chromatography) of any "rabies virus", directly from a sample taken from a diseased host (i.e. bat, raccoon, skunk, fox, dog, human, etc.), where the sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. a cell line; fetal bovine serum). Please note that I am not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to purify the suspected "virus" and instead: • cultured something, and/or • performed an amplification test (i.e. PCR), and/or • fabricated a "genome", and/or • produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things..

Please see the attached letter.

Sincerely,
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Office
770-488-6399



Final Response No Records.pdf
164K



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

December 16, 2021

Christine Massey

Peterborough, ON, Canada

Via email: cmssyc@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Massey:

This letter is in response to your Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of November 29, 2021, for:

Description of Requested Records:

All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) describing the **purification** (i.e. via filtration, ultracentrifugation and chromatography) of any "**rabies virus**", directly from a sample taken from a diseased host (i.e. bat, raccoon, skunk, fox, dog, human, etc.), where the sample was not first combined with any other source of **genetic** material (i.e. a cell line; fetal bovine serum).

*Please note that I am not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to **purify** the suspected "virus" and instead:*

- ☐ *cultured something, and/or*
- ☐ *performed an amplification test (i.e. PCR), and/or*
- ☐ *fabricated a "genome", and/or*
- ☐ *produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things.*

I am already aware that according to virus theory a "virus" requires host cells in order to replicate. I am not requesting records describing the replication of a "virus" without host cells, or records that describe a suspected "virus" floating in a vacuum, or a strict fulfillment of Koch's Postulates, or private patient records.

I simply request records that describe "its" purification (separation from everything else in the patient sample, as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other very small things).

Please note that my request includes any study/report matching the above description, authored by anyone, anywhere.

If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each one with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it). Please provide URLs where possible.

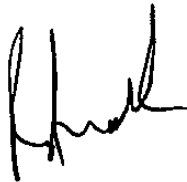
A search of our records failed to reveal any documents pertaining to your request. Specifically, the Poxvirus and Rabies branch (PRB) within NCEZID's Division of High Consequence Pathogens and Pathology, states as follows:

PRB has routinely performed Electron Microscopy directly on original samples from diseased hosts in which rabies virions are able to be observed in the original sample. This procedure allows the complete/infectious form of a virus outside a host cell to be visible. However the request specifically states that they are not requesting instances where we "produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things." Therefore these electron microscopy procedures do not seem to be what the requester is inquiring about. We do isolate rabies virus directly from diseased samples using mass spectrometry, but this is not a form of purification so also does not seem to be what the requester is inquiring about. Because PRB does not perform a procedure in which we "purify" virus directly from a sample (without first passaging in cell culture) we cannot provide the information that is being requested.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6277 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may administratively appeal to the Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, via the online portal at <https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov/App/Index.aspx>. Please mark both your appeal letter and envelope "FOIA Appeal." Your appeal must be electronically transmitted by March 16, 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Andoh', with a stylized, cursive script.

Roger Andoh
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer
Office of the Chief Operating Officer
(770) 488-6399
Fax: (404) 235-1852

#22-00417-FOIA