

s

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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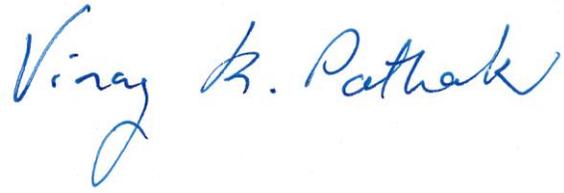
Dear Natalia,

It is a pleasure to write this letter to express my gratitude for all of your help with analysis of our Ultra-deep sequencing studies.

My laboratory has been working on analyzing the effects of host restriction factor APOBEC3G on HIV-1 viral replication. APOBEC3G is a cytidine deaminase that induces G-to-A hypermutation of the viral genome. We have initiated studies to analyze the effects of APOBEC3G on HIV-1, by performing ultra-deep sequencing of a large population of viral genomes. The goal of this study is to characterize the extent to which all of the cytidine deaminase target sites in the viral genome (~1200 sites) are mutated and identify the hotspots and coldspots of mutation. We will then analyze the context of these mutational hotspots and coldspots to gain insights to the mechanisms that determine whether a specific site will be targeted for mutation. The great volume of data generated by this technology necessitates the use of bioinformatics and computational expertise; your assistance in analyzing these data has been extremely valuable. With your help, we hope to soon write a manuscript on which you will be a coauthor. I hope we can expand our collaborative efforts and apply this technology to other important questions in HIV-1 biology.

Thanks again for all your help with this project. I look forward to continuing and increasing our productive interactions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vinay K. Pathak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'V' at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail at the end.

Vinay K. Pathak, Ph.D.
Head, Viral Mutation Section,
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