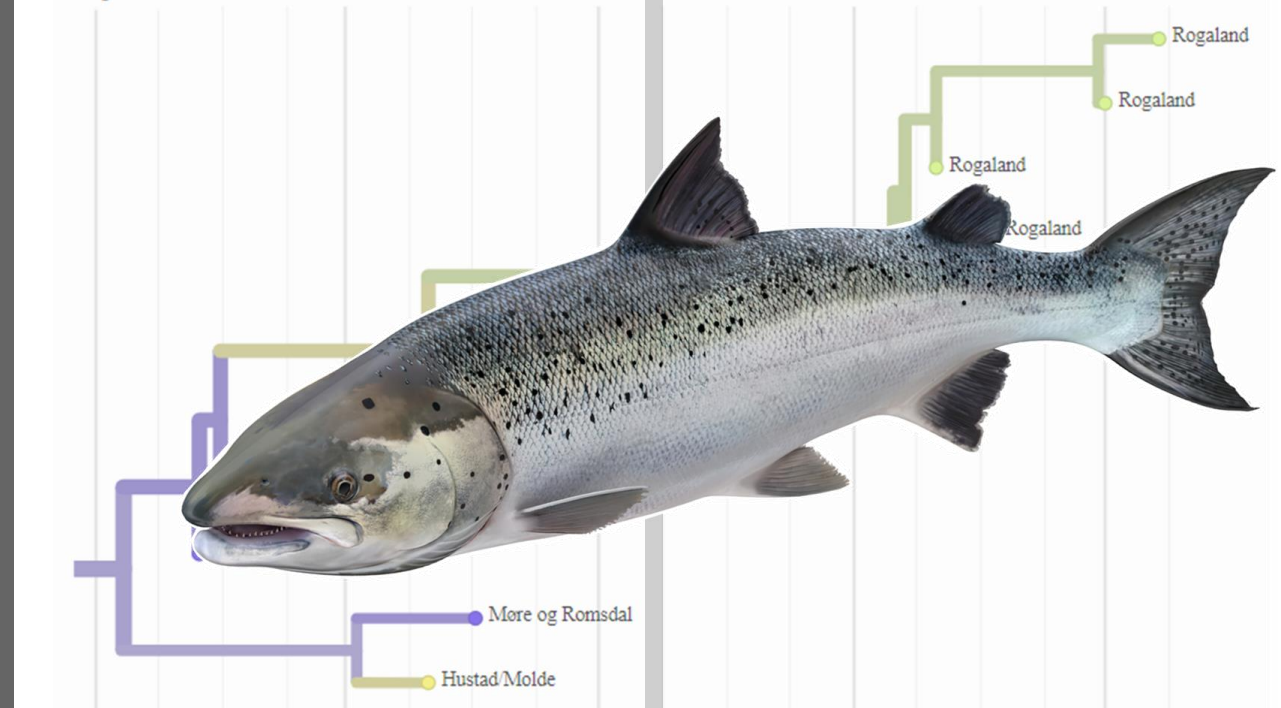


Genome sequencing for epidemiological studies of SAV2 and SAV3 in Norway

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Svein Alexandersen ²,
Marius Karlsen ², *et al.*

* Professor & Head of Division of Genome Biology
Lab Webpage: <https://www.macqueenresearchgroup.com>



Disease control
strategies – including
biosecurity and
vaccination

23rd Nov 2022

Previous work on SAV genomics

BBSRC PhD – 2016-2020 (Dr Mike Gallagher)

Developed approaches for genome sequencing of SAV in salmonids
– previous presentations at PD TriNation

- With Marine Scotland, Marine Institute and Pharmaq
- First collaboration with Pharmaq on SAV3



Mike Gallagher



Gallagher et al. 2018. Sci. Rep. 8: 16307

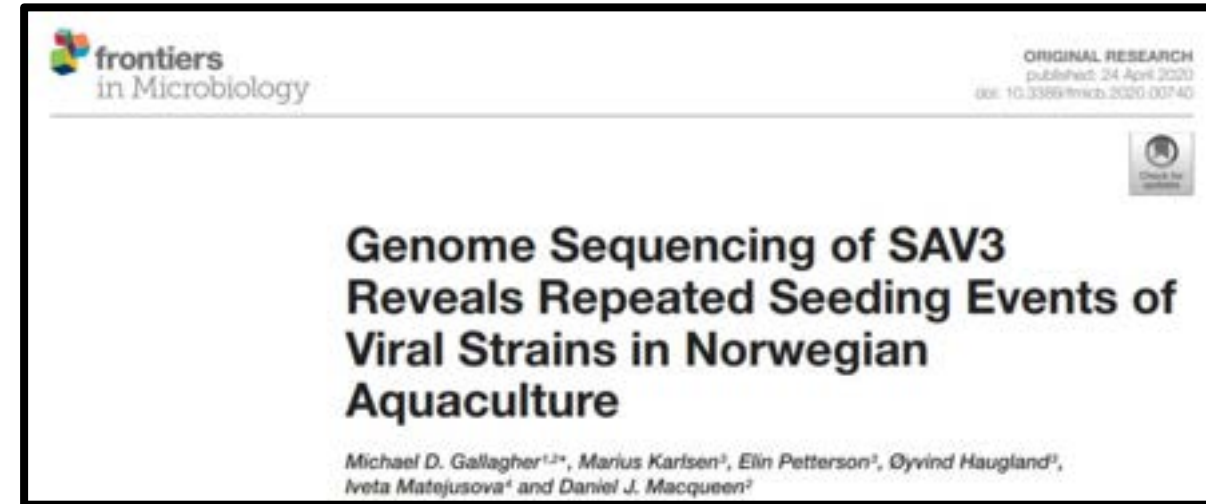
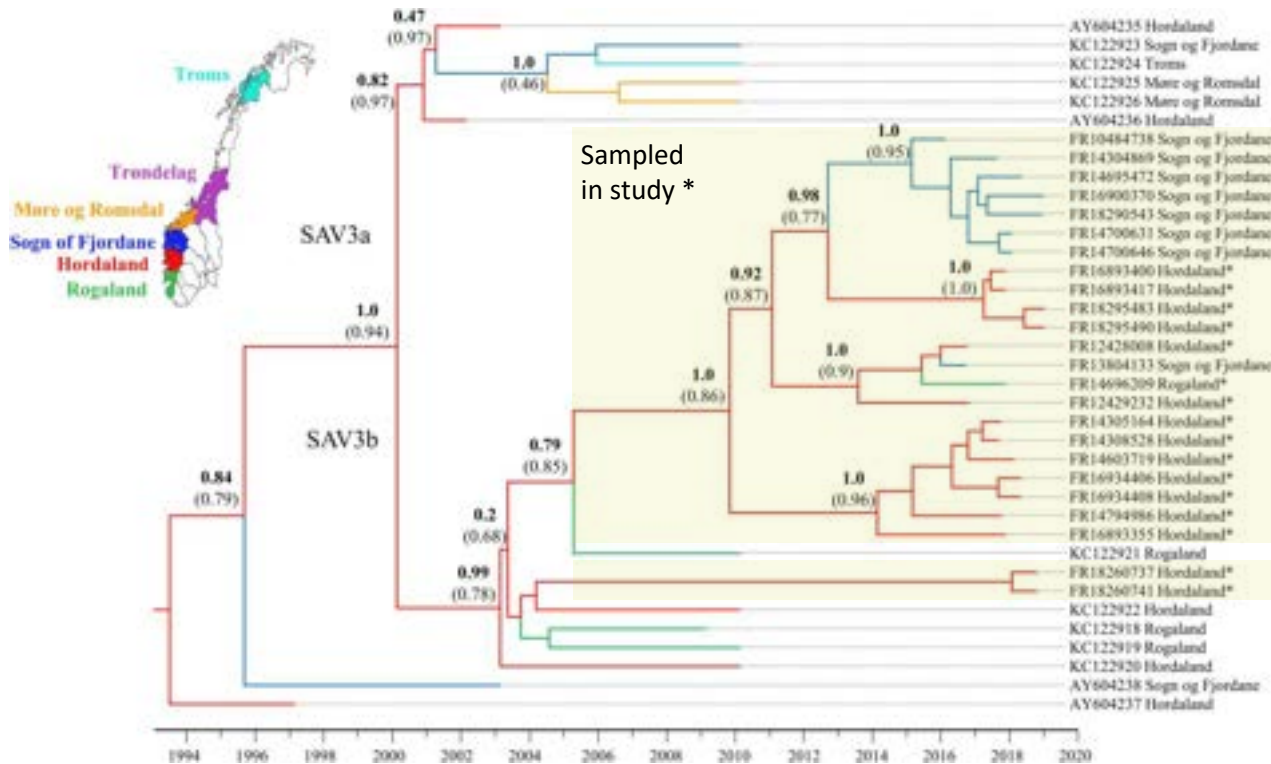


Gallagher et al. 2020. Aquaculture. 522: 735117



Gallagher et al. 2020. Front. Microbiol. 11: 740.

SAV3 genome sequencing



n=24 SAV3 genomes sequenced from field sites sampled 2016 - 2019 from 4 regions

Hordaland inferred as common source for SAV3 in recent circulation, in addition to lineages that may have been eradicated by control measures

- Highlighted promise of genomic sequencing to infer SAV transmission dynamics, but lacked resolution

Upscaling SAV2 sequencing

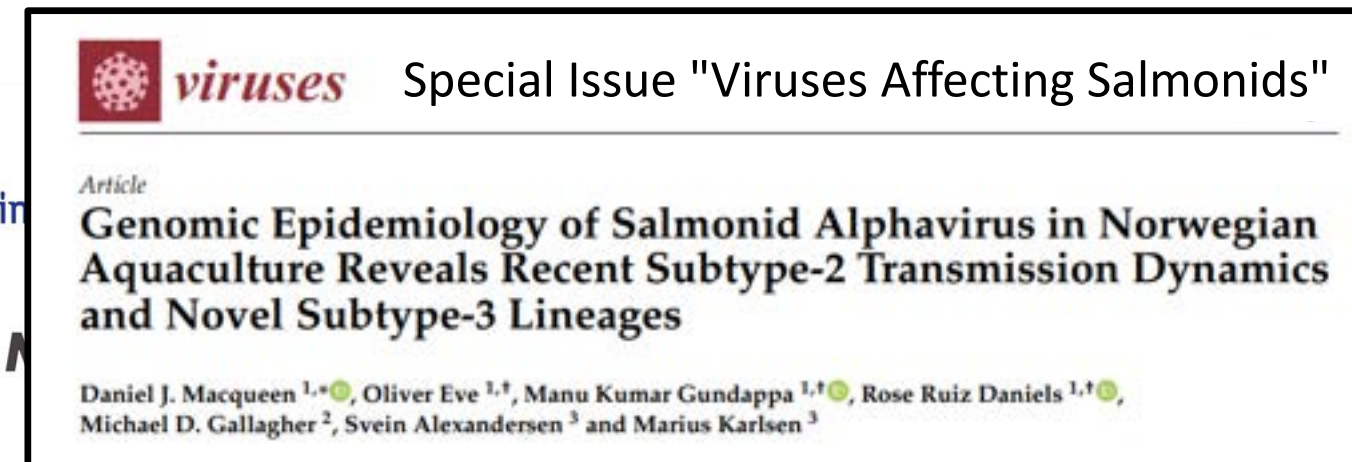


Scientific objective: Reconstruct genetic diversity and transmission of SAV2 in Norwegian Atlantic salmon aquaculture using genome sequencing

Purpose: demonstrate strategy to support disease control

- Initiated by Sinkaberg Hansen and Pharmaq (Svein Alexandersen)
- Nine producers provided samples – *industry collaboration was key to success*

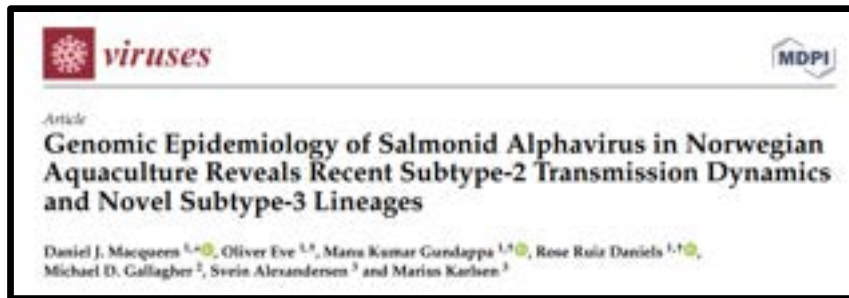
Sin



Overview of study

~100 samples (heart) from 27 sampling sites across 16 production areas

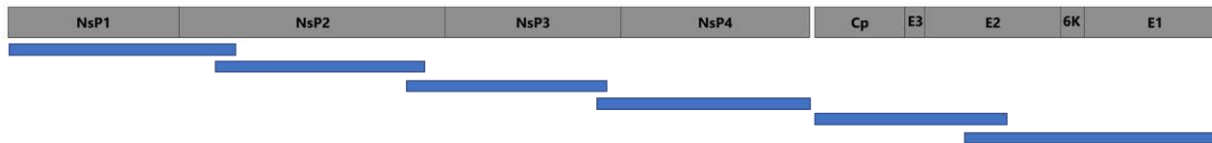
- Metadata captured - sampling location & date, viral load, production region, etc.



Producer identity anonymized:
inferences limited to farming region

Sequencing of SAV2 genomes

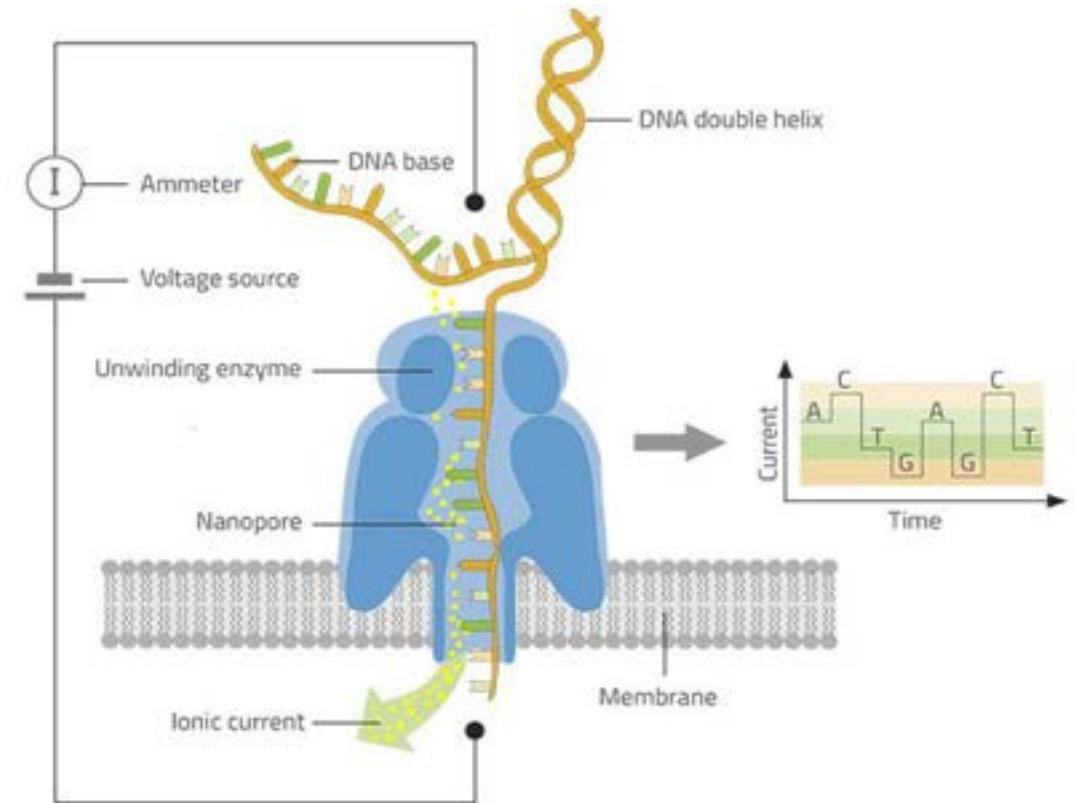
1. Overlapping PCR amplicons spanning SAV genome.
Primers in conserved regions, agnostic to sub-type variation



2. Rapid & cheap Oxford Nanopore MinION sequencing



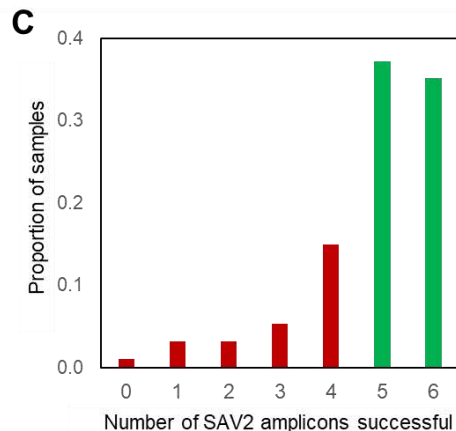
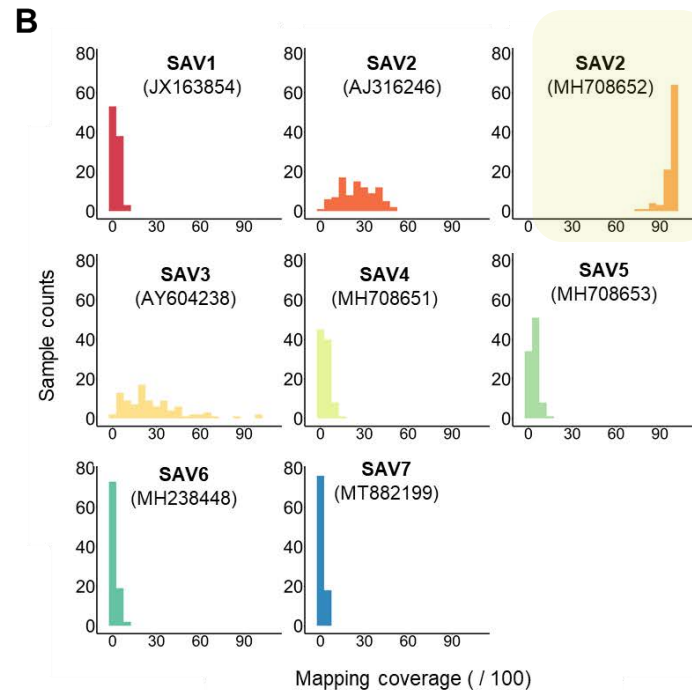
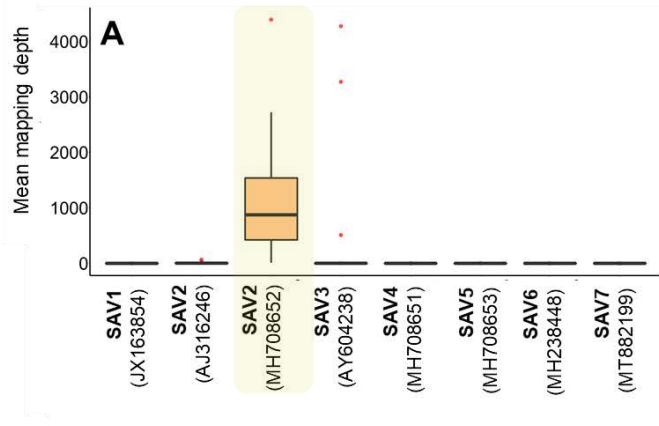
3. Bioinformatic analysis & epidemiological inferences
Strategy captures any or multiple subtypes present per sample



Bioinformatics – data captured

After filtering, we kept 68 samples for further analysis:

- Most sequences SAV2, as expected - mean 10,600 bp per sample, 90% of genome



Huge boost in SAV2 sequence data in public archives

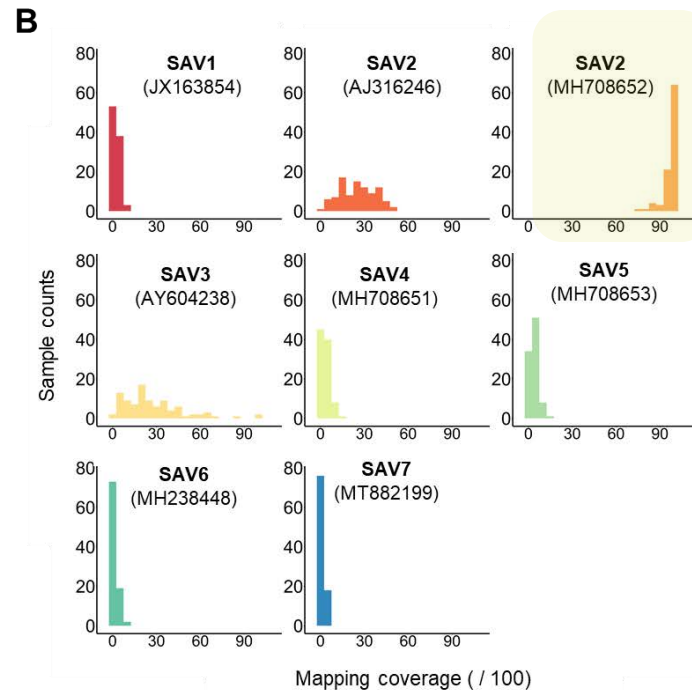
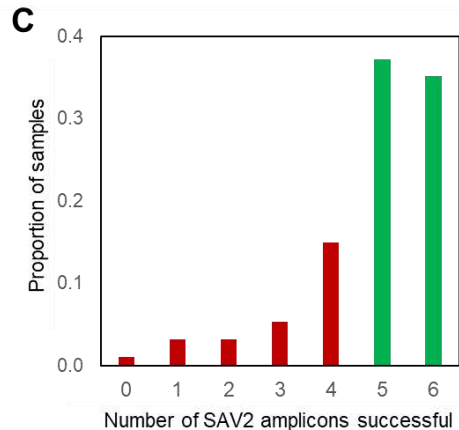
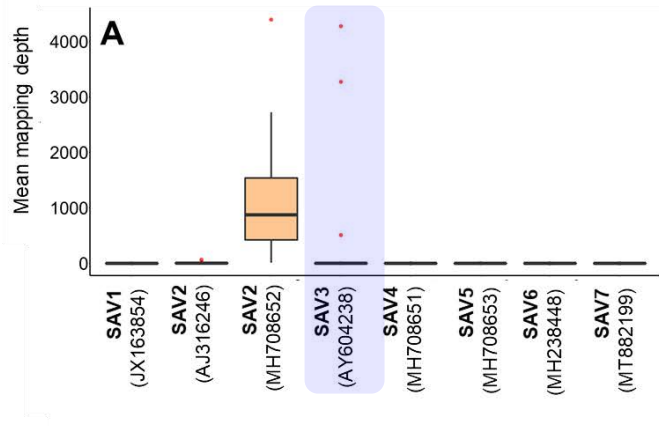
Strategy captures any or multiple subtypes present per sample



Bioinformatics – data captured

After filtering, we kept 68 samples for further analysis:

- For a few samples we captured complete SAV3 genomes (will return to this)



SAV2 data used in genomic epidemiology analyses aiming to reconstruct evolutionary history of SAV2 & viral transmission in time and space

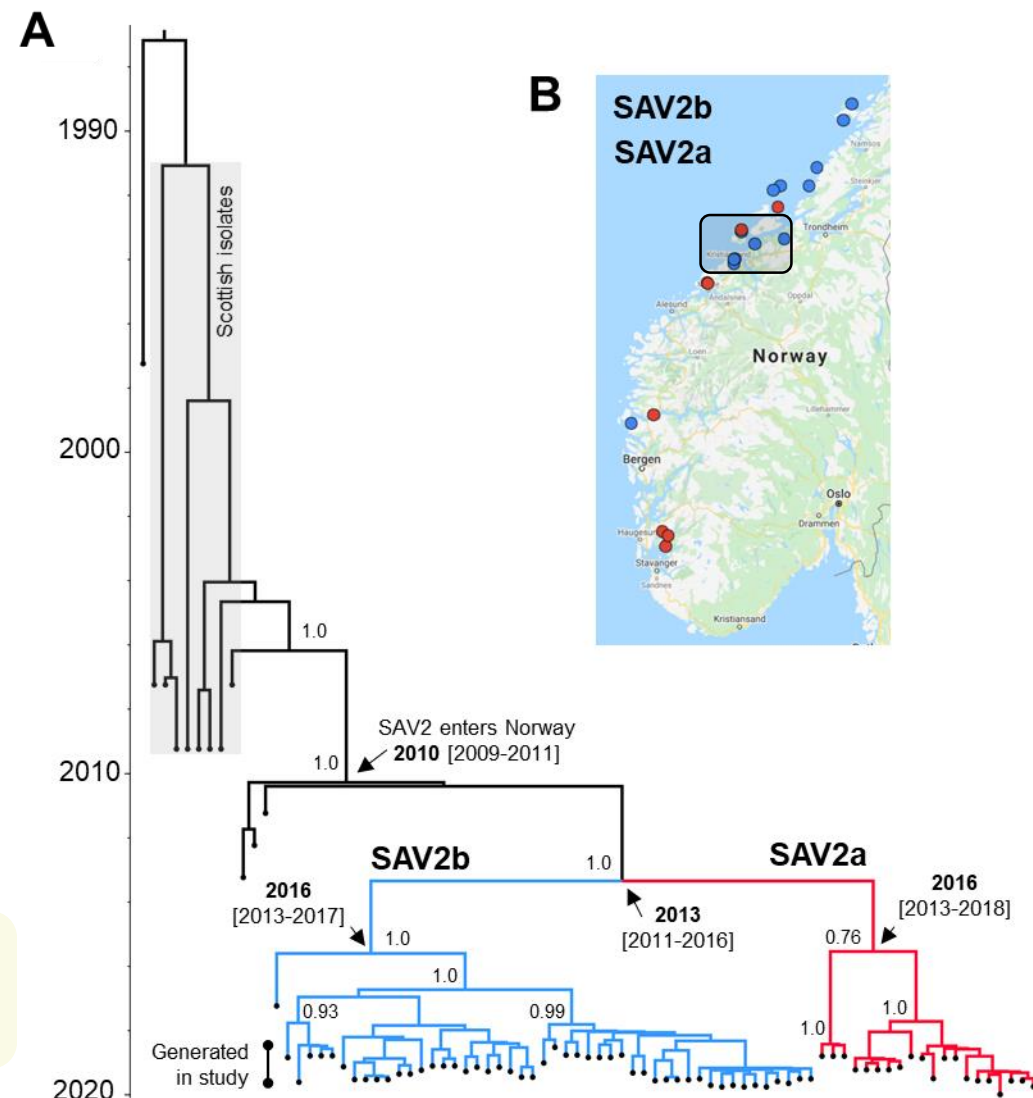
Strategy captures any or multiple subtypes present per sample



Two major SAV2 strains in Norway

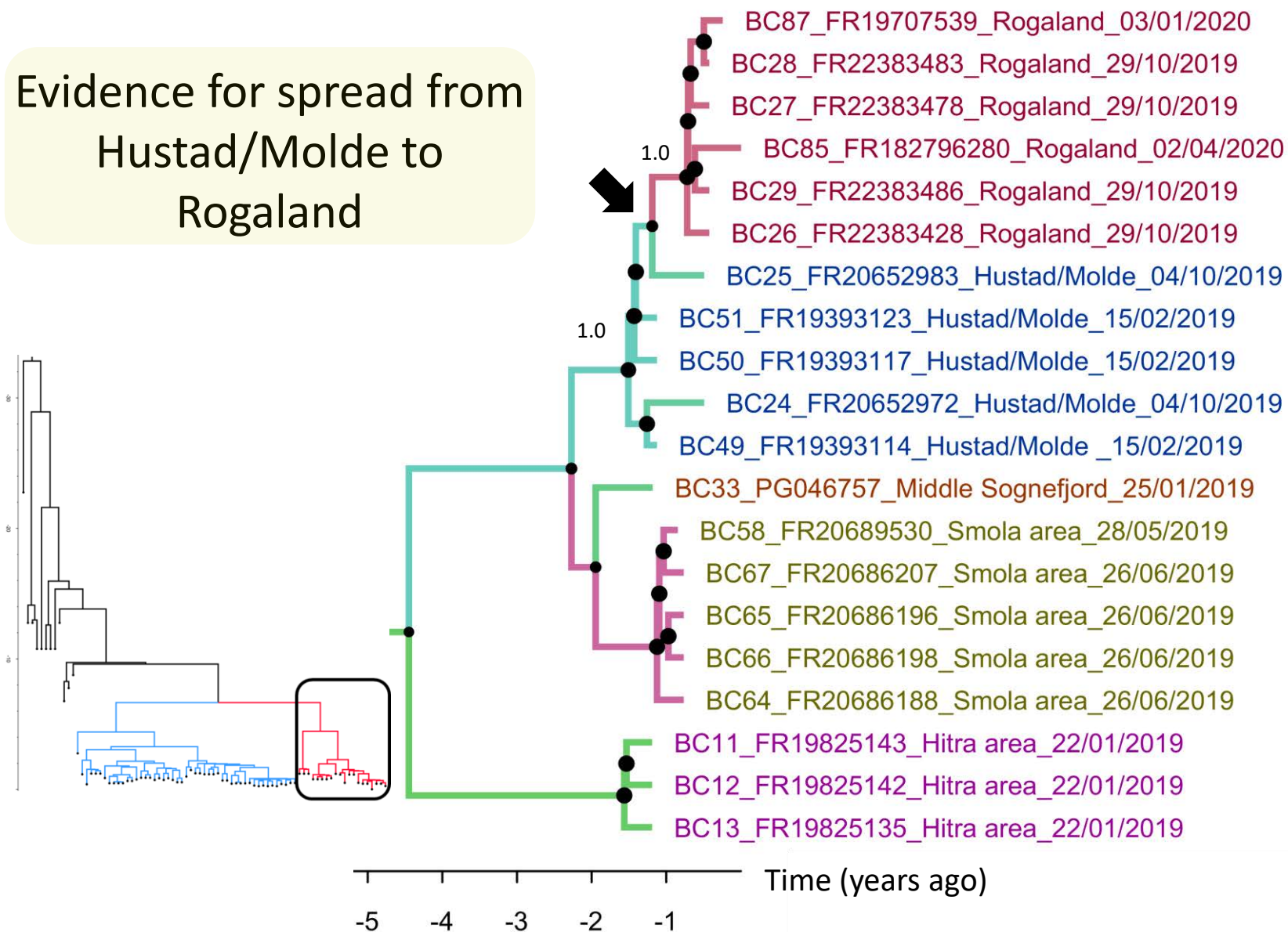
- Most recent common ancestor of Norwegian SAV2 endemic existed in ~2010
 - Probable first entry of SAV2 to Norway, but could have occurred earlier
- SAV2a & 2b likely diverged ~2013
- Largely non-overlapping detections in more Southern (2a) and Northern latitudes (2b)
 - Co-detected on same farms at boundary of Møre og Romsdal & Trøndelag

Inferences presented not possible using 'classic' approach of sequencing one viral region - insufficient phylogenetic signal

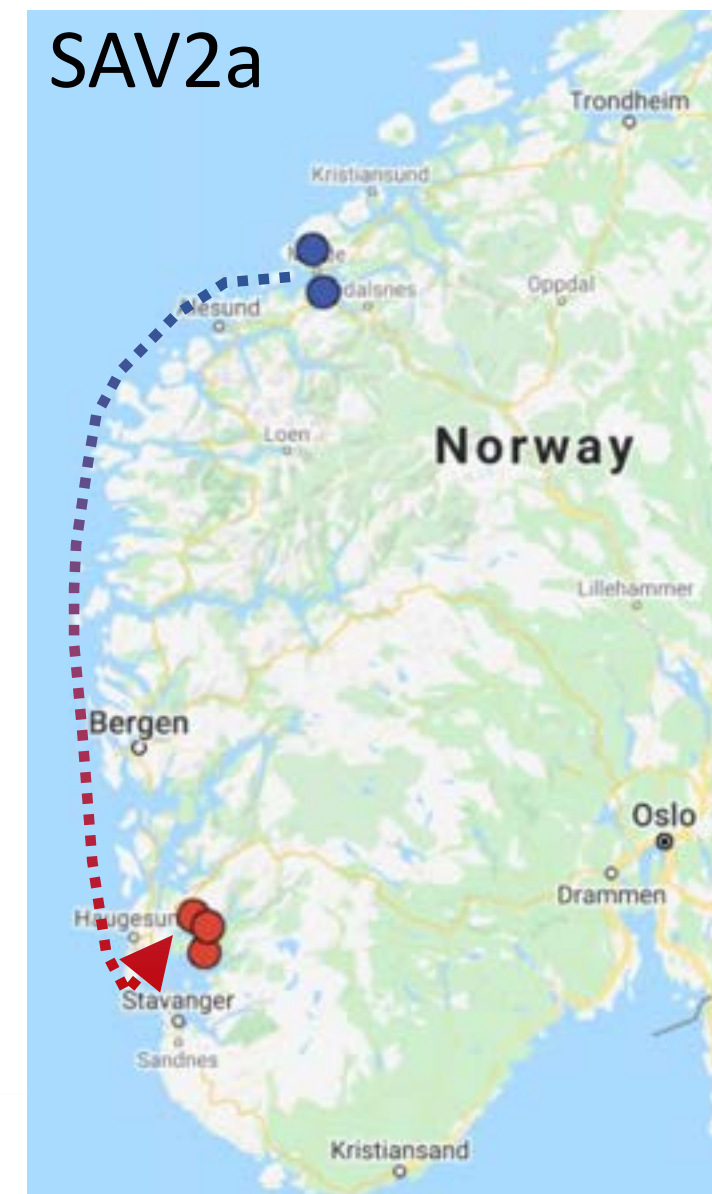


SAV2a transmission dynamics

Evidence for spread from
Hustad/Molde to
Rogaland



SAV2a

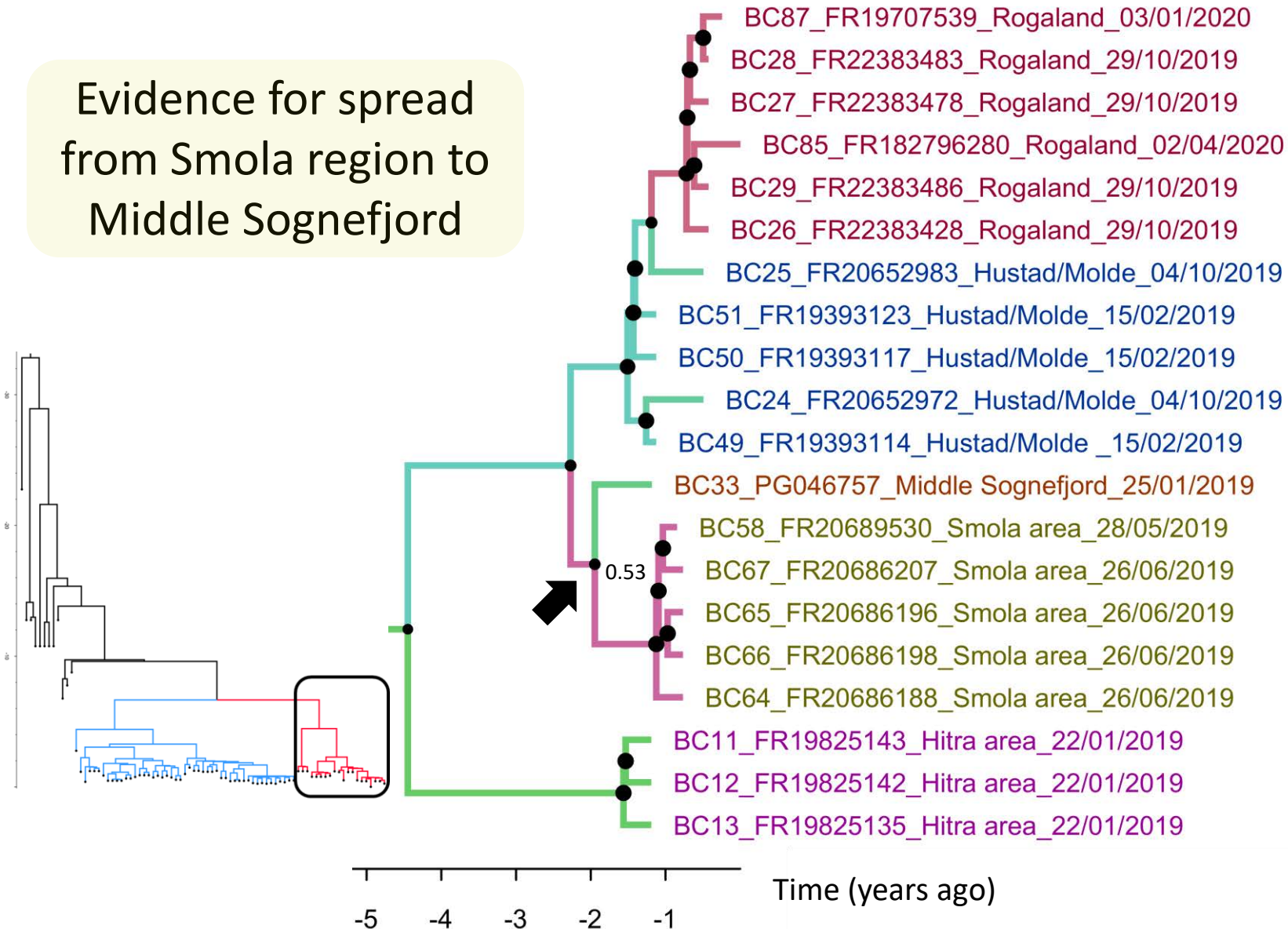


SAV2a transmission dynamics

PHARMAQ
part of zoetis

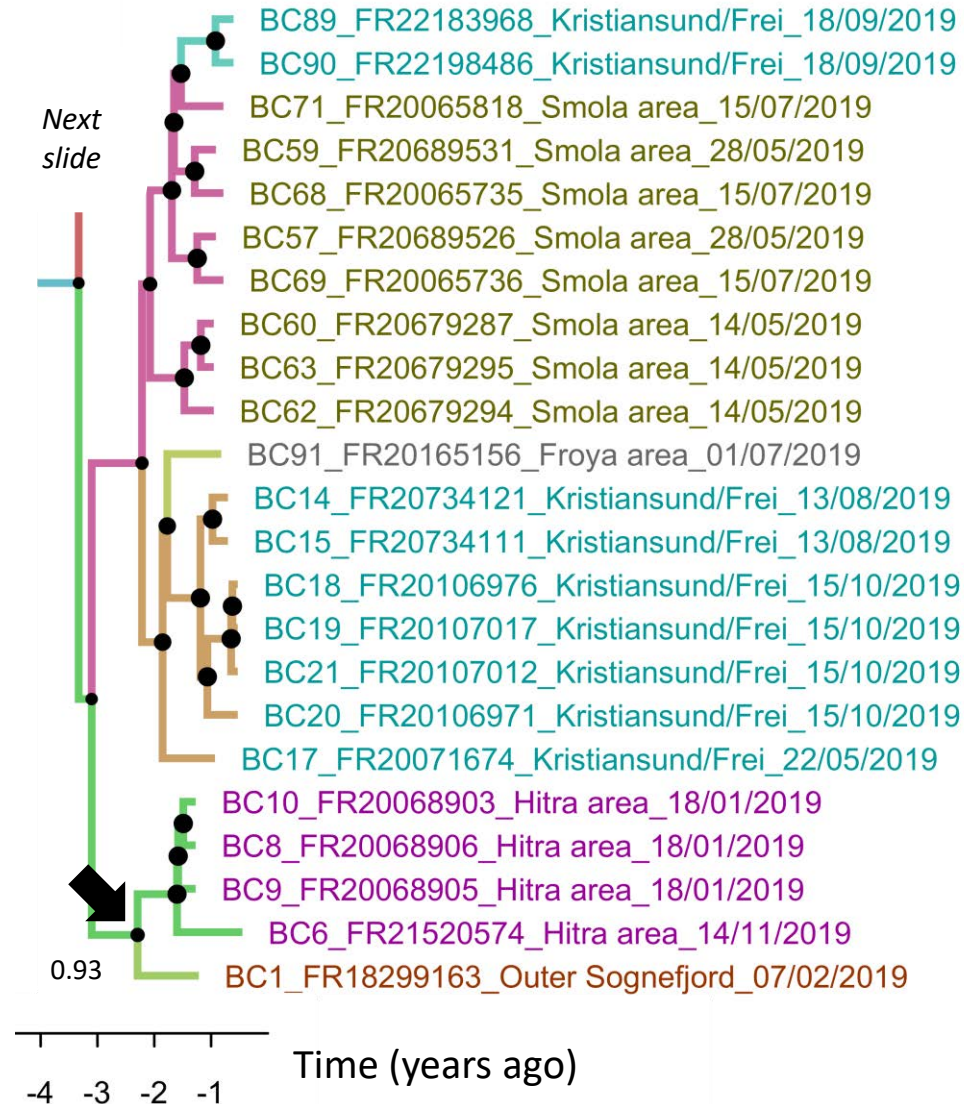
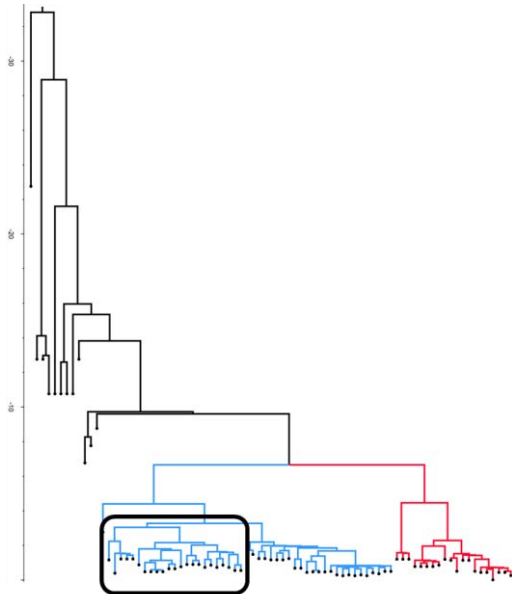
ROS LIN

Evidence for spread
from Smola region to
Middle Sognefjord



SAV2b transmission dynamics

Connection between
Hitra & Outer
Sognefjord



SAV2b

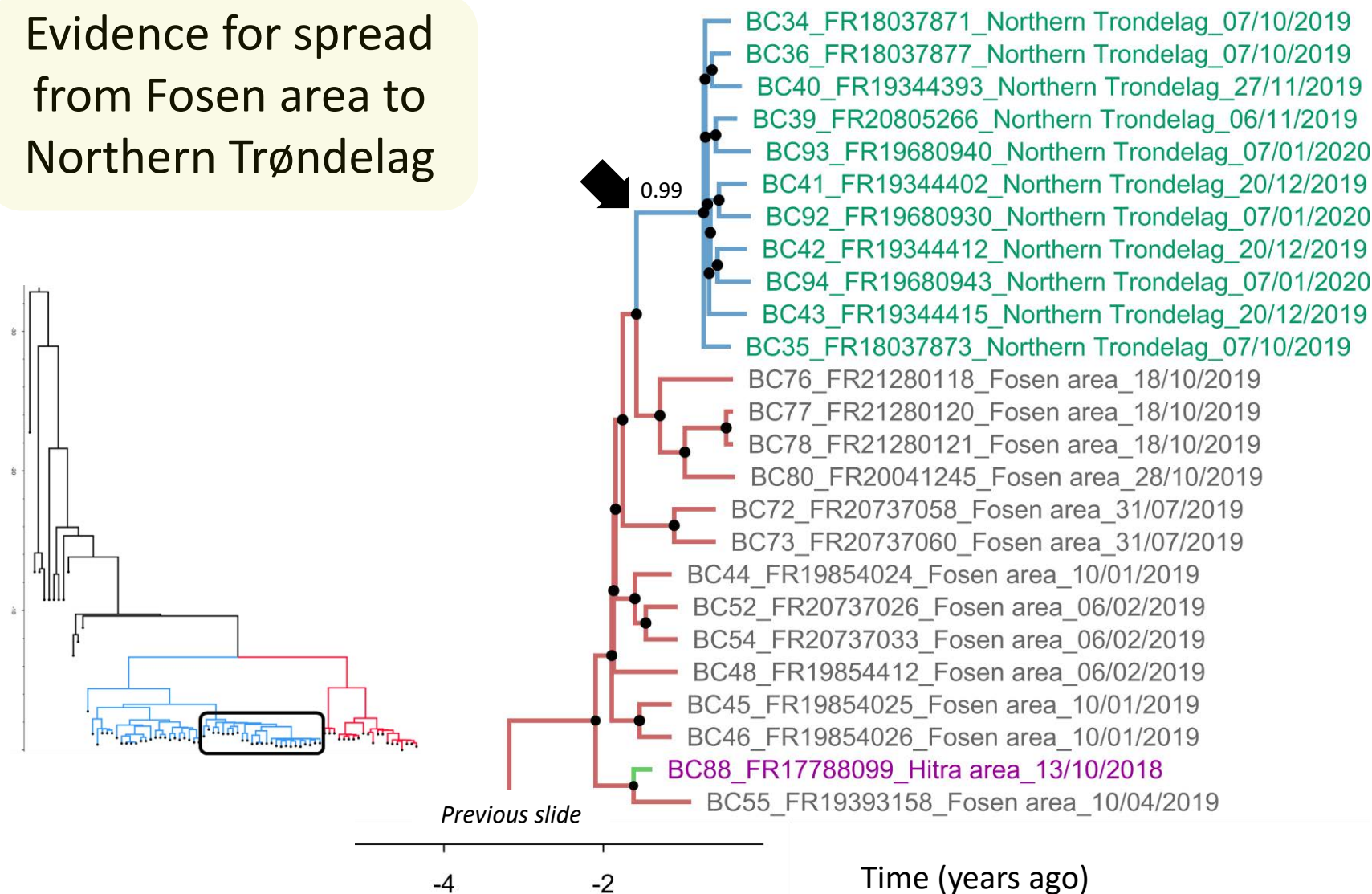


SAV2b transmission dynamics

PHARMAQ
part of zoetis

ROS LIN

Evidence for spread
from Fosen area to
Northern Trøndelag



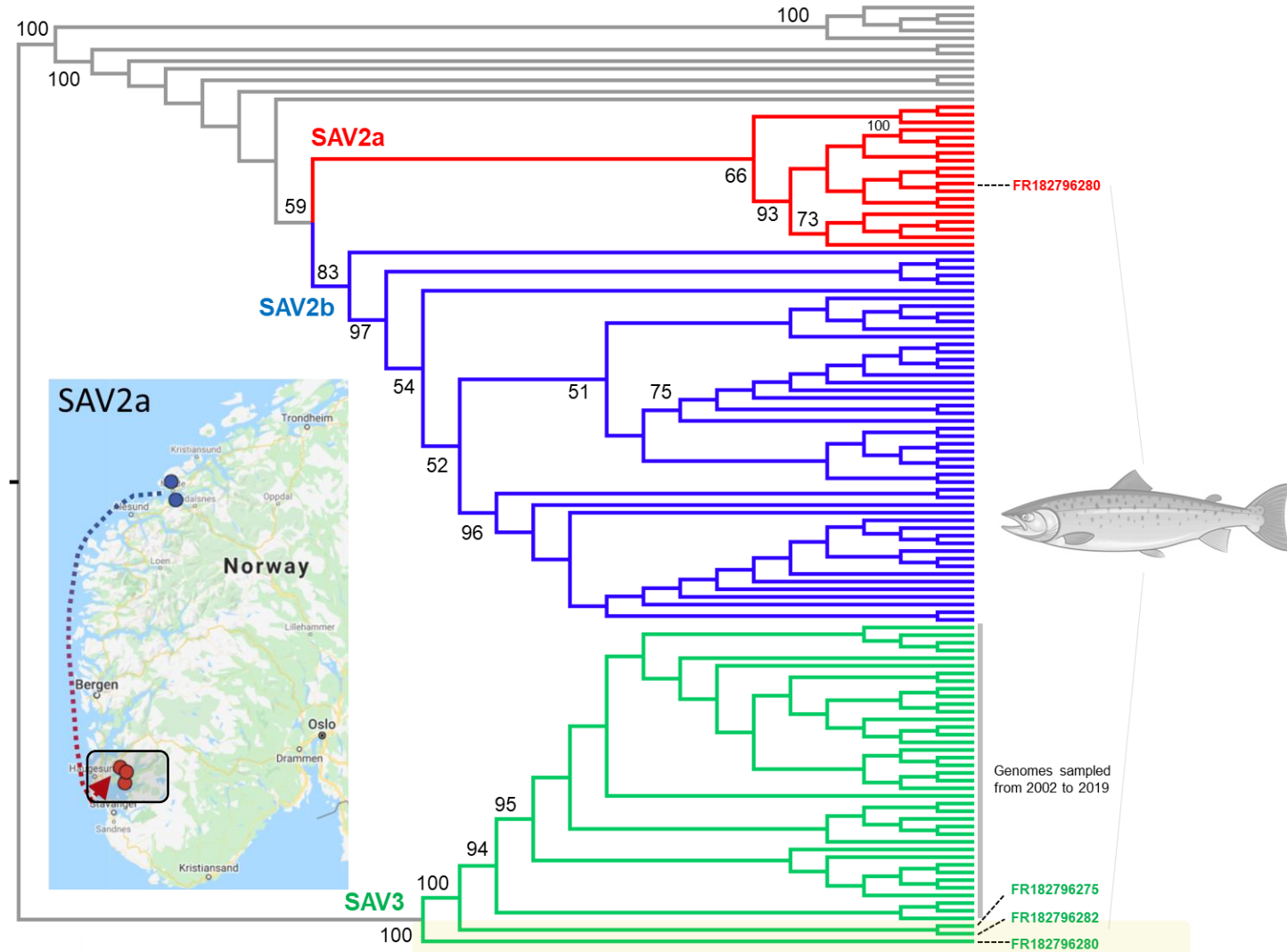
SAV2b



SAV2 and SAV3 co-infections

- Full genome for SAV2a & SAV3 from single samples in Rogaland
SAV2-SAV3 co-infections arise quickly when conditions allow
- Co-infections add complexity to diagnostics & disease transmission inferences

Uncharacterized 'ancient' SAV3 strains – much to learn, demanding more work



Take home messages



- Validation of viral pathogen genomic sequencing for epidemiological inferences – information above & beyond current best molecular surveillance efforts
- Anthropogenic routes of disease transmission can be accounted for in mitigation planning and regulatory actions
- Cost effective & fast – easily up-scaled and transferred to other viruses

Genomic surveillance covering all the major viral pathogens could readily become a routine pillar of aquaculture disease management

New projects on viral sequencing



PhD studentship – 2022-2026 **Cross-national genomic surveillance of viral pathogens to support disease control in Atlantic salmon aquaculture**
co-funded by Pharmaq & Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre

- Bertie Knight just started at Roslin Institute - Oct 2022

Developing high-throughput assays to sequence genomes of SAV, PRV and IPNV from 100s of field infections sampled from **Norway & UK**

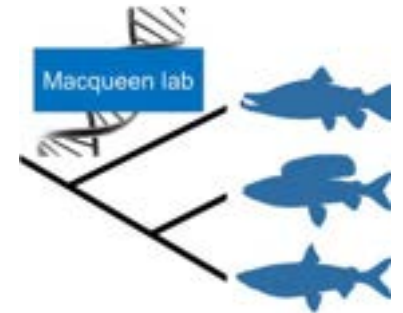
- Generate databases of genome sequences for each virus to catalogue genetic diversity and contemporary viral transmission pathways
- Aligned to live BBSRC project between Royal Veterinary College (Sarah Hill's group) with similar objectives for PMCV & ISAV
- **Please talk to us if interested or would like to be involved!**



Funding for SAV2 study: Pharmaq AS, Sinkaberg Hansen, Emilsen Fisk AS, Grieg Seafood ASA, Måsøval, Midt Norsk Havbruk, Osland Havbruk AS, Salmar



Colleagues contributed to work:
Dr Rose Ruiz Daniels, Mr Oliver Eve, Dr
Manu Kumar Gundappa



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