

More Evidence COVID Was Tinkered within a Lab? Now Scientists Find Virus Contains Tiny Chunk of DNA that Matches Sequence Patented by Moderna Three Years Before Pandemic Began

By [Connor Boyd](#)

Global Research, February 24, 2022

[Daily Mail Online](#) 23 February 2022

Region: [Europe](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Science and Medicine](#)

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Fresh suspicion that COVID may have been tinkered with in a lab emerged today after scientists found genetic material owned by [Moderna](#) in the virus’s spike protein.

They identified a tiny snippet of code that is identical to part of a gene patented by the vaccine maker three years before the pandemic.

(12) **United States Patent**
Bancel et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,587,003 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 7, 2017**

(54) **MODIFIED POLYNUCLEOTIDES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ONCOLOGY-RELATED PROTEINS AND PEPTIDES**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **15/015,684**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 4, 2016**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2016/0152678 A1 Jun. 2, 2016

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 14/106,988, filed on Dec. 16, 2013, now Pat. No. 9,301,993, which is a continuation of application No. PCT/US2013/030070, filed on Mar. 9, 2013.

(60) Provisional application No. 61/681,742, filed on Aug. 10, 2012, provisional application No. 61/737,224, filed on Dec. 14, 2012, provisional application No. 61/618,862, filed on Apr. 2, 2012, provisional

61/618,873, filed on Apr. 2, 2012, provisional application No. 61/681,650, filed on Aug. 10, 2012, provisional application No. 61/737,147, filed on Dec. 14, 2012, provisional application No. 61/618,878, filed on Apr. 2, 2012, provisional application No. 61/681,654, filed on Aug. 10, 2012, provisional application No. 61/737,152, filed on Dec. 14, 2012, provisional application No. 61/618,885, filed on Apr. 2, 2012, provisional application No. 61/681,658, filed on Aug. 10, 2012, provisional application No. 61/737,155, filed on Dec. 14, 2012, provisional application No. 61/618,896, filed on Apr. 2, 2012, provisional application No. 61/668,157, filed on Jul. 5, 2012, provisional application No. 61/681,661, filed on Aug. 10, 2012, provisional application No. 61/737,160, filed on Dec. 14, 2012, provisional application No. 61/618,911, filed on Apr. 2, 2012, provisional application No. 61/681,667, filed on Aug. 10, 2012, provisional application No. 61/737,168, filed on Dec. 14, 2012, provisional application No. 61/618,922, filed on Apr. 2, 2012, provisional application No. 61/681,675, filed on Aug. 10, 2012, provisional application No. 61/737,174, filed on Dec. 14, 2012, provisional application No. 61/618,935, filed on Apr. 2, 2012, provisional application No. 61/681,687, filed on Aug. 10, 2012, provisional

(Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**
C07K 14/535 (2006.01)
C07K 14/505 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **C07K 14/535** (2013.01); **C07K 14/505** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
None
See application file for complete search history.

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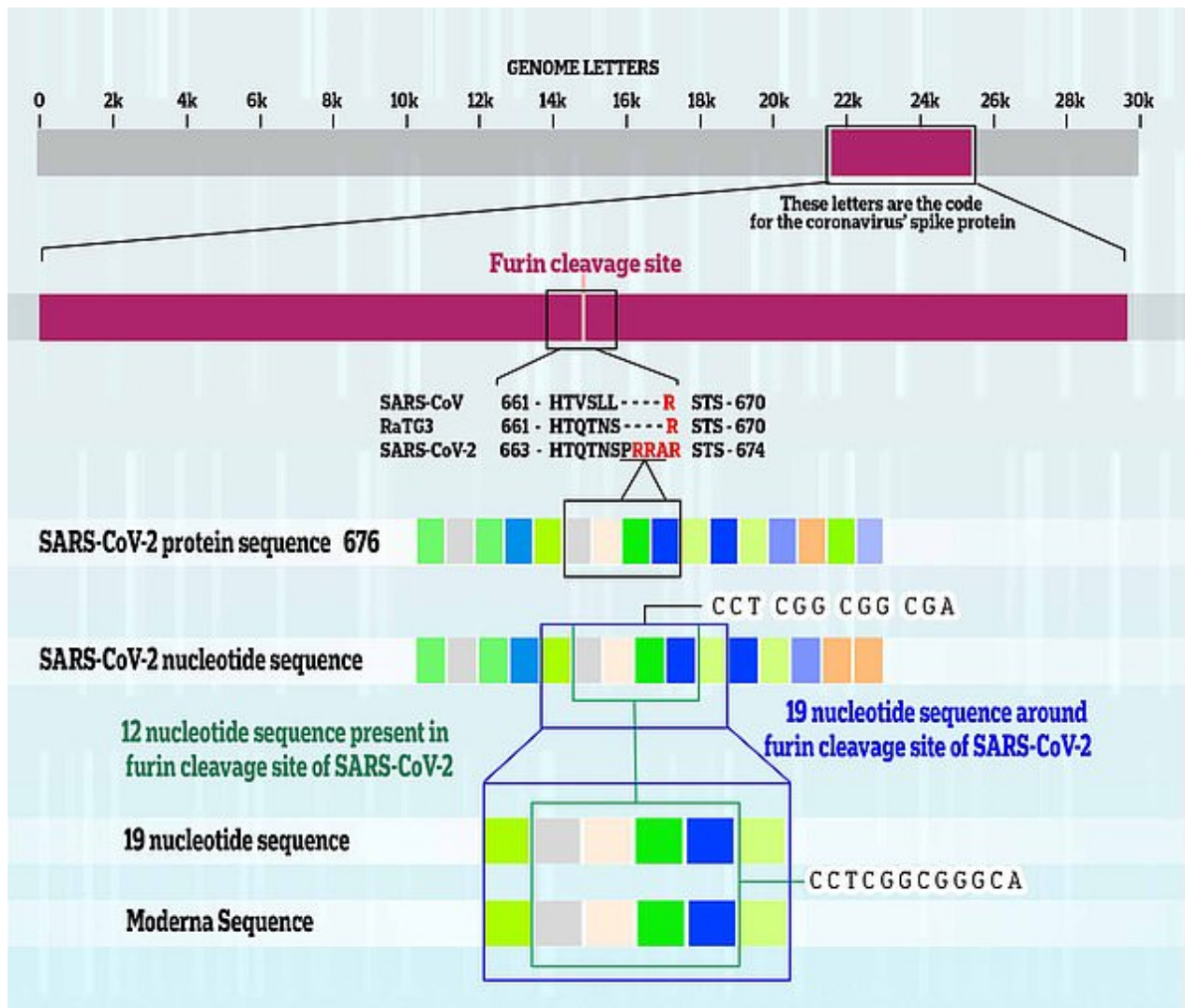
It was discovered in SARS-CoV-2's unique furin cleavage site, the part that makes it so good at infecting people and separates it from other coronaviruses.

The structure has been one of the focal points of debate about the virus's origin, with some scientists claiming it could not have been acquired naturally.

The international team of researchers suggest the virus may have mutated to have a furin cleavage site during experiments on human cells in a lab.

They claim there is a one-in-three-trillion chance Moderna's sequence randomly appeared through natural evolution.

But there is some debate about whether the match is as rare as the study claims, with other experts describing it as a 'quirky' coincidence rather than a 'smoking gun'.



SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid, carries all the information needed for it to spread in around 30,000 letters of genetic code, known as RNA. The virus shares a sequence of 19 specific letters with a genetic section owned by Moderna. Twelve of the shared letters make up the structure of Covid's furin cleavage site, with the rest being a match with nucleotides on a nearby part of the genome. Source: Daily Mail Online

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