Hierarchical search profiles with positive controls

It is difficult to monitor what you throw away as you develop your hierarchical search profile. Even if you remember to read a few abstracts as you go along (so that you discover that aminoisobutyric acid is often referred to only by its abbreviation AIB, for example) and add terms that are used in the field, you run he risk of missing important documents. A good solution is to include positive controls, i.e. a handful of documents which should survive all the way to the final answer set.
Please see Jesper's solutions in this light: they are positive controls in bigger answer sets and it is the bigger set that defines the corresponding territory in the patent landscape.

A 1998 PCT publication was indicated as the solution to Jesper Lau's exercise number 2. If we instead view it as the positive control, then it is included in the final set #3

Set	Hits	Search string
#1	1467	ts=("glucagon-like peptide-1" or GLP1 or GLP-1)
#2	>100,000	ts=(acyl* or ((lipophilic or fatty) same (derivat* or substitute* or coupl*)))
#3	176	#1 and #2

Relevance of that set of course depends on what you are looking for. If you want to know if Novo Nordisk is pursuing it still, just look at the first (newest) hits and see this:

US2016102129-A1; WO2016055610-A1; TW201629095-A
New glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist derivative used in pharmaceutical composition for treating disease e.g. obesity, hyperglycemia, impaired glucose tolerance, and type 1 diabetes, comprising specific amino acid sequence

Assignee: NOVO NORDISK AS

If it is the indication you are interested in then combine #3 with what is of interest to you, e.g.:

ts=(("type 2" or type-2 or type-II or "type II" same diabetes) or obesity)

(see that I have looked at abstract to pick up how people write "type 2")

That yields 148 hits within the 176 – a very high incidence of relevance.