

# FAANG Comparative Genomics Task Force Report

## Status & Plans

Although the Comparative Genomics Task Force is highly relevant to several ongoing pangenome and comparative genomics working groups, the TF has not been very active in recent years. The scientific importance of comparative genomics within FAANG remains clear; however, renewed leadership and coordination are needed to invigorate activities.

We would like the TF to remain active into early 2026, but this will require new members to take on more active coordination and organizational roles. If renewed engagement can be established, our view is that this TF should not sunset.

## Early 2026 Activities (Q1–Q2 2026)

At present, no specific goals, deliverables, or events are planned for early 2026. Future activities will depend on identifying additional members willing to coordinate and promote comparative genomics initiatives within FAANG.

## Web Presence

The Task Force webpage requires administrative updates. In particular, the mailing list for this TF was never fully organized and should be properly established and maintained to facilitate communication and community engagement.

## Coordination with Related Efforts

Several TF members are actively involved in major international comparative genomics initiatives, including EMBL-EBI comparative genomics resources, the Ruminant T2T consortium, the bovine pangenome project, the sheep pangenome project, and the long-read sequencing consortium, among others.

A key challenge is strengthening the connection between these active research communities and formal FAANG coordination mechanisms. Improved visibility and structured engagement within FAANG will be essential.

## New TF Needs & Emerging Gaps

Many researchers in the broader community are already advancing pangenome and comparative genomics efforts. However, integrating these activities under the FAANG framework remains a challenge. Identifying mechanisms to bring ongoing comparative genomics initiatives more formally into FAANG discussions should be a priority for broader PAG consideration.

## **Recommendation**

The Comparative Genomics TF remains scientifically relevant and strategically important. We recommend continuation rather than sunseting, contingent upon recruiting new active members to revitalize coordination and promote future activities.