

Minutes Steering Committee conference call 31 March 2015 APPROVED

**Minutes of 24 Feb 2015 meeting- discussion and approval (attached)**

**Announcements**

- COST action proposal was submitted by Alan et al. Good luck!

- Genome Biology Open Letter is published!!

<http://genomebiology.com/2015/16/1/57/>

**Reports from Standing Committee Chairs**

- Samples/Assays- first call held, experimental design and samples to be collected are being shared and assembled into one spreadsheet. A committee description was provided to Communications Committee as well as this committee (see end). They are discussing splitting plans into avian and mammalian groups to connect the samples at the biological level. Next call is April 29.
- Metadata- Laura is pulling together documentation as the first draft of standards. She has drafted a description of group function and this will be circulated for discussion asap.
- Data Analysis- no representative on call. Laura thought that Mick was working on the committee description.
- Communication- Chris:
  - a) specific websites are being planned for each subcommittee so they can explain their function and provide guidance for new members. See draft example below from Samples/Assays Committee; want to request a similar text from all committees that describes “who we are” and “what we do”. All committees agreed, and are working on this.
  - b) progress on Fall FAANG Workshop planning was summarized (see current plans, attached). Main need is for suggestions for speakers. Duncan Odom was suggested for second talk of October 8 (data analysis). Need for geographic diversity was recalled, as Odom is UK-based as is other speaker suggested (Pal Flicek). Paul was thought to be more integrative and Duncan more oriented toward beginning of the data collection process. **Committee was requested to provide suggestions asap.**
  - c) attendees of PAG Monday meeting available; will be put on website – we will invite to join FAANG anyone not already on lists. Zhiliang is working on this.
  - d) a framework for each committee to put up specific materials is ready; committees just need to submit their materials to Zhiliang (zhu@iastate.edu)

**Old Business**

**Follow-ups from Feb 24 call:**

1. Supporter/Contributor distinction- table for one more month to check if this is an issue- there are about 12 “supporters” currently.

2. Posting to committee emails by all members of FAANG – implemented.

3. Monthly newsletters?

Space for a monthly newsletter is simple—alternative is Webinars, which will take a lot of resources. *Any volunteers to provide content will be welcome.*

4. Coordination of joint efforts in funding. What is possible with respect to helping groups prepare joint projects or know what is being done or proposed? (Kijas, Burt)  
This was sent to the Communication Committee to develop a listing of proposals funded. This has not started. \*\*This Communication task should also go to Samples/Assays committee on this listing as it makes sense to list the experimental design and samples to be collected in these projects. Being coordinated.  
Additional efforts?

5. Fall 2015 Workshop- discussed above. Speaker invites are imminent. Grant proposals to support meeting costs are expected April/May 2015. Other possible support may come from USDA-ARS, from Iowa State, possibly Genome Canada. Alan suggested when Laura and Elisabetta talk to JC Cavitte on 27 April in Brussels, that he be asked if EC could support the meeting. Laura will take this on.

6. Data policy discussion

The group discussed how to describe this evolving project and how data would be shared. The following is a summary:

It was agreed that projects have to be designated as a FAANG project to be included in any analysis. If a project does not want to join the project, the data producers of course have that right but there would be not FAANG data available to them.

The raw data for all new projects should follow Toronto guidelines, that mandates All raw data will be submitted to the EBI or NCBI archives without any hold until publication data, being publicly available for the whole community on submission. Any existing datasets or project that wish to submit their data to FAANG for inclusion in FAANG analyses must have their data submitted to public archives as well, then they can be designated as a FAANG project. A useful way to so designate a new, existing or developing project is to submit the samples proposed (or already collected) to the Samples/Assays committee for inclusion in the overall listing of projects/samples.

Once a project is a FAANG project, the data could be combined with other data to gain additional insight. Analysis results that are not archived will be shared between FAANG members in a private dropbox hosted at the EBI. There will be metadata files in the private dropbox, which make credit for different datasets as clear as possible. To gain access to the dropbox, a requestor must be a member of FAANG (thus agreeing to abide by Toronto meeting principles on data sharing;

[http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v461/n7261/box/461168a\\_BX1.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v461/n7261/box/461168a_BX1.html)). It is

expected that the data producers will publish some initial global analysis of their data, and this might not involve any other datasets. If one FAANG member wishes to publish using data generated by another FAANG member they should first contact the data generator and clarify the member's publication strategy. Collaboration is for everyone's benefit and is strongly encouraged.

Between 2 and 4 times a year, FAANG will make official releases of data and move files associated with a data freeze from the private dropbox to the public FTP site. This data will be available to the whole community. All FAANG data is released under Fort Lauderdale principles. The FAANG website, data portal and FTP site will all have clear data reuse statements on them.

Thus to directly answer the questions of Lusheng Huang and Christine Couldrey, projects that cannot meet Toronto guidelines should not be designated FAANG, and cannot use unpublished\* FAANG data in analyses. It would benefit all if each group could design their work such that as much as possible could be included in FAANG projects.

## **New business**

NAS report concerns- Chris Tuggle discussed the fact that the only recommendation concerning animal genomics was a call to fund more sociological research on why transgenic products are not accepted by the community. The report is appended here; the recommendations are Chapter 6, pages 219-225.

The only recommendation that specifically involved animal breeding/genetics follows:

**Breeding and Genetic Technologies:** Further development and adoption of breeding technologies and genetics, which have been the major contributors to past increases in animal productivity, efficiency, product quality, environmental and economic advancements, are needed to meet future demand. **RECOMMENDATION 3-3:** **Research should be conducted to understand societal concerns regarding the adoption of these technologies and the most effective methods to respectfully engage and communicate with the public** (Section 3-3 in Chapter 3).

## **Reminders**

Future Steering Committee calls schedule:

*April 28th*

*21.00 GMT Chris will send Doodle to reschedule.*

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**DRAFT**

**Description of Samples/Assays Committee (S/A)**

The overall objective of the Samples/Assays Committee (S/A) is to achieve and share standardized protocols for adequate sample collection, long-term sample storage and sample processing prior to FAANG data generation.

To address this issue, S/A members will contribute their scientific expertise and share all relevant information (details on ongoing sample collections; protocols in use; troubleshooting; etc.) from their prior and ongoing experience.

The expected outcomes are:

- i) Foster potential collaborations and avoid redundancies/ optimize synergy in sample collection/assays carried out on a same tissue/species.
- ii) Produce datasets suitable for the work of the FAANG Analysis and Metadata Committees.
- iii) Contribute to the organized scientific dissemination to the whole community (FAANG Communication Committee).