

Agenda Steering Committee 30 June 2015

On the call: CTuggle, BHayes, EGiuffra, GPlastow, HCheng, JMacLeod, LClarke, MGroenen, SWhite, HZHou (AArchibald, G. Tossier, JSilverstein sent regrets)

Minutes of 26 May 2015 meeting-

ACTION: Approved pending small edits (see revised Minutes attached)

Announcements

- **USDA, NSF proposals submitted to fund GO-FAANG. Chris has also spoken with Illumina to request sponsorship. NSF informally was supportive of the proposal.**

Reports from Standing Committee Chairs

- *Animals/Samples/Assays Committee (see attached 25/06/2015 minutes – 2 files)*
Summary:

Using BioSamples for Samples, Experiments (and Analysis):

D. Richardson (EMBL-EBI) gave a presentation on BioSamples. ASA participants agreed that BioSamples is the tool of choice to organize the FAANG sample collection

ASA needs to provide inputs to BioSamples developers for defining the minimum requirements, suitable ontologies, reference databases, and example metadata for the FAANG collections. The organization for these tasks will be further defined during next ASA conference call.

The SampleAssay Table will be maintained and regularly updated to have summarized experiment design information. H. Zhou will produce a series of sub-tables summarizing the essential information of these datasets. This will be useful to define FAANG-specific ontologies, attributes etc. for BioSamples.

Tissues collection protocol:

We need to finalize the first set of protocols (transcriptome). All missing protocols for mRNAs and small RNAs should be sent before the next conference call to Elisabetta who will assemble and homogenize them. After revision and approval by ASA participants, these protocols will be uploaded on the ASA webpage for further exchanges with the community.

Start discussion on other protocols

A preliminary discussion focused on the use of cell lines in addition to tissues.. More discussion is needed on a (possible) common plan to use cell lines, possibly as a common reference across labs.

- **ASA is developing plans for a FAANG Sample collection description that will be turned into a manuscript for publication. A rough outline is in process; Elisabetta/Huaijun will send an email to Michele Tixier-Boichard to invite her to coordinate the organization of this manuscript in advance to the GO-FAANG meeting.**
- **The ASA committee wants to advertise to the larger FAANG community the workings of the ASA committee, so that scientists are aware of the data needs and formats as needed. The ComCom worked on this (see below)**

- Metadata and Data Sharing- Laura indicated the committee will have a call in July. EBI-NCBI BioSample is not mirrored currently- Tanya Barrat from NCBI Biosamples suggested this would be switched on over the summer. Horse RNAseq data and metadata was provide recently from Jamie MacLeod. Standards for metadata to include with sample data is available and was given to ASA committee. A ftp site is being set up for data sharing; hope to have this ready late July or early August.
- Bioinformatics and Data Analysis- no representative on the call
- Communication
 - Sign up sheet for member to self-elect memberships? We discussed an alternative to this; where tick boxes would be added to the sign-up sheet as well as to members home page; a ticked box would put the member onto that committee and send a notice to the Chair of the Committee. This was approved by Steering Committee. Chris will implement with Zhiliang.
 - We discussed additional ways to encourage membership through advertising the committees. First, it was agreed that a single email notice describing the committees will go out, encouraging FAANG members signing up. Chris will create that, using the Committee's statements. Then Committees will be encouraged to send out notices as they see fit to encourage involvement.
 - There is continued interest in simplifying joining FAANG; can it be done outside of Angenmap, which may be of low interest to some we want to participate in FAANG. Chris will talk to Zhiliang about a work-around.

Old Business

1. Monthly newsletters?

Any volunteers to provide content will be welcome.

Graham is willing to help. A suggestion was also to use a simple bulleted email update to Angenmap/FAANG.

2. 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)
(not started as of June 28... volunteers?)

No discussion on this point

3. Text drafted for Steering Committee Purpose- revised- for final review

No edits- approved- will be posted

4. Fall 2015 Workshop- update and request for help for small group meetings

- meeting *funding applications update-*

- *status of preregistrations, other planning ~82 registrants as of 30 June.*

- *policy discussion on application to attend- will add waiting list after the July 1 deadline.*

- *webcast discussion*

- **Proposal to Steering Committee: A plan to organize pre-meeting nuts and bolts session for Wednesday afternoon should be developed, to craft a "one-**

voice” approach to priorities, discussion points relevant to their committee purview. - Requested by email May 19 to all committee chairs... no responses thus far.

Discussion: this seems like a good idea; it depends on who actually will be attending. Organization needs to be done on “message” beforehand, especially as to how the breakout sessions are organized. Chris will send the email out again to selected individuals. This needs to be under way.

- (Lakshmi Matakumalli (USDA) provided me with some ideas about the breakout group meetings- see attached)

Discussion: posters may be another way to explain what FAANG and its committees are doing—“messaging”. We have space for 20, need to leave space for students/early career posters if NSF funding is available for such Fellowships. The format of the posters was discussed; potentially starting with a higher level Aim and then give a specific example of how Genome to Phenome is developing but needs more effort....the quality of the genome assembly across species was mentioned as a possibility as well...Carl Schmidt may want to do a poster on the RCN he is organizing.

5. Listing of papers to organize/structure efforts....

No discussion on this point

6. Sign up sheet for member to self-elect memberships?

Dealt with in ComCom report

New business

Zhiliang has sent out a notice to FAANG members that our data sharing and use policy has been finalized and since they signed up before that policy was final they should review it.

Reminders

Future Steering Committee calls: 5 August 2015 3 PM US Central Daylight time.