

Agenda Steering Committee 5 Aug 2015

On call: CKT, EG, LC, AA, BH, HC, HZ, JR, JM, GP, SW and Paul Flicek (guest)

Regrets: MW

Minutes of 30 June 2015 meeting- approved without discussion

Announcements

- Genome Biology paper had over 3,500 accesses through end of June 2015
- USDA, NSF proposals submitted to fund GO-FAANG have been funded, also Illumina sponsorship approved
- Genome Canada funding announcement- Graham provided some additional details: 2 projects funded involving a) dairy cattle (mostly Holstein), and b) pigs, to work on disease resilience. The beef proposal was not funded by GC, but there is some work being started anyway through Genome Alberta (?)
- Unfortunately the DCC was not funded by BBSRC; this was a major blow.
- Funding in Australia for a FAANG project was made by Ben; they have funds for collecting samples on 3 Holsteins and 2 fetuses for RNAseq and basic assays. After his announcement, there was some discussion regarding the current methods for sample processing for chromatin conformation studies. Elisabetta indicated there are methods to freeze samples but that the process must get to nuclei isolation and cross-linking.

Reports from Standing Committee Chairs

- Animals/Samples/Assays: June 25th was last call. New information; Michelle and Elisabetta will join the Metadata committee on Sept 10 to discuss entering samples sets into Biosample. Protocols have been written and are in discussion in the committee; to be approved in next two weeks. Plans to publish a paper on ASA works are continuing.
- Metadata and Data Sharing: The committee is making progress on standards. TH edata from Jamie M has been received, and they are working with these data. The next call of the committee is Aug 12.
- Bioinformatics and Data Analysis: The committee has decided to stick with the standard genome. Next month, at the next call the committee will talk with representatives of Ensembl ChipSeq group, to discuss algorithms and best sequencing depth. The four sub-groups of Data analysis have formed. RAN and Structural information has been put on the Wiki page.
- Communication
 - See attached minutes of 04 August ComCom meeting- especially GO-FAANG registration, future funding and meeting to discuss
 - Update on registration- early in Aug we have about 75 in total registered; about 55 paid and about 20 exempt. The exempt include speakers, staff and some agency representatives.
 - There was discussion on how to organize the Thursday afternoon sessions. Do we need to specify the funding needs? This would be difficult to do, given the breadth of species that may or may not be ready to do FAANG data collection and analysis. Alan suggested we need to focus on explaining why we need FAANG, and Ben suggested improvement of

genomic predictions would be a specific example, even for dairy that has high accuracy now using only SNP data. We need to build the argument to multiple funder “types”, emphasizing “genotype to phenotype” as was done in the GB paper.

- Some initial discussions have taken place to prepare a proposal to ISAG and ASAS/JAM for a FAANG-centric Joint Symposium. These two groups’ meetings overlap on July 23, 2016 in Salt Lake City. Clare Gill (ISAG 2016 organizer) suggested FAANG work on this. Chris, Alan, Jim, Laura, Geore Liu, Stephen, Elisabetta, Hans and others are working on this.

Old Business

1. Monthly newsletters?

Any volunteers to provide content will be welcome.

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)

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

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.

An email will be sent to Committee Chairs, to request they confirm committee will prepare poster. [Sent Aug 5; all agreed]

5. Listing of papers to organize/structure efforts... to Laura and Elisabetta for informational slides for FAANG presentations. They are already being used. Some of these were presented by Alan in his FAANG talk at the ISAFG meeting in Piacenza, Italy in July.

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

New business

7. From EG: We would like to add in the agenda of next call (Aug 4) a brief discussion to inform about actions for next FAANG funding in the EU. This could also be summarized for the Steering Committee call on Aug 5. I attach the minutes of the FAANG meeting we had at the end of April with the Commission (note that we could consider this document 'approved' only after the middle of June). As you see, there is no urgent scheduling required, but these and other very recent information on the infrastructure forthcoming call are important for the scheduling of the session with funding agencies (with or without EC officers attending).

** EG was not able to remain on the call for this due to her connection** We will revisit this at the next call.

Reminders

Future Steering Committee calls: Chris will send a Doodle out to schedule Sept-Dec calls.