

Minutes of FAANG Steering Committee call 08 Sept 2017 (9 AM CDT)

On call: CKTuggle, EGiuffra, AArchibald, PHarrison, CSchmidt, HCheng, GTosser-Klopp, BHayes

Regrets: GPlastow, JReecy, HZhou

Minutes from 06 June 2017 call- approved as sent out.

Announcements

An Australian group (Ben Hayes = lead CI, Emily Wong, Dave Burt) has applied for a FAANG-relevant grant to compare taurine and indicus breeds. They will learn about funding during October.

Reports from Standing Committee Chairs

- Animals/Samples/Assays:

ASA had a call in June with a focus on protocols, and a survey of their status. Questions were whether the protocol was standardized or not, as well as whether the protocol has been shared or not. The group assigned responsibilities to people to draft guidelines for protocols to improve standards. Currently, complete/nearly complete guidelines include: RNAseq, ATAC-seq, Hi-C, B+DNA methylation. ChiPseq is coming, as well as RNA isoforms, They will discuss progress on the October/November call. Goal is to develop SOP or list of SOPs for each task, as well as general guidelines.

No progress was evident on the Samples paper.

- Metadata and Data Sharing:

The metadata standards are now fairly static, so we have not required any meetings, continuing with standing arrangement that anyone can call for a meeting if required.

The data coordination centre has released a number of user interface improvements to the data portal (<http://data.faang.org/home>), to help with navigation, filtering and search of samples. We are now handling cell lines, cell cultures and pools of specimens in the data portal. Experiment data is now pulled into the portal and linked to its associated sample (e.g. <http://data.faang.org/specimen/SAMEA103886170>), we will shortly be releasing files and experiment interface tabs to the portal to make it easier for users to access and download all of the data files. We are also still working on finalising queries for importing legacy data.

The first draft of the “FAANG, establishing metadata standards, validation and best practice for the livestock community” paper is still being written, this will be opened to all members of the M&DS committee for comment when ready.

- Bioinformatics and Data Analysis:

No report

- Communication: call held 31 Aug2017
 - PAG FAANG 2018 is being developed
 - ISAG 2019- Organizers are interested in a strong FAANG presence
 - New subgroup in BDA (Integrative analysis/Network) set up on website
 - H2020 call has occurred; there were 10 applications, 5 selected to go to second round.
 - Website edits to homepage- made FAANG-Europe STSM calls more prominent.
 - Papers being written/developed:
 - Samples: final phase of writing? – Please see above.
 - Metadata/Data sharing: is this being organized? – Please see above.
 - AR Animal Biosciences review: being organized.
 - NRSP8 re-application is being finalized for further review and submission.

Old Business

1. Monthly newsletters? *Any volunteers to provide content will be welcome.*
2. Further discussion on working together to foment increased opportunities for FAANG-related projects H2020, FFAR, etc.

New business

1. Letters of Support Website – instruction (draft provided with agenda)
There was little discussion; the website will be revised to reflect these directions. At the same time, there was some discussion on various suggested edits to the Front page. Chris will make these changes with Zhiliang.
2. Email from Carl Schmidt on Genome Editing
Carl described a NSF call for testing genome function through genome editing; there is a NSF call in this area \$5 million/year for up to 5 years. There is interest in Delaware to put in a grant proposal in this area, especially in the area of pharmaceuticals. Carl is suggesting that FAANG be proactive in expanding into the genome editing area, and there was general agreement this was a good idea.

Future Steering Committee calls

October 26 9 AM US Central
December 8 9 AM US Central