



# Aquaculture Genomics Newsletter

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\*\*\*\*\***Washington Funding update:** Animal Genome Reagent & Tool Development Program: As reported last issue, Dr. Anna Palmisano, Deputy CSREES Administrator for Competitive Programs, responded to concerns expressed over the possible termination of the CSREES Animal Genome Reagent & Tool Development Program. At her invitation and with input from NRSP-8 members, the Species Coordinators submitted a justification for continuing this program with updated goals. Dr. Palmisano responded positively: "Many thanks for your detailed response to our request for input regarding the future of the NRI 43.1 Animal Genome Reagent and Tool Development competitive grants program. The program will continue to be offered (contingent upon the availability of funding). You will note, however, that the program description will be redesigned and refocused beginning with the FY 2006 NRI Request for Applications (RFA). ...We realize that our understanding of the various animal genomes is at a different level for each species. During the next six months, we would like to encourage each NRSP-8 Species Coordinator to work with the members of the species subcommittee to identify the top three priorities for genome reagents and tools for that species."

\*\*\*\*\***NRSP-8 National Committee identified priorities for the Animal Genome Tools and Reagents Program:** On July 13, the NRSP-8 National committee submitted a white paper to USDA concerning new priorities for the Animal Genome Tools and Reagents Program. The letter is placed in Aquaculture Genomics website, please visit <http://www.animalgenome.org/aquaculture/updates/NRSP8/TRPriorities.pdf>

\*\*\*\*\***Dr. Anna Palmisano, Deputy Administrator of the USDA Competitive Programs acknowledged the input from NRSP-8 National Committee concerning the priorities of the Animal Genome, Tools and Reagents Program:** In an e-mail to NRSP-8 Committee, Dr. Palmisano wrote: "Thank you for your follow-up letter of July 13 in response to our request to identify the species-based priority areas for the National Research Initiative Program 43.1, Animal Genome Reagents and Tool Development. I was pleased to see that the NRSP-8 species coordinators have identified their priorities for resources both for species which have their genome sequenced and for those which lack genome sequences.

As stated in my February 25th letter, we are in the process of focusing our animal genome programs to advance our understanding of agriculturally important animals and aquatic species, and to ensure that limited resources have the maximal impact on CSREES's mission and goals. Your input is essential to this process.

The top priorities stated in your letter represent a clear focus for future research and funding consideration. We sincerely appreciate and value this input, and we look forward to continued interaction in the future."

\*\*\*\*\***Aquaculture Projects selected by the Joint Genome Institute (JGI) of the DOE:**  
Under its Community Sequencing Program, JGI has selected projects from aquaculture sector including sequencing a large number of catfish ESTs and sequencing proportions of several related Cichlid fish. For details, please visit JGI's website  
<http://www.jgi.doe.gov/sequencing/cspseqplans2006.html>.

\*\*\*\*\***Aquaculture Genomics Annual Workshop:** Along with International Plant and Animal Genome Conference PAG XIV to be held in San Diego January 14-18, 2006, Aquaculture Genomics will have its annual Workshop on January 14-15, 2006. This year's Workshop Organizer is Dr. Caird Rexroad. If you have any suggestions or questions concerning the Workshop, please contact Dr. Rexroad ([CRexroad@nccwa.ars.usda.gov](mailto:CRexroad@nccwa.ars.usda.gov)). The deadline for submission of an abstract is October 7, 2005. For more information, please visit PAG at <http://www.intl-pag.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\***Aquaculture Genomics Travel Award Application:** Along with International Plant and Animal Genome Conference to be held in San Diego January 14-18, 2006, Aquaculture Genomics will have its annual Workshop on January 14-15, 2006. In order to encourage the participation of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, travel award will be made available for students and postdoctoral fellows presenting papers with high merit. For application procedures, please visit <http://www.animalgenome.org/aquaculture/community/bbs.html>. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Caird Rexroad at [CRexroad@nccwa.ars.usda.gov](mailto:CRexroad@nccwa.ars.usda.gov).

\*\*\*\*\***Progress in Tilapia Genome Research:** Several normalized cDNA libraries have been constructed from tilapia, and will be available from <http://hcgs.unh.edu/bac/>. A new genetic map of tilapia has been published. The work was published: Lee BY, Lee WJ, Streelman JT, Carleton KL, Howe AE, Hulata G, Slettan A, Stern JE, Terai Y, Kocher TD. A second-generation genetic linkage map of tilapia (*Oreochromis* spp.). *Genetics*. 2005 May;170(1):237-44. <http://www.genetics.org/cgi/content/full/170/1/237>. A physical map of the tilapia genome has been published. It is based on the restriction fingerprints of 35,000 BAC clones (5x coverage). Katagiri T, Kidd C, Tomasino E, Davis JT, Wishon C, Stern JE, Carleton KL, Howe AE, Kocher TD. A BAC-based physical map of the Nile tilapia genome. *BMC Genomics*. 2005 Jun 9;6(1):89. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2164/6/89>. Thomas Kocher's group will shortly have gBrowse running on his www site, displaying the relationship between the Tetraodon genome and various collections of EST data for fish species. Check out the other comparative genomic resources on tilapia www site: <http://hcgs.unh.edu/>

\*\*\*\*\* **BAC libraries for several fish species are available from the Hubbard Center for Genome Studies.** See <http://hcgs.unh.edu/bac/> for information on ordering BAC resources for *Oreochromis niloticus* (Tilapia), *Metriaclima zebra* (Malawi cichlid), *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Rainbow trout), and *Astyanax mexicanus* (Blind cavefish).

\*\*\*\*\* **If you have any items to share** with the Aquaculture Genome research community, please send your items to John Liu ([zliu@acesag.auburn.edu](mailto:zliu@acesag.auburn.edu)).