



- ❖ **Dr. Caird Rexroad serves as the ARS National Program Leader for Aquaculture:** Dr. Caird Rexroad III, formerly Research Leader and Center Director, at the USDA-ARS National Center for Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture (NCCCWA), has taken his new responsibility as the National Program Leader for Aquaculture.
- ❖ **Aquaculture Genomics Travel Awardees Selected:** The Aquaculture Genomics Workshop will be held on January 9-13, 2016 as a part of the International Plant & Animal Genome XXIV meeting (www.intlpaq.org) in San Diego, CA, USA. In order to bring graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to the conference, the NRSP-8 Aquaculture Coordinators have continuously committed funds to support its travel awards. This year, five awardees were selected from the applications. The awardees were selected by a committee from the applications. The winners of this year's travel awards are:

NAME	Title	Institution
Breno O. Fragomeni	Weighted ssGBLUP Improves Genomic Selection Accuracy for Survival in a Rainbow Trout Population	University of Georgia
Rafet Al-Tobasei	Allelic-imbalance analysis in pooled RNA-Seq samples identifies muscle-associated genetic markers in Rainbow trout: Improved bioinformatics practices	Middle Tennessee State University
Xiaozhu Wang	A genome-wide association study for low oxygen tolerance in catfish using the 250K SNP array	Auburn University
Bam Paneru	Role of long non-coding RNAs in bacterial cold water disease pathogenesis in rainbow trout	Middle Tennessee State University
Hsinyuan Tsai	Genomic prediction of host resistance to sea lice (<i>L. salmonis</i>) in Atlantic salmon (<i>S. salar</i>)	The Roslin Institute and University of Edinburgh

Congratulations to these students and postdoctoral fellows.

- ❖ **The Aquaculture Genomics Workshop:** The Aquaculture Genomics Workshop will take place at PAG in San Diego on Saturday, January 9, 2016, Town & Country, CA. This workshop will cover current research advances on development of molecular and genomics tools for aquaculture species, including application of GWAS, genomic selection, genome editing and GMO in aquaculture. Invited speakers will include Dr. Wenbiao Chen (Vanderbilt University School of Medicine), Dr. John Buchanan (Center for Aquaculture Technologies), Dr. Yann Guiguen (INRA-SCRIBE, Rennes, France), and Dr. John A.H. Benzie (WorldFish, Malaysia). In addition, 15 speakers for a full-day workshop have been chosen by a committee from the abstracts submitted to PAG. Additionally, 20 posters will be

presented during the aquaculture reception. If you have any question, contact the Aquaculture Workshop Chair, Dr. Mohamed (Moh) Salem Mohamed.salem@mtsu.edu.

- ❖ **Annual Report due to Species Coordinators:** It is that time of year again, we need to submit our annual report in advance of the PAG meeting. There are two reports- one is the Workshop report assembled this coming year by Dr. Nathan Campbell; the other is the annual report. Once again for the annual report our strategy will be to assemble individual species reports that will combine into an aquaculture report, which is eventually combined into the project report. Unfortunately space is limited, therefore we can really only fit a short paragraph (2-3) sentences for each group under each objective (below). Please send your report to your species coordinators: Catfish: Dr. Sylvie Quiniou (Sylvie.Quiniou@ars.usda.gov); Salmonids: Dr. Palti, Yniv (Yniv.Palti@ars.usda.gov); Striped bass: Dr. Craig Sullivan (aquagyn.nc@gmail.com); Oyster: Dr. Dina Proestou (Dina.Proestou@ars.usda.gov); For all other species, send your report to Dr. Caird Rexroad (Caird.RexroadIII@ars.usda.gov). Please send in your report before January 5, 2015, to cover the following objectives:

Objective 1: Advance the status of reference genomes for all species, including basic annotation of worldwide genetic variation, by broad sequencing among different lines and breeds of animals.

Objective 2: Develop strategies to identify and exploit genes and allelic variation that contribute to economically relevant phenotypes and traits, in part through improving functional annotation of the genomes of our species.

Objective 3: Facilitate analysis, curation, storage, distribution and application of the enormous datasets now being generated by next-generation sequencing and related "omics" technologies with regard to animal species of agricultural interest.

Species coordinators please send in your reports by January 5th to Dr. Caird Rexroad so he can assemble the full Aquaculture report.

- ❖ **Planning for future aquaculture research workshop under way:** Planning for a workshop to discuss future aquaculture research is under way. Under the guidance of NIFA, a small committee started its work for the planning of a workshop to be held in Auburn, Alabama in April 2016. If you have suggestions on future research directions of aquaculture in the US, please send your comments to Dr. John Liu (liuzhan@auburn.edu).

Happy New Year to all the colleagues!

