



Pig Genome Update

No. 67 July 1, 2004

Swine Genome Sequencing Consortium continues to try to reach its goal. Efforts are progressing to advance the sequencing of the pig genome. The most recent meeting for the pig sequencing project was held at Sanger Institute (Cambridge, UK), June 28th 2004. This meeting was mainly devoted to establishing a sound base for the sequencing effort - integration of the physical maps, fingerprints and BES and to the definition of a BAC tilling path. The Consortium consider that the pig is very well placed for an extremely efficient sequencing effort using the "hybrid" approach and emphasis can be placed on ensuring valuable intermediate outputs throughout the project. This provided the basis for an encouraging discussion of fund raising. The next meeting will be held during ISAG meeting (Tokyo, Japan) September 2004. It is planned that the ISAG meeting will focus on the sequencing strategy. We need to continue to work towards finalizing a funding plan before October 1, 2004. Interested parties are encouraged to participate in the future. **If you can help in raising these funds please contact Larry Schook at UIUC or Max Rothschild, at ISU** (kindly provided by Graham Plastow).

New array materials likely to become available in the near future. There have been a number of requests for arrays from NRSP8 members and others both inside and outside the United States. To meet this demand we are considering buying a set of oligos and selling slides on \$60-\$65 cost per slide with minimum orders of 25 required and maximum orders of 150 slides. This would be available to both NRSP8 members and others both inside and outside the US. Slide orders would be on a first come first serve basis. **If you are interested please immediately contact Max Rothschild at mfrothsc@iastate.edu.**

International sequencing consortium launches online resource. The International Sequencing Consortium (ISC) has launched a free, online resource where scientists and the public can get the latest information on the status of sequencing projects for animal, plant and other eukaryotic genomes. The new resource can be accessed through ISC's home page, <http://www.intlgenome.org>. The database enables users to quickly sort sequencing project information by organism, by sequencing group or by funding agency. Information about each sequencing project includes timetables for completion, along with brief descriptions of sequencing strategies being employed. In many cases, the database also features links to the individual sequencing projects' Web sites and the sites of their funding agencies, such as NHGRI. Also available are links to other publicly run databases where the actual DNA sequence data is deposited.

The new CSREES web site is up and running. For this page to be effective it is important that it be kept "current". Please send any events or topic information to Dr. Muquarrab Qureshi USDA-CSREES MQureshi@CSREES.USDA.GOV. You may want to post notices such as meetings or conferences, as long as they are related to this webpage. You can access the web and the page as follows: www.csrees.usda.gov and then going to the section on Animals and Animal Products and looking for the programs on Animal Breeding and Genetics and Genomics.

A new funding opportunity within the USDA-CSREES National Research Initiative (NRI) grants program now exists. The program is 66.0 Enhancing the Prosperity of Small Farms and Rural Agricultural Communities (www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fonum=1200). Proposals must be received by October 5, 2004. Integrated research, education, and extension project awards for this program are expected to have a total budget (including indirect costs) of no more than \$500,000 for 2-4 years of support. Questions regarding the suitability of proposals should be directed to Dr. Siva Sureshwaran (ssureshwaran@csrees.usda.gov) or Dr. Diana Jerkins (djerkins@csrees.usda.gov).

A bioinformatics update from the Bioinformatics Coordinator. For the past six months, efforts have been involved in two main projects related to pigs 1) design and creation of a QTL database for pigs, and 2) development of a bioinformatic tool for primer design. The QTL database is being developed and implemented in collaboration with NCBI. A preliminary implementation of the database can be found at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/LocusLink/list.cgi>. Simply query 'QTL and Sus Scrofa' for entire list of QTLs. The primer design tool has been designed and implemented with a perl CGI driven program. This tool is currently in beta testing and should be released for public use shortly. In addition, work to develop a database that researchers can obtain all livestock DNA sequences without having to query NCBI is underway. This tool is in the development stage and should be available to the community shortly. Please contact jreecy@iastate.edu with any suggested projects or bioinformatic needs.

Upcoming meetings (see: <http://www.genome.iastate.edu/community/meetings.html>)

The 16th European Colloquium on Animal Cytogenetics and Gene Mapping will be held at the Jouy-en-Josas research center of the INRA July 6 - 8. Please see: <http://www.inra.fr/16ecacgm>

American Society of Animal Science- American dairy Science –Poultry Science Association joint Meeting, July 25-29, 2004, St. Louis, MO. For details please see <http://www.fass.org/2004/>.

ISAG 2004, 29th International Conference on Animal Genetics, Sept. 11-16, 2004, Surugadai Campus, Meiji University, Tokyo, Japan. For more information see <http://www2.kobe-u.ac.jp/~isag2004/>

Genome Informatics, sponsored by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and the Wellcome Trust, September 22-26 in Hinxton Hall, Hinxton, UK. For information please contact meetings@csHL.edu.

GSAC XVI, sponsored by The Institute for Genome Research, Sept. 27-30, 2004, Washington, DC. See www.tigr.org/conf/gsac for more information.

GO Users Meeting will be held at Northwestern University, Chicago, October 14, 2004. For more details contact r-chisholm@northwestern.edu.

Computational Genomics sponsored by TIGR will be in Reston, VA, October 21-24. For details contact registration@tigr.org.

Ninth DISCOVER Conference on Food Animal Agriculture. "Protecting and Managing Animal Genetic Resources for Future Generations: The Next Steps", Nov. 2-5, 2004, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Please see www.adsa.org/discover/ for further information.

Bioinformatics and its Applications in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on December 16-19, 2004. For details please contact hem@nsu.nova.edu

Plant, Animal and Microbial Genome XIII, joint with the NAGRP annual meetings, Jan. 15-19, 2005, Town & Country Convention Center, San Diego, CA. Please see www.intl-pag.org/ for information.

Additional items can be found at: <http://www.agbiotechnet.com/calendar/index.asp>.

Items for *Pig Genome Update 68* can be sent to me by no later than August 15 please.

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cc: Muquarrab A. Qureshi, CSREES and Caird Rexroad II, ARS

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