



POULTRY GENOME NEWSLETTER 2010

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Poultry Genome Newsletters are distributed through the Angenmap Discussion Group and are archived at <http://poultry.mph.msu.edu/newsltrs/newsltrs.htm>.



Afternoon aquaculture workshop organized by Bill Muir, Jan. 12

PAG XVIII & NAGRP/NC-1170 Meeting Report

PAG-XVIII and the NRSP-8/NC-1170 meetings just finished in San Diego. Highlights of NC-1170 included the announcement of completion of the turkey genome sequence (**Rami Dalloul, Julie Long, Kent Reed** et al.), several discussions relating to large scale SNP genotyping, descriptions of new bioinformatics resources (see below) and a guest talk by **Morris Soller**. The meeting was organized by out-going chairs, **Huanmin Zhang** and **Eric Wong**. **Sue Lamont** was elevated from secretary to chair of NC-1170, and **Huaijun Zhou** was likewise for NRSP8 poultry. **Doug Rhoads** takes over as secretary for NC-1170 and **Carl Schmidt** for NRSP8 poultry. PAG XVIII plenary speakers included **Eric Schadt, Peter Raven, Howard Jacob, Evan Eichler, Joanne Chory, Robb Fraley** and **Vicki Chandler**. Speaking at the NRSP8

Animal Genome Workshop were **Randy Prather, Noelle Cockett, James MacLeod, and Larisa Rudenko**. **Chris Bidwell** is the new chair of NRSP-8 with **Geoff Waldbieser** becoming secretary. This year's recipient of the poultry **Neal Jorgensen Travel Award** was **Sarah Beth Redmond** who, with her mentor **Sue Lamont**, presented a poster on SNP associations in two advanced intercross lines examined for growth phenotypes. Next year's **NRSP-8/NC-1008 Poultry Workshop** will begin the morning of **Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011** wrapping up at mid-day on Sunday. **PAG-XIX** will be Jan. 15-19, 2010 at the usual location. Please send any suggestions for next year's speakers asap to Hans Cheng, hcheng@msu.edu.



Sue Lamont reacts to being selected as chairperson of NC-1170

AVIAN BIOINFORMATICS: LIMITED-TIME OFFER

Short-term, trial funding for the establishment of **Birdbase**, a model organism database (MOD) for Aves, has been obtained by **Parker Antin, Carl Schmidt and Shane Burgess**. Birdbase is a central Internet repository of useful information about avian genes, genomes, and gene expression and function. Go to <http://birdbase.arizona.edu> now and try it out, and **please take a minute to fill in their on-line survey**. This will increase the chance that we continue to have options like this available to us.

While you're online, go to the new **Agbase** homepage at <http://www.agbase.msstate.edu/> and search for information about the genes or proteins that are of most interest to you. Also, the **Gallus Genome Gbrowse** at <http://birdbase.net/cgi-bin/gbrowse/gallus/> has been updated. Note that you can customize this with the data source (chicken, turkey, MHC) and tracks that you want. Finally, try out **GallusReactome** - a curated knowledgebase of Gallus gallus biological pathways at <http://gallus.reactome.org/>, and contribute your knowledge on pathways that fit your expertise. Thanks go to **Shane Burgess, Fiona McCarthy, Carl Schmidt and Peter D'Eustachio** for their work developing and maintaining these resources.

WASHINGTON UPDATE: NOT SUCH GOOD NEWS FOR ANIMAL GENOMICS

As noted last issue, USDA-CSREES is now the **National Institute for Food & Agriculture (NIFA, <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/>)**, with **Dr. Roger Beachy** as the new Director. **Last year's USDA appropriations bill provided substantial increases to funding for USDA-ARS (up 6.3%) and NIFA (up 12.2%) with the AFRI component of NIFA being increased by \$61 million to \$262M.**

Unfortunately, it appears that the AFRI program will be restructured in a way that will reduce funding for independent, investigator-initiated research in animal agriculture, including animal genomics. Although the RFA likely will not appear until March, an initial description is available at http://www.nifa.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2010news/01062_afri.html. As noted therein, "AFRI will support interdisciplinary, multi-functional projects in five "societal challenge" areas to achieve significant and measurable outcomes and achieving goals. The five goals include: 1. Keep American agriculture competitive while ending world hunger, 2. Improve nutrition and end child obesity, 3. Improve food safety for all Americans, 4. Secure America's energy future through renewable biofuels, and 5. Mitigate and adapt agriculture to variations in climate." Animal genomics research hopefully will be relevant at least to goals 1. and 3. Note also that "Grants in 2010 will be larger in size with funding up to \$25 million and longer in duration with five year grants awarded that are eligible, in some cases, for renewal upon achieving specific goals." For this reason, it is expected that **only a few grants will actually be awarded with major animal genome components** (a major concern in keeping the relatively small agricultural animal genome community thriving). **No single investigator awards will be made.** AFRI hopes to move towards the NIH model of funding only the first year of multi-year awards from its current approved budget with subsequent years of funding depending on adequate scientific progress. While this will allow for greater impact to be derived from the current year's awards, if AFRI does not receive its hoped-for budget increases in upcoming years, it will not have funds to support many, if any, new awards in 2011-2013. Finally, note that "up to \$5 million in funding opportunities for pre- and postdoctoral fellowship grants will be offered." **At this point it is difficult to predict, but one estimate is that total funding directed towards animals may go down from \$50 million in FY 2009 to \$10-20M in FY 2010.**

ON THE ROAD AGAIN. UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Updated meeting info. is also available at http://www.animalgenome.org/share/mtg_chic.html.

Animal Genomics for Animal Health International Symposium (AGAH-2010), May 31- June 2, 2010, "Maison de la Chimie", Paris, France. See <https://colloque.inra.fr/agah2010>

SMBE 2010, Annual Meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution, July 4-8, 2010, Lyon, France. See <http://smbe2010.univ-lyon1.fr>

Poultry Science Association Meeting (joint with ASAS and ADSA), July 11-15, 2010, Denver, CO. See <http://www.adsa.asas.org/meetings/2010/> for more info.

32nd Conference of the International Society for Animal Genetics, July 26-30, 2010, Edinburgh, Scotland. See www.isag2010.org for info and to register.

The 9th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP), Aug. 1-6, 2010, Leipzig, Germany. For more details visit <http://www.wcgalp2010.org/>.

XIIIth European Poultry Conference, Aug. 23-27, 2010, Tours, France. For more information, see www.epc2010.org.

Plant & Animal Genome Conference, PAG XVIII, Jan. 15-19, 2011, Town & Country Hotel, San Diego, CA. Information available at <http://www.intl-pag.org/> and see above.



CONGRATULATIONS, PAUL!!

Congratulations go out to **Paul Siegel** of Virginia Tech who has been elected by the **American Poultry Historical Society** to the **American Poultry Hall of Fame**. This is a well-deserved (some might say overdue) honor for the most important and influential poultry geneticist and mentor in our field. The induction ceremony will take place Thursday, January 28 at the International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta, Ga.

Poultry Genome Newsletter Archive

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PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR INPUT

The Poultry Coordinators are always glad to hear from NRSP-8 members and other readers about ways that we can improve the coordination effort or provide resources that are needed and with which we may be able to help. Also, let us know if you have items of general interest to the poultry genetics community that we can include in this Newsletter. PICTURES and GRAPHICS are especially welcome for our .pdf versions of the newsletter.

Best wishes to Muquarrab Qureshi, who is on the mend but was unable to attend PAG. We missed you Muquarrab.

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