

International Workshop on Copepod Genomics

All attendees of the WAC conference are invited to participate in a Workshop on Copepod Genomics. The goals of this workshop are (1) to educate our community about ongoing research in copepod genomics, (2) to explore how genomics research can be used to address questions about the phylogeny, biology and ecology of copepods, and most importantly (3) to engage the whole of the copepod community in the development of an overarching strategy for the provision of genomics resources that will complement and enhance current and future copepod research.

The workshop will take place in 3 venues during the conference. On Monday, July 14th there will be three plenary presentations. Dr. Ben Koop of the University of Victoria, Canada will speak on the highly successful salmon genomics program that he has led. He will also discuss his current work on the development of genomic information and tools for the parasitic copepods *Lepeophtheirus salmonis* and *Caligus clemensi* and their application to the study of the host-parasite interactions. Dr. Jeffrey Boore of Genome Project Solutions will provide a general overview of the ongoing *Daphnia* Genome Project. Dr. Boore has extensive experience in the development and leading of genome projects on many organisms. Ryuji Machida from the University of Tokyo will discuss the challenges he faced when sequencing the mitochondrial genome of *Tigriopus japonicus* as well as his current work on barcoding of oceanic zooplankton populations. Together Drs. James Bron of the University of Stirling and Stewart Johnson of the National Research Council, Canada will present an overview of the typical attributes that “good” copepod candidates for genomics projects possess, available

genomics technologies, and examples of biological problems in genomics of interest to copepodologists. This will be presented at an introductory level.

The Monday evening symposium on *Tigriopus*, which is organized by Hans Dahms, will feature presentations by Drs. Ron Burton, Jae-Seong Lee, and Chris Willet who will discuss aspects of the genetics and genomics of this copepod group.

On Tuesday afternoon, there will be presentations by Guy Drouin, Chris Ellison, Dagmar Frisch, Carol Lee, Jae-Seong Lee, and Grace Wyngaard about the application of genomics to the study of free-living and parasitic copepods.

On Thursday everyone is invited to join in the group discussions that will deal with a number of issues including the identification of (1) “good” candidate species for genomics projects, (2) the types of genomics activities that should be considered, (3) levels of funding required and their potential sources, and (4) the way forward.

Following from these discussions interested researchers are invited on Friday to form a working group. This group will summarize the ideas, plans and strategies developed during the workshop. It will also form a nucleus of researchers who will champion the development of copepod genomic resources at their national and international levels.

The Thursday and Friday sessions will each comprise half a day, so that participants can attend other sessions in the WAC meeting.

If you have a copepod species that you would like to propose as a candidate for large-scale genomics work, you are invited to send adult females or males that have been preserved in 95% alcohol to Dr. Grace Wyngaard by April 1st. Grace will arrange for

their genome size to be measured before the workshop. Please contact her at the address below for details on how to preserve and where to send the specimens.

Separate registration for this workshop is not necessary. However, in order to have adequate space for all participants in the Thursday and Friday discussion groups we are asking you to please contact Grace Wyngaard if you are planning to attend. If you have any questions about the workshop please do not hesitate to contact Grace Wyngaard or other members of the organizing committee.

This workshop is being generously supported by the National Science Foundation in the United States and the WAC conference.

Workshop Organizers:

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