POULTRY GENOME NEWSLETTER 2013

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PAG XXI & NAGRP/NC-1170 Meeting: Happy New Year!!
PAG-XXI/NRSP-8/NC-1170 (www.intlpag.org) will be January 12-16, 2013, in sunny San Diego. The Poultry Workshop will start at 8 a.m., Saturday (Jan. 12). Doug Rhoads and Carl Schmidt are organizing. An excellent Workshop program has been assembled and can be found using the pull-down program menu at www.intlpag.org, clicking “Program Schedule” and searching for Poultry. Similarly, the NRSP-8 Animal Workshop will run 1:30-6:00 pm on Sunday (Jan. 13) with guest speakers: Leif Andersson, Trudy Mackay, Harris Lewin and Max Rothschild. Special congratulations to Max, this year’s NRSP-8 Distinguished Lecturer. Congratulations also to Huiyu Wang of the U. of Georgia (I. Misztal, mentor), this year’s recipient of the Neal Jorgensen Travel Award in poultry and to the recipients of travel awards supported by the USDA conference grant to Doug and Carl. Note that you have the opportunity to meet and hear from all these awardees during the “Lightning Talks” at 5:20 on Saturday during the Poultry Workshop. A note to speakers: Please load your presentation well in advance at the speaker Ready Room.

On March 17-19, 2013 there will also be a new 2.5 day conference, PAG-ASIA, in Singapore (www.intlpagasia.org) at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel.
Good-Bye Critt. You will be missed.

As most newsletter readers know, Lyman “Critt” Crittenden passed away at the age of 86 after a brief illness this past September 25. Critt was a pioneer in poultry genetics in many ways, among these playing a central role in the elucidation of the mechanism of host resistance to avian tumor viruses, developing one of the first DNA marker-based linkage maps of the chicken and serving as the first National Animal Genome Research Program Poultry Coordinator. Even after his retirement from USDA-ARS, he continued to play a major role in the effort that led to NRSP-8, high density linkage maps and the reference genome sequence of the chicken. Probably more important, he served as a mentor, colleague and role model to nearly all of us who’ve spent much time working in the field of poultry genetics.

WASHINGTON UPDATE

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) issued the RFA for the 2013 AFRI Foundational Program on Oct. 15. The letter of intent date for most animal-related programs was Nov. 15 (due dates for submission were recently delayed to Jan. 16, 2013.) An estimated $136 million was made available to the Foundational Program with $33M designated for Animal Health and Production and Animal Products, which includes Animal Reproduction, Animal Health and Disease, Animal Nutrition, Growth, and Lactation and Tools and Resources for Animal Breeding, Genetics and Genomics. The FY 2013 NIFA Fellowships Program RFA providing fellowships to pre- and postdoctoral students now has a letter of intent due date of January 17, 2013, with full applications due March 14, 2013. The current estimated release date for the FY 2014 Foundational Program is August 15, 2013. Keep your eye on www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html to get updated information for these and other related AFRI grant programs, including Food Security and Food Safety Challenge Grants.

However, given the recent escape from the “Fiscal Cliff”, it remains unclear what will happen with FY2014 USDA research programs and funding levels. It’s also unclear if and when Congress will pass the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act (2012 Farm Bill) which would have reauthorized NIFA and AFRI through 2017 (at about current funding levels). This bill failed to make it through the House, despite last minute, years-end lobbying on its behalf. Hopefully, the new Congress will find a way to pass a 2013 Farm Bill in the coming session (New Year’s resolution).
NRSP-8 and NC-1170 Re-submissions

Both the NRSP-8 and NC-1170 projects have been revised and resubmitted for review this year, hopefully leading to reauthorization, come next October. Thanks to Tom Porter and Milt Thomas for leading the resubmission of NRSP-8 and the detailed response to reviewers that this entailed. Similarly, thanks to Mary Delany who coordinated the NC-1170 rewrite, despite the fact that she was subsequently drafted into being interim Dean of Agriculture at UC Davis.

Weigh in on poultry genomics resource needs

The NRSP-8 poultry genome coordinators need your input on community resources that we can support, at least in part. Last year we supported 600K Affymetrix SNP array genotyping of birds for several members and have engaged in discussions of possible future support of optical mapping to improve the genome sequence. Others ways to enhance the reference chicken genome assembly are being explored and Cobb Vantress, Inc. recently committed funds that Wes Warren at the Washington U. Genome Institute will use to help close some of the gaps in the sequence. We depend on your ideas, so please email them to either dodgson@msu.edu or hcheng@msu.edu.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN. UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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


PAG ASIA, March 17-19, 2013, Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore. Details at www.intlpagasia.org


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.
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