

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE (NLM)
BOARD OF REGENTS (BOR) COMPARATIVE GENOMICS RESOURCE (CGR)
WORKING GROUP (WG) MEETING
APRIL 11, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristi L. Holmes, PhD, Northwestern University, Chair

EXTERNAL MEMBERS PRESENT

Alejandro Sanchez Alvarado, PhD, Stowers Institute for Medical Research

Hannah Carey, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Wayne Frankel, PhD, Columbia University Medical Center

Ani W. Manichaikul, PhD, University of Virginia School of Medicine

Len Pennacchio, PhD, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Valerie Schneider, PhD, DHHS/NIH/NLM/NCBI, Executive Secretary

Kenneth Stuart, PhD, Seattle Children's Research Institute

Tandy Warnow, PhD, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

Rick Woychik, PhD, NIEHS & NTP, NIH CGR Steering Committee Liaison

Cathy Wu, PhD, University of Delaware

OTHERS PRESENT

Anne Ketter, Sr. Product Manager, NCBI

Sarah Kinling, Strategic Communications Principal, MITRE

Anna Levin, Lead Health Policy Analyst, MITRE

Kim Pruitt, Chief, Information Engineering Branch, NCBI

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kristi Holmes, PhD, Chair

Valerie Schneider, PhD, Executive Secretary

Dr. Holmes greeted Working Group members and thanked them for their continued participation in the Working Group. She noted the importance of understanding the role and vision of the CGR to advocate for the CGR initiative within research communities.

II. REPORT FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBER INTERVIEWS

Valerie Schneider, PhD, Executive Secretary

All Working Group Members

Dr. Schneider thanked Working Group members for their participation in interviews lead by the MITRE team to generate feedback on the role of the CGR. She presented the "Report to the BOR WG on Phase 1b CGR Data Collection (MITRE)," slideshow presentation. Data

collection and environmental scanning, the two strategic goals of the CGR, will help maximize impact and better inform decision-making. Phase 2 of the CGR initiative will include continued outreach to stakeholders and users. Phase 1b interviews indicated that while most Working Group members were motivated to advocate for the CGR within their communities, the perception of the CGR as well as the potential scope of engagement varied. Dr. Schneider outlined the communication materials requested by the Working Group that are currently under development. The Working Group will begin receiving communication materials and engaging with stakeholders, with opportunities to provide feedback on the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy in August or September 2022.

The Working Group discussed the use of additional communication platforms to foster greater collaboration among members. Dr. Schneider will review available options and implement the preferred platform. She noted that updated outreach materials will be made available to Working Group members via the CGR website.

III. REVIEW/DISCUSSION OF OUTREACH MATERIALS

*Valerie Schneider, PhD, Executive Secretary
All Working Group Members*

Dr. Schneider presented the draft CGR Initiative Talking Points and requested Working Group member input on potential improvements to the talking points. Members noted potential difficulty for users in understanding the overall vision of the CGR and suggested a greater focus on the comparative and analytical aspects of the CGR. The potential use of the CGR as an educational tool in conjunction with existing platforms was also highlighted. Dr. Schneider noted ongoing work at the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) to create better visual tools to represent the goals and capabilities of the CGR. Working Group members discussed a specific appeal to clinicians as intended users with the aim of expanding the user base for the CGR.

Dr. Schneider emphasized that users will be able to access a direct CGR landing page, as well as the individual tools incorporated within the CGR at NCBI. She noted that the input from the Working Group members will be incorporated into finalized talking points and distributed to the Group.

IV. UPDATE FROM THE NIH CGR STEERING COMMITTEE (SC)

*Rick Woychik, PhD, NIH CGR Steering Committee Liaison
All Working Group Members*

Dr. Woychik noted the NIH CGR SC's pleasure in the progress of the CGR initiative. He presented three areas of concern for the SC and welcomed recommendations from Working Group members in addressing them. First, there is a need for a systematic, operational plan for outreach, including specific groups to be targeted, timeframes for engagement, and useful metrics to measure impact. Dr. Woychik noted that the SC provided a tentative list of organizations for outreach for the Working Group. Second, the SC welcomed the

introduction of data from common Model Organism Databases (MODs) but suggested an increased focus on partnership and collaboration with these MODs in addition to data sharing. Third, the SC identified the need for the greater incorporation of non-common model organism genome data to increase the value of the CGR. Dr. Woychik suggested the establishment of a goal for outreach to non-common model organism research groups.

Working Group members suggested the possibility of an official announcement of the CGR initiative that could then be built on in member outreach. In addition, members discussed the collection and inclusion of user case studies to better represent the value of the CGR as a tool for research and clinical practice. Working Group members also emphasized clarifying the aims of the CGR to foster engagement while avoiding alienating existing comparative analysis resources. Finally, the importance of outreach to developers of comparative analysis tools was also discussed to increase the CGR's ability to synergize with new and existing tools and better integrate the genome data at NCBI.

V. ACHIEVING A SUCCESSFUL CGR END STATE

*Valerie Schneider, PhD, Executive Secretary
Working Group Members*

Dr. Schneider facilitated a “Mural,” interactive activity through which Working Group members provided input through discussion on potential user engagement with the CGR. The activity provided “personas,” as representations of various types of users including developers, tool builders, students, and clinical scientists. Working Group members discussed these personas to anticipate and prioritize their level of engagement with the CGR. Stakeholder commitment – from awareness, information sharing, and buy-in, to adoption, contributor, and champion – was assessed for each persona. Working Group members also suggested outreach to research society Chief Science Officers with the engagement goals of buy-in and information sharing.

Dr. Schneider noted important follow-up to the activity including establishing criteria for stakeholder commitment and curating the most effective and accurate information for outreach to the various persona groups.

VI. WRAP-UP

Valerie Schneider, PhD, Executive Secretary

Dr. Schneider noted several action items including finalizing CGR Initiative Talking Points, developing use cases for the CGR, establishing timelines for user outreach, and identifying metrics for user engagement.

The next Working Group meeting is anticipated for Summer 2022 in preparation for the September 13, 2022 NLM BOR meeting. Dr. Schneider will follow up with Working Group members to confirm their availability.