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
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT
Kristi L. Holmes, PhD, Northwestern University, Chair

EXTERNAL MEMBERS PRESENT
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
Cathy Wu, PhD, University of Delaware

EXTERNAL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT
Alejandro Sanchez Alvarado, PhD, Stowers Institute for Medical for Medical Research
Rick Woychik, PhD, NIEHS & NTP, NIH CGR Steering Committee Liaison

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 highlighted the contributions to the CGR Working Group Community Engagement Survey (CES) which will help better understand how to leverage members' expertise and perspectives to promote CGR.

II. CGR PROGRESS UPDATE
Valerie Schneider, PhD, Executive Secretary
Working Group Members

Dr. Schneider reviewed recently updated features advancing the CGR project towards its Strategic Goals. Screening of assembled genomes for contaminating sequences has been improved and a new tool made publicly available as a beta release. NCBI has also updated gene records with content from external sources, and curated new architectural information onto protein records. New web and programmatic interfaces for accessing genomes and related content, as well as a new visualization tool for assembly comparison have been added to CGR, both supporting users in their genome analyses. In addition, an update to the CGR project website was released in September 2022 providing helpful information and opportunities to gather feedback on CGR.

Working Group members emphasized the importance of appealing to researchers in a variety of fields to promote CGR. The use of CGR for diverse analyses at various levels of complexity was also highlighted.

III. CGR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
Valerie Schneider, PhD, Executive Secretary
Working Group Members

Dr. Schneider presented the CGR Community Engagement Strategy (CES), developed with MITRE, a Health Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC), NCBI engaged with to support them in the CGR project, and which defines a framework for efforts to engage with the community, optimize communication about CGR, and measure the impact of community engagement. CGR stakeholders were described in three groups – Champions, Enablers, and Users. As Champions, Working Group members and other internal stakeholders serve as primary communicators to gather momentum for CGR. Enablers, including researcher organizations and professional societies, serve as conduits to individual users (researchers, developers, educators, and others).

The engagement process will entail introducing the CGR, assessing engagement, conducting follow-up engagement with Enablers or Users, and then reassessing for effectiveness of the

engagement and the desired level of user commitment. To aid the Champions in these efforts, a Public Facing Roadmap is currently being developed, outlining CGR's goals and released features as well as those being researched and developed for the future. Near-term engagement will focus on recurring, event-based, Enabler-focused efforts. Dr. Schneider highlighted specific direct, indirect, and interactive engagement opportunities for Working Group members, but did not exclude engagement through other methods. Longer-term engagement will include continual updates to the CES based on current progress and development of additional messaging and communication materials to support outreach.

Working Group members praised the prepared outreach materials for helping facilitate efficient engagement with Enablers and Users. Feedback channels for CGR were also discussed, including via the CGR website. Members suggested the development of additional standard communications to streamline the provision of more detailed information about CGR. Dr. Schneider noted that the NCBI flyer describing CGR will be made available to Working Group members; presentation slides and recorded presentations may also be made available on the CGR website or other NCBI channels for reference.

IV. CGR ENGAGEMENT MEASURES WORKING SESSION
Valerie Schneider, PhD, Executive Secretary
Kristi Holmes, PhD, Chair
All Working Group Members

Dr. Schneider discussed considerations for measuring the progress of community engagement for CGR. A variety of measures were proposed, including process, outcome, near-term, and long-term measures. A survey of the Working Group and NIH CGR Steering Committee (SC) was previously conducted to collect feedback and help prioritize the most valuable measures.

Dr. Holmes reviewed results of the CES and compared the responses of Working Group and SC members in five measure categories: engagement and promotion, communication, community engagement, website and social media activity, and training and workforce development. Survey respondents also noted that a collection of measures would most likely provide a meaningful indicator of success. An additional metric of the number of researchers independently promoting CGR was also suggested as a valuable measure of success.

Based on the survey results, the Working Group engaged in a polling activity to identify specific goals for community engagement. The following engagement targets were selected by the Working Group:

- 3-5 or 5-10 (tied) connections with societies, organizations, or resources
- 1-2 events attended by each Working Group member per quarter to disseminate information about CGR
- 3-4 virtual meetings of the Working Group per year to discuss progress and/or issues
- 2 reports/communications per year each to the SC and BOR

After the activity, Dr. Holmes also encouraged Working Group members to tailor their outreach and engagement to the needs of their audience and settings.

V. ENGAGEMENT TOOL DEMONSTRATIONS
Valerie Schneider, PhD, Executive Secretary

Dr. Schneider presented the CGR Working Group Teams channel, including a forum for general discussion or to troubleshoot issues. Working Group members were also invited to contribute to the CGR Working Group Engagement Tracker by reporting on outreach activities to indicate where additional follow-up may be needed. Dr. Schneider also presented the CGR Website, highlighting the recent additions and features, and demonstrating ways to provide feedback.

VI. NEAR-TERM ENGAGEMENT ACTIONS
All Working Group Members

The Working Group engaged in a Mural Board activity to choose and commit to various community engagement actions to complete during the remainder of 2022. Options selected included authoring opinion pieces about CGR, promoting CGR through conferences and social media, connecting with professional societies, and helping develop CGR use cases.

VII. WRAP UP
Kristi Holmes, PhD, Chair
Valerie Schneider, PhD, Executive Secretary

Dr. Holmes encouraged Working Group members to follow up regarding requests for additional support or informational materials to help engage with the community to promote CGR.

Dr. Schneider noted that the CGR team will continue to follow up with Working Group members as they continue to engage in community outreach efforts.