



- ❖ **PAG Aquaculture Workshop Update:** The Aquaculture Genomics Workshop will take place at PAG in San Diego on Saturday, January 14, 2017, Town & Country, CA. This workshop will cover current research advances on development of molecular and genomics tools for aquaculture species, including whole genome sequencing and assembly, application of GWAS, genomic selection, and genome editing in aquaculture. Drs. Louis Bernatchez and Sigbjorn Lien are our invited speakers. A total of 41 presentations will be made, of which 18 scientists will provide oral presentations. If you have any question, contact the Aquaculture Workshop Chair, Dr. Nate Campbell (camn@critfc.org).
- ❖ **Aquaculture Genomics Travel Awardees Selected:** The Aquaculture Genomics Workshop will be held on January 14, 2017 as a part of the International Plant & Animal Genome XXV meeting (www.intlpag.org) in San Diego, CA, USA. In order to bring graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to the conference, the NRSP-8 Aquaculture Coordinators have continuously committed funds to support its travel awards. This year, five awardees were selected from the applications. The awardees were selected by a committee from the applications. The winners of this year's travel awards are:

NAME	Title	Institution
Nawar Al-Janabi	The Intestinal Immune Responses of Channel Catfish Against Live Attenuated Edwardsiella ictaluri Vaccines	Mississippi State University
Albert Caballero Solares	Applying Transcriptomic Profiling to the Formulation of Sustainable Feeds for Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	Memorial University of Newfoundland
Matthew Conte	A High Quality Assembly of the Nile Tilapia (<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>) Genome Provides Insights into the Structure of Two Sex Determination Regions	University of Maryland
Michelle Crown	Identification of Genomic Loci Associated with Maturation in Pacific Coho Salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>)	Simon Fraser University
Yulin Jin	A Genome-Wide Association Study of Heat Stress-Associated SNPs in Catfish	Auburn University
Zihao Yuan	Comparative Analyses of Repetitive Elements in 52 Fish Species Revealed Their Association with Evolutionary Adaptation to Aquatic Living Environments	Auburn University

Congratulations to these students and postdoctoral fellows!

- ❖ **FAASG Workshop to be held January 13, 2017 in San Diego:** The second FAASG (Functional annotation of salmonid genomes) workshop will be held in Doubletree Hotel, 1515 Hotel Circle South, San Diego on January 13, 2017. The workshop brings together stakeholders in the salmonid research community to develop the Functional Annotation of Salmonid Genomes (FAASG) initiative that was conceived and explored in a meeting in Toronto in June 2016. Drawing on best practices from large-scale functional annotation initiatives like FAANG the workshop aims to: (i) Review FAASG progress to date; (ii) Establishment of FAASG core elements; (iii) Establish a framework for FAASG governance and operations; (iv) Discuss positioning, development and execution of FAASG pilot projects. This is one day before the Aquaculture Genome Workshop. Please plan to attend.

- ❖ **NSA Comparative Genomics Session and Workshop:** NSA Comparative Genomics Session and Workshop to be held in Knoxville, Tennessee. a special session and workshop in Comparative Genomics during the Annual National Shellfisheries Association meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, March 26-30, 2017. For more information, please contact Drs. Dina Proestou, Steven Roberts, and Marta Gomez-Chiarri.

- ❖ **Annual Report due to Species Coordinators:** It is that time of year again, we need to submit our annual report in advance of the PAG meeting. There are two reports- one is the Workshop report assembled this coming year by Dr. Nathan Campbell; the other is the annual report. Once again for the annual report our strategy will be to assemble individual species reports that will combine into an aquaculture report, which is eventually combined into the project report. Unfortunately space is limited, therefore we can really only fit a short paragraph (2-3) sentences for each group under each objective (below). Please send your report to your species coordinators: Catfish: Dr. Sylvie Quiniou (Sylvie.Quiniou@ars.usda.gov); Salmonids: Dr. Palti, Yniv (Yniv.Palti@ars.usda.gov); Striped bass: Dr. Craig Sullivan (aquagyn.nc@gmail.com); Oyster: Dr. Dina Proestou (Dina.Proestou@ars.usda.gov); Tilapia: Dr. Thomas Kocher (tdk@umd.edu). For all other species, send your report to Dr. Steve Roberts (sr320@u.washington.edu). Please send in your report before January 5, 2017, to cover the following objectives:

Objective 1: Advance the status of reference genomes for all species, including basic annotation of worldwide genetic variation, by broad sequencing among different lines and breeds of animals.

Objective 2: Develop strategies to identify and exploit genes and allelic variation that contribute to economically relevant phenotypes and traits, in part through improving functional annotation of the genomes of our species.

Objective 3: Facilitate analysis, curation, storage, distribution and application of the enormous datasets now being generated by next-generation sequencing and related "omics" technologies with regard to animal species of agricultural interest.

Species coordinators please send in your reports by January 5th to Dr. Steve Roberts so he can assemble the full Aquaculture report.

- ❖ **New assembly of the tilapia genome now available:** Thomas Kocher's group at the University of Maryland just released the new tilapia assembly: O_niloticus_UMD1. It has been released under NCBI accession MKQE00000000. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/assembly/GCA_001858045.2/
It is also available at http://cichlid.umd.edu/download/O_niloticus_UMD1/
Contact Dr. Thomas Kocher if you have any questions tdk@umd.edu

