ITCR Training and Outreach Working Group

*Thursday, June 9, 2016 Meeting Notes*

Logistics

Dial in: 855-259-6342

Conference Code: 40152#

Security PIN: 256871#

Google Doc for the Meeting:<https://goo.gl/QBNZw0>

Roll call << **Attendees: Please sign in!!**

Mervi Heiskanen, NCI

Timothy Tickle, Broad

Michael Reich, UCSD

Mary Goldman, UC Santa Cruz

Andrey Fedorov, BWH/HMS

Martin Morgan, RPCI

Juli Klemm, NCI

Yantian Zhang, NCI

Trinity Urban, MGH

Agenda/Minutes

1. Outreach activities update
   1. Brian Haas / Trinity - training in Italy
   2. Martin Morgan - workshop in China as part of a conference of about 3000 participants, ~150 at the Bioconductor workshop
   3. Let’s set up a wiki page! NCI will go back through the notes and retrospectively add these to the page. Criteria for an “ITCR activity” - an activity where you would cite the grant.
2. Follow-up on the last month’s call
   1. Project summary slides: <https://goo.gl/MP1D7c>
      1. Goal: to make these slides available via ITCR web site to support outreach activities.
   2. List of conferences: <https://goo.gl/agjv51>
      1. Juli to follow up with CI4CC re planning
   3. Mervi to bring some ITCR handouts to the F2F
3. ITCR Special issue
   1. Juli will share the summary below with John, then will share with the journal, once there is some feedback from the journal will proceed with further communication to the ITCR investigators
   2. Consider the relative size of projects like the GDC vs. individual grants. Category about data perhaps?
   3. Opportunity to describe the whole ecosystem of NCI informatics
4. ITCR F2F preparation: topic(s) for discussion at the TOW breakout
   1. TOW breakout will take place on Monday, June 13, during the lunch break; we have about 1 hr
   2. Discuss overall goals, activities (past and present) of the WG, and the resources (videos, slides, events pages) provided by the WG
   3. Focused discussion of the special issue proposal
   4. [Meeting agenda](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1E_6JkbCuow7H56_tNu3paQ4fAfFMtMWdBcQuvOsa3Zs/edit#gid=0) for reference
5. Mailing list (re-)organization

ITCR mailing list maintenance

ITCR Mailing Lists: Mervi will post on the NCIP Hub. Public or Private?

1. ITCR\_PARTICIPANTS@LIST.NIH.GOV :A listserv for those participating in the ITCR program
2. ITCR-TECH-WG@LIST.NIH.GOV : For communications among the members of the ITCR technical working groups.
3. ITCR\_TOW@LIST.NIH.GOV: Supports communications between ITCR program Training and Outreach Working Group  TOW participants.

NIH LISTSERV <https://list.nih.gov/>

<https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=itcr_participants>

<https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=itcr-tech-wg>

Special issue proposal outline

Draft Proposal for Special Journal Issue:

Background: The Vice President’s Cancer Initiative (aka, the ‘’Cancer Moonshot”) has focused national attention on the need to accelerate progress in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and understanding of cancer. A critical element in improving cancer outcomes is our ability to make effective use of the deluge of data from genomic and other ‘omic studies; imaging; clinical trials; clinical care; epidemiology; and other sources of cancer data. The US National Cancer Institute is investing in programs aimed at developing the informatics tools and resources necessary to effectively manage, access, integrate, and analyze cancer data.  Most recently, the release of the NCI’s Genomic Data Commons was highlighted by Vice President at ASCO as a critical resource that will advance cancer research through a common platform for data sharing. In addition to the GDC, two key informatics initiatives of the NCI are the Informatics Technology for Cancer Research (ITCR) Program and the Cancer Genomics Cloud Pilots. The ITCR Program is a trans-NCI extramural funding initiative supporting investigator-initiated, research-driven informatics technology development across the cancer research continuum. The Cancer Genomics Cloud Pilots are designed to explore innovative methods for accessing and computing on large cancer data by bringing data and analysis together on a single platform with co-located computational capacity. Through these programs and others, tremendous progress is being made in providing advanced tools and resources to the community to support the rapidly-increasing need for data management and analysis.

Proposal: We propose creating special issue of *Cancer Research* dedicated to state-of-the-art cancer informatics tools and resources sponsored by the NCI.  The timing for such an effort is ideal, in light of the national focus on cancer research and the associated importance of data sharing and analysis. The goals of this special issue are: 1) To raise awareness among cancer researchers of the informatics tools and resources available to support their work; 2) To provide practical, go-to resources to the cancer research community to help them apply these tools to their research; 3) To provide examples of how these tools are being applied – individually and coordinately – to cancer research activities; 4) To continue to grow the community of cancer informatics tools, collaborating to address critical needs in cancer research. These papers will be authored by thought-leaders in the cancer informatics community. As one of the highest impact journals in the field, we believe a special issue of *Cancer Research* is the ideal way to disseminate this information to the cancer research community and it is likely that the issue will be widely read and cited.

Format: To meet the goals for this cancer informatics special issue of *Cancer Research*, we propose the following format:

-       A series of “Methods” papers describing the purpose of each tool or resource along with a tutorial on the use of the tool.  Each paper will include a pointer to the tool/resource and as appropriate, example data sets or queries to try out the tool. We also propose that each tool or resource create a short video tutorial that will be referenced by the Methods paper. The number of methods papers is easily scalable and should be mutually determined.  We propose that the papers include a representative cross section of cancer research domains.

-        A series of “Application Notes” describing hypothesis-driven research accomplished through significant support of one or more of these tools or resources. These papers would highlight the practical utility of these tool and resources in ongoing cancer research. The number of these papers would be mutually determined.

-       An introductory editorial by John Quackenbush describing the current state of cancer informatics, the successes and challenges, and the road ahead.