THE HUMAN VARIOME PROJECT

sharing data · reducing disease

MINUTES

Interim Scientific Advisory Committee

15 June, 2012, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

Attendees:

Arleen Auerbach (USA)
Mireille Claustres (FR)
Johan den Dunnen (NL)
Mona El Ruby (EG)
Aida Falcon de Vargas (VE)
Marc Greenblatt (US)
Finlay Macrae (AU)
Mauno Vihinen (SE)
Gert-Jan van Ommen (NL)

Julia Hasler (HVPI Liaison –UNESCO)
Helen Robinson (HVPI Liaison – WHO)
Heather Howard (Operations Manager)
Timothy Smith (Communications Officer)

Richard Cotton (AU)
Ming Qi (CN)

Apologies:

Garry Cutting (US)
Yoichi Matsubara (JP)
John Burn (UK)
Richard Gibbs (US)
Stephen Lam (CN)

Meeting Opened 1420

1. Welcome

The committee elected Finlay Macrae (AU) to chair the meeting in the absence of Gary Cutting (US; Alternate Chair).

2. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were confirmed without modification.

3. Issues arising from previous meeting

a. Appointment of independent ethics committee

HVPI Board moving ahead with establishing an ethics committee.

No Activity Proposals received in the area of ethics to date. Maria Jesus Sobrido (ES) volunteered during the main meeting to submit an ethics related AP.

b. Relationships between international centralised meta databases (LOVD, PathoKB, mutaDATABASE, ClinVar) and LSDBs

InSiGHT is examining PathoKB.

Awaiting outcome of NIH grant (H. Rehm) to see how mutaDATABASE is incorporated.

Interoperability of various systems with ClinVar is an issue the ISAC needs to stay informed about. Johan den Dunnen (NL) has been approached by NIH grant applicants to fund the development of a bidirectional transfer system between ClinVar and LOVD. Arleen Auerbach (US) advised the committee that ClinVar is very keen to act as the US Node and to host other Node data. Mauno Vihinen (SE) reminded the committee that there are at least three systems capable of running an HVP Country Node: LOVD, ClinVar, Ethnos. Interoperability between these systems is the responsibility of the developers. Best option is for data models to be interoperable; this way the amount of data to be shared can be decided on a case-by-case basis. Finlay Macrae (AU) related that InSiGHT is working with DMuDB to share data. DMuDB are only willing to share the variant, and maybe the submitter. Therefore sharing on to ClinVar, for example, would be similarly minimal. Interoperability may only be possible at the variant level. John den Dunnen (NL) is aware the both ClinVar and LOVD are looking for curators. Current proposal to avoid duplication is for curators to work across both systems (invisibly), and for the data to reside in the system where it was submitted. Mauno Vihinen (SE) commented that problems may arise if the same data was found in multiple locations. The systems would need to be developed with this in mind and must be very clear about which system the data is from.

c. Microattribution

Finlay Macrae suggested that further discussion of Microattribution was premature until ORCID (http://about.orcid.org/) was more robust.

4. Human Variome Project Roadmap

No further discussion was deemed necessary.

5. Issues arising from HVP4 Meeting

a. Standards Development Process

Timothy Smith (ICO) explained the Standards Development Process and the role of the International Scientific Advisory Committee and International Coordinating Office, including recruitment of Working Group members and the transparency of the process.

Finlay Macrae (AU) told ISAC members to "watch their email space" as Activity Proposals should come out of the meeting pretty quickly.

Timothy Smith (ICO) reported that the Gene/Disease Specific Database Advisory Council had discussed the AP[1] that this committee had previously voted via email to refer to the Council, and had chartered a Working Group to begin work.

Discussion was had as to the numbers required by the ISAC for quorum when making a determination about the Sponsoring Council for an AP. The Committee determined that such a determination must be made by at least 50% of the members and that the determination should be unanimous. Objections must be accompanied by an explanation that will be provided, without attribution, to the AP submitter. Determinations are made by the Committee and the votes of individual members will not be revealed.

b. Death of David Rimoin/Resignation of Christine van Broeckhoven

It was determined that the ISAC requires clarification from the Board on the procedures in place to fill casual vacancies.

The committee assumed in his absence that Gary Cutting (US), as alternate Chair, would take over as Chair of the Committee following the death of David Rimoin. The ICO was asked to inform Gary Cutting and to ask if he desired an alternate to be appointed.

Committee were reminded that their term expires at the end of the year. Transition to full International Scientific Advisory Committee outlined in governance documents being prepared by the Board. ICO will circulate documents when available.

ACTION: ICO to seek clarification from the Board about casual vacancies
ICO to contact Garry Cutting re taking over as Chair and appointment of alternate

[1] HVP/AP/001-01/EN: Disclaimer Statements on G/DSDB Websites

ICO to circulate governance documents when published

6. New and Potential Nodes

The following countries were reported as having expressed interest in establishing HVP Country Nodes:

- Thailand
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Korea
- Japan
- Brazil
- Chile
- Mexico
- Venezuela
- Ecuador
- Finland

7. ClinVar

Resuming discussion from earlier (3.b):

Johan den Dunnen (NL) commented that mutaDATABASE seems to have stalled. An offer to collaborate made one year ago has not seen any activity. Arleen Auerbach (US) added that the original NIH grant submitted by H. Rehm included mutaDATABASE, but with the move to ClinVar, there was some doubt as to the involvement of mutaDATABASE.

Richard Cotton (AU) noted that there are currently two major US grants at the moment: the H. Rehm/ClinVar grant and the NHGRI "Clinically Relevant" grant. It was noted that the two grants appear to deal with informatics/collection and curation/interpretation respectively.

Arleen Auerbach (US) reported on the activities of Mike Watson (US) in organising a conference call of US Node stakeholders. The majority of stakeholders were noted to be NIH people.

8. Database Selection Subcommittee

Mauno Vihinen (SE) updated the committee as to the outcome of the Database Selection Subcommittee meeting held on 14 June, 2012. The subcommittee will conduct an analysis of a number of lists of clinically relevant genes—the UKGTN list (http://www.ukgtn.nhs.uk/gtn/Home), list included in the

H. Rehm NIH grant—and compare these lists to the list of LOVD installs that do not currently have a curator assigned. The resulting list of 'curatorless' clinically relevant genes would be good targets for database development. It was noted that clinical expertise in the associated diseases would be necessary. Finlay Macrae (AU) noted that databases should have "gene champions" and it would be unrealistic to expect to find 5,000 such champions. Richard Cotton (AU) commented that one person could be a champion for a number of genes: InSiGHT has 11 genes, Arleen Auerbach 15 FA genes, etc.

Finlay Macrae (AU) asked if the 5,000 databases China has committed to constructing would be located in China. Ming Qi (CN) advised that it would be situation dependant.

9. Human Variome Project/China Country Development Program

Helen Robinson (ICO) presented a brief overview of the selection process for HVPCCDP grants that will be undertaken by three member panels from the International Scientific Advisory Committee.

- Not the same panel for each application
    - International Coordinating Office will call for volunteers from International Scientific Advisory Committee members. Members must consider if they have the time and are free from conflicts of interest.
    - International Coordinating Office will be responsible for maintaining "corporate knowledge" throughout the process
- Rolling application process
- Final funding amount will be at the discretion of each panel
- Panels should feel comfortable rejecting applications or requesting additional information
- Selection criteria is included in the Call for Applications
- Panels must consider if the proposed project will advance the objectives of the Human Variome Project
- Support will be provided by the International Coordinating Office

Johan den Dunnen (NL) asked for clarification as to whether he would have a conflict of interest on any application that proposed the use of LOVD. The committee felt that as LOVD was not a commercial enterprise, as long as JdD was not a recipient of funds from a grant, then there would be no conflict.

10. Standards Development

No further discussion was deemed necessary.

11. Activity Proposals

No further discussion was deemed necessary.

12. Adoption of the HGVS Nomenclature

The Committee unanimously voted to recommend the use of HGVS nomenclature by all Human Variome Project data providing members (Gene/Disease Specific Databases and HVP Country Nodes) until such time as an HVP Standard or Guideline is published in the area of variant nomenclature.

13. Other Matters

No other matters.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting of this Committee will take place during the American Society of Human Genetics annual meeting in San Francisco, December, 2012.

Meeting Closed 1620