

Report
Peanut Genome Project
PGC Teleconference, 10/24/12
Ad hoc Teleconference 11/01/2012

PARTICIPANTS

Victor Nwosu
Lutz Froenicke
Brian Scheffler
Peggy Ozias-Akins
Baozhu Guo

Corley Holbrook
Mark Burow
Richard F. Wilson
Tom Stalker (proxy)
Scott Jackson

Steven Cannon
Arvind Bharti
Andrew Farmer (for Crow)
Howard Valentine

Jackson convened the teleconference to discuss 1) amendments to Policies & Procedures, 2) the RFP letter for 2013 Genomics funding, 3) a letter from a competing research group, and 4) new members. A quorum was established.

Discussion Items:

Draft 3.3 of the Amendment to P&P v5.8

Approved changes:

P1 para2 shall read, “ International scientists affiliated with the Peanut Genome Initiative or those working on the genomics of other crops may compete for PGP funds via formal collaboration with U.S. principal investigators.”

Page 1 para 4

‘Plan of Work Text’ shall read ‘Proposal Content & Organizaion’, the following guidance on proposal format and organization will be replaced with corresponding language from the 2013 RFP for genomics research, as follows:

1. Project Summary

1) Proposal Title, 2) Brief summary of the proposed research, anticipated products and potential benefits to the peanut industry, 3) Principal investigator(s), Institution or Organization address, 4) Contact Person, full mailing address including phone, fax and email, 5) Collaborator(s) with institutional contact information and expected responsibilities to the project.

2. Research Objectives relevant to the PGP Action Plan (see PeanutBioscience.com)

3. Annual Budget

Indirect costs will not be funded, but will be considered as an institutional investment in the project. In most cases, major capital items of equipment will not be funded.

- a. Summary (separate line items for salary & benefits, supplies, outside services, travel, subcontracts)
- b. Budget Explanation and Justification (for each budgetary line item above \$5000)
- c. Current and Pending Support for 2013 (all funding sources)

4. Technical Review

Review of previous research publications that are relevant to the objectives, technology and expected deliverables defined in the Policies & Procedures or PGP Action Plan.

5. Research Methods & Approach

Provide sufficient information on plans and methods to be used in obtaining project objectives and a rationale for how it will contribute to the solution of the project objectives.

6. Implementation Statement

State a vision of how the potential benefits of results could be implemented or utilized to address major concerns of producers, shellers and manufacturers.

7. Schedule of Events

Provide a time schedule of the major deliverables expected from the research. *Multi-year projects may be submitted; however, funding must be approved on a year-to-year basis.*

8. Describe the adequacy of Facilities & Equipment Available to successfully conduct the proposed research.

9. Investigator Qualifications

Include a brief vitae for each investigator, including citations for publications within the past five years. Peer reviewers will look for recent publications that have relevance to the objectives. However, you are encouraged to list all of the complete publications you have.

Page 4 Section 6.05. Funding Mechanisms

Insert: ‘and for-profit or nonprofit organizations. The U.S. Principle Investigator will allocate funds to collaborators via subcontracts from the institution receiving the funds. In rare cases, The Peanut Foundation may reimburse the institutions of foreign collaborator(s) directly for funds allocated to subcontracts.’

Insert: ‘Cooperative Research Agreements have limitations on how funds can be spent. Such limitations convey to subcontracts from an U.S. Principle Investigator’s institution.’

Page 4. Section 6.05. Project Evaluation

Change. 6.05 to 6.06

Change December 1 to January 31

Request for Genomic Research Proposals for 2013

Approved changes

Insert: in first para, ‘The Peanut Foundation is soliciting genomic research proposals only at this time, in addition to other funding opportunities that will become available to address key industry concerns. The Peanut Genome Project Action Plan posted at <http://www.peanutbioscience.com> identifies high priority research areas that are relevant to the needs of the peanut industry.’

Replace Primary Areas for Funding with Performance Measures from the PGP Action Plan, as follows:

- Generation of a high quality reference genome sequence of cultivated peanut anchored to chromosomal linkage groups (PGP Component 1)
- Genome mapping and allelic analysis through Genome-Wide-Association-Studies (PGP Component 2)
- Catalog expressed genes and profile gene expression in cultivated peanut (PGP Component 3)
- Evaluation of emerging technologies for genome sequencing and characterization (PGP Component 4)
- Phenotypic validation of gene predictions (PGP Component 5)
- Development of bioinformatic resources for peanut genome data (PGP Component 6)

Replace Eligibility Statement with corresponding language in the P&P, as follows:

“International scientists affiliated with the Peanut Genome Initiative or those working on the genomics of other crops may compete for PGP funds via formal collaboration with U.S. principal investigators.”

The submission date for 2013 proposals was changed from November 16 to November 30, 2012.

Peer review of submitted proposals will be completed by December 17, 2012

Proposal applicants will be notified by January 1, 2013.

Letter from AA group

A letter from Yu Shan Lin and Liang Xuan Qiang offered two options to avoid conflict with the PGP. First, they proposed to sequence the AA genome and that we sequence only the BB genome. After both sequences are published, the AA group and PGC could work together on the tetraploid genome; and Second, if we sequence both AA and BB genomes, they propose that both groups wait to publish in the same Journal simultaneously. However, if an agreed deadline is passed each group would be free to publish independently.

Froenicke reported the UC-Davis lab is sequencing AA genome gene space, and should have a good map in two months. Bertioli will continue to send high quality AA and BB genome DNA to BGI for WGS, however samples may be degraded during shipment. Bertioli also has sent AA genome DNA to the AA group. Froenicke agreed to produce AA genome DNA and send it to BGI as soon as possible, and will work with Bertioli to produce more DNA.

Jackson shared previous experiences where trying to coordinate genome papers on the same species and/or genome have been extremely complicated as both sides may not be ready at the same time, the quality/analysis of one may not be at the level of the other meaning that co-publication in the same journal is not possible. Both of these may lead to bad feelings. He suggested that instead we keep each

other abreast of status, let the other know 2-3 months before submission (to give them time to try and get ready, if possible) and if they are ready to co-submit but not hold one manuscript hostage to the other for acceptance. Valentine will schedule a teleconference to develop consensus on the PGC response.

ADDENDUM: An ad hoc teleconference was convened on November 1 to develop a consensus response to Dr. Lin and Qiang. Participants included: Ozias-Akins, Guo, Varshney, Valentine, Wilson, Jackson, D.Bertioli, Froenicke, and Michelmore. The following statement was approved and will be sent by Jackson.

Dear Drs Lin and Qiang.

Thanks for your email regarding collaboration/coordination with the PGC on peanut sequencing projects. Our main reason for sequencing the two diploids is to help in the assembly of the tetraploid. Currently our intent is to publish sequences for both diploids and the tetraploid genome sequence in a single publication. We also will publish high density genetic maps based on genotyping by sequencing (primarily of the gene space) prior to the tetraploid genome paper.

We have no issue with your plan to sequence and publish the AA genome. As much as possible, we would like to mutually share information that will help produce better genome assemblies and products for the research community. We understand that limitations may be placed on data sharing by your funding agencies but as much as is practicable, we would entreat each other to promote free scientific exchange.

Thank you again, I look forward to meeting you at AAGB-2013 in China.

New members:

Dr. Mauricio Lopes, the recently appointed President of EMBRAPA was nominated to replace Dr. Pedro Arraes. Dr. Andrew Farmer was nominated to replace John Crow from NCGR. Both were elected. Jackson will notify them.

Other:

The next PGC meeting will coincide with the March APC meeting in Atlanta.

Holbrook volunteered to organize a symposium on peanut genomics at the 2013 CSSA meeting in Tampa FL.

Wilson will make arrangements for the PGP meeting at PAG in San Diego CA (January 12-16, 2013)

Adjourned