

EXPERT ASSERTIONS THROUGH COMMUNITY ANNOTATION JAMBOREES

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Although there is significant optimism that community involvement can drive genome curation, results to date are disappointing. The Human Genome and *Saccharomyces* Genome Databases both tried community annotation experiments and few community contributions were obtained. JCVI's own early experiences with community curation were also largely unsuccessful. Although community curation tools were publicly available on JCVI web resources and much effort was made by JCVI personnel to advertise these resources, little curation was actually submitted. Starting in late 2007, JCVI's model for community curation changed. Instead of simply providing curation tools on websites and advertising their utility at meetings and conferences, JCVI instituted a community curation jamboree model.

Annotation jamborees are an excellent form of outreach to the community. JCVI's experience conducting jamborees is highly successful, demonstrating that jamborees are effective tools for incorporating expert annotation data into existing genome submissions, updating existing annotation, tagging annotation with updated experimental references and providing the community with opportunities to become familiar with JCVI's annotation procedures and curation tools. Jamborees provide a means to directly interact with the community and integrate their research expertise into genomic data sets. Jamboree participants are encouraged to provide their expert input by focusing on their genes and gene families of interest, particularly those with supporting experimental evidence. Over the past year, JCVI hosted two annotation jamborees incorporating expert annotation into *Entamoeba* and *Burkholderia* genome projects. These jamborees resulted in curation of 1,565 functional assignments, 3,499 Gene Ontology terms, 129 gene structures, and 296 experimental references for 11 genome projects. Researchers who contributed to annotation at these jamborees are being submitted as contributing authors on annotation update submissions made to GenBank for those organisms. Additionally, the annotation associated with the submission is recognized as part of community curation efforts and collaboration.

The networking and personal communication that occurs throughout a jamboree facilitates a forum for research and data exchange, solicitation of user feedback and the establishment of new community collaborations. Although integrating and updating annotation data is important, it is our experience that the interactions that occur and collaborations that are formed are the most beneficial long-term results of jamboree efforts. Collaborations we established as a direct result of jamboree activity include continued community annotation, custom data analyses and general informatics support not otherwise solicited by the researcher. For the jamborees JCVI recently hosted, we established successful collaborations with four researchers who continued to provide curation from their own institute.