Summary of Horse Genome Workshop at the Plant and Animal Genome (PAG) Conference in San Diego, January 14-15, 2017

Scientists working on the Horse Genome met under the auspices of the USDA-NRSP8 National Animal Genome Program and the Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Foundation. The workshop strongly embraces international collaboration among scientists.

Carrie Finno (University of California, Davis) chaired the meeting, with assistance of vice-chair Jessica Petersen (University of Nebraska) and organized a series of 12 minute research presentations. Approximately 80 people attended the sessions on Saturday (14th) and approximately 90 attended the session on Sunday morning (15th)

The program, titles and presentation abstracts can be viewed at the following websites.

 <https://pag.confex.com/pag/xxv/meetingapp.cgi/Session/4205>

 <https://pag.confex.com/pag/xxv/meetingapp.cgi/Session/4206>

These presentations included discovery research as well as progress in developing genomic tools and infrastructure.

The poster abstracts can be found online by going to the following web link.

<https://pag.confex.com/pag/xxv/meetingapp.cgi/Session/3769>

The major focus of the NRSP8 program is development of infrastructure for horse genomics to benefit research. NRSP8 horse coordinator funds supported development of a new assembly for the equine genome (ECab 3.0) in connection with a project funded by The Morris Animal Foundation and awarded to Kalbfleisch, MacLeod and Ludovic (<https://pag.confex.com/pag/xxv/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/26161>) as well as a project to establish a tissue biobank for functional genomics research funded by The Grayson-Jockey Club foundation awarded to Finno, Bellone and Petersen (<https://pag.confex.com/pag/xxv/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/2381> ).

Coordinator funds were also used to support students traveling to the conference to present posters. The Jorgenson Student Travel Award was made to Erin Burns of the University of California Davis for her work titled: Generation of an Equine Tissue Biobank for Functional Annotation.

At the conclusion of the meeting Jessica Petersen ascended to the position of chair for organization of the next PAG horse genome workshop and Stephen Coleman (University of Colorado) was elected vice-chair. The USDA-NRSP8 coordinators for the Horse Workshop continue to be Ernest Bailey (University of Kentucky), Molly McCue (University of Minnesota) and Samantha Brooks (University of Florida).

This year we will begin writing a report for the current USDA-NSRP8 program as well as make an application for renewal of the program for another 5 year term. The program has been successful in creating collaborations for development of infrastructure and nurturing discovery research. Co-Chairs of the writing committee are Mohamed Salem and Molly McCue. Representatives on the writing committee from the horse group are Terje Raudsepp (Texas A&M University) and Jamie MacLeod (University of Kentucky).