

iARC First Meeting Jan 12, 2018: Minutes

The meeting commenced at 22:00 AEST and concluded at 22:55 AEST. Andrew Collins, Martin Corcoran, Mats Ohlin and Catherine Scheepers were all in attendance via Skype.

1. It was agreed that minutes will be taken and that arrangements will be made to post the minutes to the AIRR-C website. The committee resolved to record notes of the meeting, during the meeting, using a shared Google.doc.
2. The committee discussed the future make-up of the committee, and affirmed the belief that the committee should to be regularly renewed by the election of new members. The view was expressed that, two of the four members of the committee could be elected at each meeting of AIRR-C, with membership running for two subsequent intervals between AIRR-C meetings. To provide a measure of continuity, it was suggested that the chair should remain in the role for two years or two intervals between AIRR-C meetings. The committee will finalise its recommendations of future membership of the committee before the next AIRR-C meeting.
3. The role of the Chair, and decision-making procedures were discussed. It was agreed that there should be votes for all decisions, and if sequences are under consideration that are directly associated with a member or members of the iARC, that member or those members should excuse themselves from the proceedings. It was agreed that a quorum is three members of the committee, for the meeting to proceed. If there is an issue for which one or more members must stand aside, and fewer than three other members of the committee are present, a vote on that issue should not proceed. It was agreed that a majority must vote in favour of a proposal for it to be accepted. If the vote is tied, the proposal is rejected. The committee therefore require 3 of 4 votes, if all members vote, or 2 of 3 if 3 vote. If two members of the committee excuse themselves from consideration of an issue because of conflicts of interest, a stand-by member must be asked to join the committee. A Chair of the GGDB WG was considered the appropriate choice. If additional stand-by members are required, these should be appointed by the AIRR-C executive to serve at a special meeting of the committee..
4. Andrew Collins was nominated as the iARC Chair. He accepted the nomination, and was duly elected.
5. The iARC notes the submission of human IGHV sequences from Chaim Schramm and Steve Kleinstein. Martin Corcoran advised that he has many sequences that had been identified in a study that is being prepared for publication. The iARC resolved that where inferred gene sequences are part of an unpublished study, but a manuscript is being prepared for submission, the review process can proceed in parallel to the completion,

submission and review of the manuscript for publication. Final acceptance of such inferred sequences would occur at the time of acceptance of the manuscript for publication.

6. A list of submitted sequences was reviewed, and a subset of those sequences was identified as being the appropriate focus of initial deliberations. Cathrine Scheepers advised the meeting that she had submitted some genomic sequences to IMGT that were likely to be recognized by IMGT in the coming weeks. Some of these sequences were submitted to iARC by Chaim Schramm and Steve Kleinstein, but these sequences will not now be considered by iARC. This includes IGHV1-8*p04 and IGHV2-70*p18. The committee was advised by Andrew Collins that Corey Watson is likely to submit many genomic sequences to IMGT in several months time. Evaluation of inferred versions of these sequences will continue, as this will allow procedures to be tested that involve the recognition of an inferred and iARC-certified allele by the IMGT nomenclature committee. Chaim Schramm's sequences were reviewed, and sequences with 5' differences to previously reported alleles, that could possibly be chimeric sequences, were set aside. Clusters of inferred alleles (3 IGHV4-59, 3 IGHV5-51 and 5 IGHV1-69 inferences), as well as inferences involving genes that are highly similar to other genes (IGHV3-30, IGHV4-30-4 and IGHV3-43D) were also set aside for later consideration. Chaim Schramm will be notified of this strategy, and will be advised that it would be useful to compile additional evidence in support of these sequences.
7. The committee postponed discussion of evidence that should be submitted to iARC in support of an inference. William Lees is organizing a meeting of interested members of the GGDB WG, in coming weeks, and this will guide the iARC deliberations.
8. The committee discussed whether it can and should take responsibility for the review of genomic sequences that fall outside the IMGT guidelines. It was agreed that the need for the review of such sequences is a pressing one, and that in association with the GGDB WG and the wider AIRR-C, a careful process of review should be defined for each general sequencing technique. The committee agreed that where genomic data is available in support of submitted inferences, such data should be used by the committee to aid in their decision making, even if such data fails to meet current IMGT criteria.
9. It was agreed that the committee would meet again at the same time next Friday.