IARC Meeting 35: April 12th 2019: minutes

The meeting commenced at 20:30 AEDT. AC, MC, and MO were in attendance. William Lees and Corey Watson joined the meeting.

1. The minutes for Meeting 33 were accepted, but as the minutes of Meeting 34 had only just become available to committee members, acceptance of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting.
2. The issue of the final nucleotides of affirmed sequences was again addressed. It was noted that several affirmed sequence do not presently show that the IARC believes there may be additional nucleotide(s) at the 3' end of these sequences. WL advised that this could be addressed through the use of trailing dots on the end of the recorded affirmed sequence. MO undertook to make the necessary corrections to the records, whereupon CW will submit all affirmed sequences to IMGT.
3. The committee then considered the rules for the definition of 'valid genotypes'. Although the committee agreed this is an important task to address, it was unable to agree on suitable rules at this stage. It was felt that suitable datasets should be identified that can be used in a benchmarking exercise that will explore variability in key parameters that can be expected in good datasets. This exploration might be undertaken with the wider Working Group, and should focus on different inference tools, as they are sensitive to different things. It was suggested, for example, that partis might be particularly sensitive to 454 errors, so tools will need to be evaluated using a variety of data types. MC reported that he is involved in the release of datasets from 5 or 6 individuals that might be suitable. The special challenges of highly mutated datasets will need to be addressed, and this might best be done using separate IgG and IgM datasets from the same individuals. This should be highlighted at Genoa as one of the goals of the IARC for the coming year.
4. Submission S00009 was discussed. AC informed the committee that the submitter had identified problems with the dataset, and that he did not wish for consideration of inferences from that dataset to continue. AC will work with WL to 'complete' the evaluation.
5. AC raised the issue of IGHJ gene inferences, and in particular the inference of a polymorphism noted by members of the IARC in the S00007 submission. The submission of IGHJ polymorphisms will need to be facilitated in OGRDB, and issues relating to the terminal nucleotides will require careful assessment.

The next meeting (Meeting 36) will be on Friday April 26th at 20:30 AEST, the same time as this meeting.

The meeting ended at 21:45 AEST.