

IARC Meeting 37: May 31st 2019: minutes

The meeting commenced at 20:00 AEDT. AC, MC, CS, MO and WL were in attendance. Corey Watson and Davide Bagnara joined the meeting as observers.

1. William Lees was welcomed as a new member of the IARC, after his appointment at the AIRR-Community meeting in Genoa. Davide Bagnara was welcomed for the first time as an observer. The policy of allowing 'observers' at IARC meetings was accepted by the AIRR-C meeting in Genoa. Observers may actively participate in meeting, though they will be excluded from decision-making.
2. It was noted that the minutes for Meeting 36 were accepted via an exchange of emails prior to the Genoa meeting. AC informed the committee that minutes of meetings 33-36 have been sent for posting at the AIRR-C website, but have not yet been posted.
3. AC indicated that he was willing to continue as chair of the committee. No other nominations were received, and all members of the committee expressed their support for his continuing in the role.
4. The recent incorporation of inferences into the IMGT reference directory was discussed. Although correspondence with IMGT noted that inferences were only accepted up to and including the 319th nucleotide, the sequences available via IMGT include the 320th nucleotide. It is likely that IMGT staff did not realise that there was a discrepancy between the inferred sequences and their associated Genbank sequences. This issue was discussed with Sofia Kossida at the Genoa meeting. Future correspondence will make this clearer, and AC will write to MPL and SK to ask for revision of the sequences in the IMGT reference directory.
5. The committee discussed the recent naming of affirmed Level 1 sequences by IMGT. It had been the expectation of the committee that such naming would not take place until sequences had reached Level 3. The committee will continue to develop the 3-tier system as proposed at the Washington DC meeting of the AIRR-C. As discussed with SK at Genoa, the "IMGT/LIGM-DB sequences from the literature" columns of the IMGT gene tables will provide an opportunity for accumulating reports from the IARC to be documented in the IMGT system.
6. The documentation by IARC of the existence of previously reported IGHV genes and allelic variants was briefly discussed, with such data now accumulating in OGRDB. The presence of falsely reported sequences in the IMGT reference directory was discussed in Genoa with SK, who indicated her interest in learning more about such sequences.
7. AC and WL described their discussions with Gur Yaari about his genotype database, VDJbase and its possible future development by WL. AC raised the possibility that IARC could use this and similar datasets to identify alleles that should be considered by the IARC. MC advised that some data in VDJbase may not be publicly available, and not all data in VDJbase will be suitable for the inference of new alleles. The committee expressed support for expanding the discovery of new alleles through this kind of process. AC agreed to prepare a summary of suitable data in VDJbase for consideration at the next IARC meeting.

6. The next meeting (Meeting 38) will be on Wednesday June 12th at 20:00 AEST..

The meeting ended at 21:10 AEST.