

IARC Meeting 38: June 11th 2019: minutes

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

1. The minutes for Meeting 37 were accepted.
2. AC updated the committee on Action Items from Meeting 37: correspondence with IMGT (Marie-Paule Lefranc), with Gur Yaari, and with Victor Greif. Replies had not been received at the time of the meeting.
3. WL updated the committee on developments with OGRDB. Support has been added for additional gene types. He reported on discussions with Gur Yaari, concerning VDJbase. WL will take over the development and maintenance of VDJbase, which will now be run from Birkbeck. Pipelines for the processing of data are in development. Joint publications with GY on VDJbase, and on OGRDB, have been proposed for the December database issue of NAR.
4. The inference of IGHJ polymorphisms was discussed. It was agreed that the percentage of full length IGHJ sequences in VDJ genes is very low. MC suggested that with appropriate filtering, the percentage could reach 10%. Still, the committee agreed that affirmation of the most 5' nucleotides in IGHJ will represent a special challenge. Deliberations will be assisted by the documentation of position by position variations in nucleotide frequencies. This is something that WL reported can be implemented. The challenge of exploring IGHJ polymorphisms through haplotyping with heterozygous IGHV loci was briefly discussed. Duplicated loci such as IGHV3-30, IGHV1-69 and IGHV3-23 would need to be excluded from analysis. MO drew attention to the challenge represented by the individual described by Davide Bagnara, who appears to have a duplication of a long stretch of the locus.
5. The next meeting (Meeting 39) will be on Wednesday July 10th at 20:00 AEST.

The meeting ended at 21:00 AEST.