U.S. Rosexec MEEting Minutes

# Teleconference Go-To Meeting,

# October 17, 2018 11am – 1PM PDT

Attendees: Nahla Bassil, Chris Dardick, Ksenija Gasic, Sook Jung, Lise Mahoney, Dorrie Main, Lee Meisel, Mercy Olmstead, Ellen Thompson, Jonathan Fresnedo Ramirez, Chris Saski, Janet Slovin, Margaret Worthington

### WElcome

* Standing Officers:
  + Mercy Olmstead (Chair), Chris Saski (Vice Chair), Lise Mahoney (Secretary), Ksenija Gasic (Past Chair)
* Attendance; Self-introduction

### RosEXEC – New student award program

* Jim McFerson found the RosExec bylaws and will forward them to Mercy and she will add the Student Award structure.
* Nahla will be the chair of the Student Award Program.
* Student award committee – Nahla Bassil, Chris Dardick, Mercy Olmstead, Dorrie Main, more?
* Will consider inviting awarded student(s) to one year membership on committee towards evaluation of applications for awards.
* Plan on announcement of student award program in next ASHS newsletter and GDR newsletter and by using the GDR e-mail list and ??
* Working on deciding mechanics for submissions, ie Google docs or dropbox or…
* Student submission will include an abstract and student background.
* Student will be awarded a certificate and possibly shirt – tee or polo. Funding for these will need to be found.
* Ideas or suggestions for criteria for selection should be sent to Mercy or Chris.

### Approval of Minutes

* Mercy thanked everyone for attendance of the 25 April teleconference meeting.
* Approval of Minutes from 30 August 2018 Meeting.

### GDR Advisory Board

* Quarterly report Q16 GDR report and Q11 Plan of work. – Divided into completed and plan of work. See report from Dorrie (email October 17, 2018). Dorrie provided some highlights.
  + Added an additional two new genome sequences and 67 linkage maps.
  + Manuscript accepted Nucleic Acid Research.
  + GDR usage 146,747 in Q16.
  + New database platform will improve performance.
  + Consultant hired to work with Ksenija on BIMS.
  + Michael Coe will prepare a designer survey to go out early November.
  + GDR workshop is planned for upcoming PAG conference to include training.
  + Will book room for meeting of RosExec and RosIGI.
* GDR workshop at PAG Sunday January 1:30 – 3:40 PDT.
* Chris Dardick asked about CyVerse relationship to GDR. Dorrie says that CyVerse does not store databases but will find out more about their future plans.
* Exploring idea of establishing community database program. Excluding GDR, some ideas for funding such as non-profit company for Tripal structure – pay for use.

### review/challenges for roseceae

* White Paper update – plugging away at it.
* Link to the google page for white paper. <https://bit.ly/2GSOTnv>

### Coordination and updates

* Non-research update (industry, info and tech transfer)
  + Ellen Thompson – Pacific Berry Breeding – Watsonville California – mild primocane season. Problems with powdery mildew and mites a newer pest in tunnels. Potentially seeing a genotypic difference in susceptibility between the varieties. Caneberries are all in containers and so easily cycle through germplasm. It’s all substrate production. In Mexico, much rain and flooding and rain and snow at high elevations. In Watsonville, apple harvest is 30 days late due to a March freeze.
  + Mercy – CA Strawberry Commission. Strawberry substrate production is on the radar for consideration. They’ve had historical volumes and low prices. Anticipate lower acreage in strawberry as reflected in 2,500 – 3,000 fewer acres being fumigated. Strawberry Pest Management Strategic Plan is to breed for disease and insect resistance. Presently only supporting S. Knapp.
  + Lee Meisel – Chile, strawberries. Oxnard strawberries are coming in.
* New collaborations (domestic and international)
  + Nahla Bassil provided that following “ARS Breeding Insight Platform: genomics and informatics to increase breeding impact”. The numerous USDA-ARS smaller breeding programs focused on specialty crops and animals have not benefited sufficiently from the genomics and informatics revolution of breeding. It is now possible to combine breeding approaches with genomics and informatics to accurately predict some of the traits and performance of an individual long before it is ever grown. The smaller breeding programs simply do not have the resources to implement the powerful predictive models that have been deployed in major livestock and crops by ARS and industry. The genomics and specialized informatics technologies are not only too expensive for individual programs to implement on their own, but that require high-tech expertise to tailor them to different species and kinds of breeding programs.
    - The Breeding Insight Platform (BIP) at Cornell University will leverage recent improvements in genomics and open source informatics components, and partners with small breeding programs, enabling these programs to harness these incredibly powerful digital tools to accelerate their genetic gains. It will support breeding projects across ARS by building a team of specialists in information technology, genomics, and breeding process design that will partner with individual ARS pre-breeding and breeding groups and NPGS genebanks. This 'coordinator' type model will enable the efficient and cost-effective deployment of modern genomics and informatics to ARS small breeding programs. The initial two years will focus on recruiting the BIP team and integrating informatics tools. The project will leverage investments in open source informatic tools that are already funded by ARS, CGIAR, USAID, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Currently, these tools cover the domain space (various activities) needed for breeding programs to operate efficiently, but they do not inter-operate well. Additionally, some of the tools have been scaled for very large programs, and they need to be simplified for smaller breeding programs. The Cornell software engineers will improve and integrate these tools, so they can be applied to specialty breeding programs.
  + Chris Dardick reported that Chad Finn’s blueberry program will be used as a pilot in the use and evaluation of the Cornell Genomic Selection for Breeding introductory program software versions.
  + Dave Byrne is submitting a preproposal to the USDA-NIFA-SCRI program for a standard research and extension project on “Tools for Polyploids: Development of a Community Resource.”
  + PGRP funding cut to 47% of budget – could the person who reported this elaborate?
  + Chris Dardick – USDA crafting grant program for vertical agriculture and urban farming. Interested in fruit crops in addition to leafy greens. Anticipates new program announcement in November to December 2018.
  + Margaret Worthington –.
  + Ksenija Gasic – reports that ideas on actively being worked on for a RosBREED3 proposal.
  + Mercy Olmstead – Macrophomina major problem for strawberry. Root rot nematode crosses made using germplasm collection.

Jonathan Fresnedo Ramirez – Almond board just funded $$ for annotation of almond.

* Current collaborations/projects (domestic and international)

Someone noted that a lot of US Funding is going to International efforts. Referred to Article in Science – week of August 17.

### Research fields and technology updates

* Germplasm and genetic resources - Nahla Bassil reports a critical need. The NCGR operating budget is $18k for the entire year and includes only $6k per scientist. Need stakeholders to emphasize how support is important. Nahla plans to prepare and distribute a summary of the NCGR meeting held in September. RosExec attendees would like to know to whom it is best to address letters of support.
* A strawberry genome workshop is being organized by Patrick Edger to be held at PAG on Monday focusing on the octoploid genome.

### Personnel changes

* Chris Dardick (USDA-ARS) got an approval to hire two scientists soon: 1. Breeding for Pears to focus on rootstocks, and 2. Horticultural position.
* Job Descriptions and Technology update - please send to Lise.Mahoney@unh.edu.

### Announcements for upcoming meetings

* PAG XXVII, San Diego, California, January 12-16, 2019
* 9th North American Strawberry Symposium, Orlando, FL, February 3-6th, 2019 In conjunction with 2019 Annual NASGA Meeting https://www.nasga.org/n-american-strawberry-growers-conference.htm
* ASHS, Las Vegas, July 22-25, 2019 (John Clark and Margaret Worthington are planning a Fruit Breeding Workshop. Ksenija Gasic organizing an Indoor Fruit Tasting tour and needs venue help to meet the March deadline.
* APSB San Jose, California, August 3-7, 2019
* NAPB/PBCC Annual Meetings: University of Georgia, Pine Mountain, GA, August 25-29, 2019
* Student Award program suggested by Mercy, committee to be established, see email follow-ups.
* PAG Fruit and Nut Workshop coordinator Iraida Amaya [iraida.amaya@juntadeandalucia.es](mailto:iraida.amaya@juntadeandalucia.es)
* New Business
  + Times for upcoming meetings:

### Next RosEXEC meeting

* + - January 13 at PAG, time in Garden Salon 1 room for RosEXEC/RosIGI meeting

*Meeting concluded at 1:00 pm  
Minutes compiled and submitted by Lise Mahoney, Secretary*