



IWGSC Newsletter – January to April 2015

Welcome to the new IWGSC newsletter. Published three times a year, this publication will keep you abreast of the latest news and activities of the IWGSC.

The IWGSC

- In early 2015, the IWGSC rolled out the new nonprofit organization led by a Board of Directors, a Leadership Team, and a Coordinating Committee. Check out the [new structure](#) and the [updated fact sheet](#).
- As of February 2015, the IWGSC had 1100 members, working in 361 institutes/companies in 55 countries. Check out the map [here](#).
- The IWGSC became an [Associated Project of the Wheat Initiative](#)

Projects

The [projects progress overview](#) is regularly updated on the IWGSC homepage.

- By the end of 2014, the physical mapping for all of the projects had been completed and the assemblies of just 4.5 chromosomes remained to be finalized. See the [physical mapping page](#) for specific chromosome information.
- Reference sequencing projects are now underway for 10.5 chromosomes that are expected to reach the standard of chromosome 3B within the next 1-2 years and efforts continue to identify funding for the remaining chromosomes. More details by projects can be found on the [reference sequencing page](#)
- The [IWGSC wheat data repository at URGI](#) has been updated to provide access to additional physical maps.

People

Throughout the year, the IWGSC highlights the work of its members by profiling them on the website and presenting them with Awards.

- [Leader Spotlight](#): Curtis Pozniak, professor at the University of Saskatchewan (Canada), a wheat breeder, and a geneticist with the University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre shares his views on the value of having a high quality reference sequence and genomics technologies for wheat breeders. [Read more](#)
- [Leadership Award](#): Jane Rogers and Klaus Mayer were awarded an IWGSC Outstanding Leadership Award in recognition and appreciation of their leadership in the IWGSC Chromosome Survey Sequencing Initiative. [Jane Rogers profile](#) and [Klaus Mayer profile](#)
- [Early Career award](#): Ricardo Ramirez was awarded an IWGSC Early Career Award at PAG 2015. [Ricardo Ramirez profile](#).

PAG 2015

In January 2015, the IWGSC kicked off its 10-year anniversary with workshops, celebrations, and awards at the Plant & Animal Genome Conference XXIII (PAG) in San Diego.

- More than 1,000 scientists attended the IWGSC's main workshop on the 10 January. The workshop included an update on the *Ae. tauschii* sequencing project, exome sequencing of wheat mutant populations, and three talks describing the generation or use of wheat genomic resources. [Program, abstracts & presentations of IWGSC workshop at PAG 2015](#)
- The IWGSC Standards and Protocols workshop at PAG 2015 included an update on wheat genome sequencing activities with a focus on the development of data standards and new protocols. [Program, abstracts & presentations of IWGSC Standards and Protocols Workshop](#)
- Check out the [PAG pictures](#) and the [IWGSC poster at PAG 2015](#)

Presentations

We have added several presentations to the website, as well as slides for you to use in your presentations and communications.

- 12 February 2015: Kellye Eversole, IWGSC Executive Director, presented the IWGSC strategy to obtain a high quality reference sequence and an update on the latest results in a seminar at Bayer Crop Science in Ghent, Belgium. [Link to the presentation](#)
- <http://www.wheatgenome.org/IWGSC-Activities/Presentations/Bayer-Crop-Science-February-2015> 6 February 2015: Several members of the IWGSC leadership team and KeyGene met to discuss future efforts for securing the remaining funding for completing the high quality sequence. [Link to the presentation](#)
- Resource for members: slides reflecting the status, as of March 2015, for both the physical maps and the reference sequencing projects. [Updated IWGSC chromosomes with flags](#)

In the press

- On 6 January 2015, the IWGSC announced that it had completed high quality physical maps for 6 additional wheat chromosome arms. Read the press release: [Wheat genome sequencing on track](#)
- On 11 March 2015, Agri-Pulse, an organisation that provides coverage on the politics and players driving agricultural and rural policy, published an article about the IWGSC efforts to sequence the wheat genome. Read the article: [“Wanted: \\$13 million to unlock the wheat genome](#)

And don't forget to follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

The IWGSC Team