

The Fourth *Aspergillus* Meeting

**March 18-20, 2007
Asilomar Conference Center
Pacific Grove, California**

**Organized by the
Aspergillus Genomes Research Policy Committee**

***Aspergillus* Genomes Research Policy Group (AGRPG)**

An *Aspergillus* Genomics workshop was held at the March 2003 Asilomar Fungal Genetics meeting. From discussions in that workshop it was obvious that our community needed to organize to fully exploit genomics resources. A provisional *Aspergillus* Genomes Research Policy Committee (AGRPC) was conscripted and charged with creating a structure for community-wide coordination and organizing an annual meeting. The First *Aspergillus* Meeting was held in Copenhagen, April 21, 2004, as a satellite meeting of the European Congress on Fungal Genetics-7. In addition to scientific presentations, bylaws were approved, community research directions were discussed and the 2004 AGRPC was elected. The name *Aspergillus* Genomes Research Policy Group was adopted for the community. The objectives of the AGRPG are: (1) Provision of an educational and discussion forum for issues pertaining to *Aspergillus* genomics, in this widest sense, for the various *Aspergillus* research communities; (2) Influencing grant making bodies and other institutions on behalf of the various *Aspergillus* research communities; (3) Coordinating research activities internationally, as and when required, to future the science base of the *Aspergillus* genus. For more information on the activities of the AGRPG and other *Aspergillus* news see our homepage at FGSC (<http://www.fgsc.net/Aspergillus/asperhome.html>).

2006 AGRPC:

Scott Baker (*A. niger*), 2006-08

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, USA; scott.baker@pnl.gov

Gerhard Braus (*A. nidulans*), 2005-07

Georg-August-University Goettingen, Germany; gbraus@gwdg.de

Paul Dyer (*A. fumigatus*), 2004-06

University of Nottingham, UK; Paul.Dyer@Nottingham.ac.uk

Gustavo Goldman (Special Appointment), 2006

Universidade de San Paulo, Brazil; ggoldman@usp.br

Michael Hynes (*A. nidulans*), 2004-06

University of Melbourne, Australia; mjhynes@unimelb.edu.au

Masayuki Machida (*A. oryzae*), 2006-08

Nat'l Inst of Biosci and Human Tech, Japan; m.machida@aist.go.jp

Michelle Momany, Chair (*A. nidulans* and *A. fumigatus*), 2006-08

University of Georgia, USA; momany@plantbio.uga.edu

Gary Payne (*A. flavus*), 2005-2007

North Carolina State University, USA; gary_payne@ncsu.edu

Arthur Ram (*A. niger* and *A. nidulans*), 2006-08

Leiden University, The Netherlands; Ram@rulbim.leidenuniv.nl

Ex Officio: Kevin McCluskey

Fungal Genetics Stock Center, USA; mccluskeyk@umkc.edu

THANKS TO OUR MEETING SPONSORS!!!!!!



The Fourth *Aspergillus* Meeting

March 18-20, 2007
Asilomar Conference Center

All sessions in Merrill Hall

March 18, Sunday

3:00- 6:00 Registration

6:00 *Dinner*

7:00-9:00 *Welcome Reception—Sponsored by Novozymes*

March 19, Monday

7:30-9:00 *Breakfast*

9:00-9:15 **Welcome, introductions and announcements**

Session I:

9:15-10:15

Genetics and Cell Biology

Chair: Gerhard Braus

Dr. Norio Takeshita, Univ. of Karlsruhe. Cell end factors in *A. nidulans*

Dr. Jae Hyuk Yu, Univ. of Wisconsin. GPCRs, RGSs and velvet-like proteins

Dr. Kerstin Helmstaedt, Univ. of Göttingen. The nuclear migration protein NUDF associates with BNFA and NUDC at spindle pole bodies in *Aspergillus nidulans*.

10:15-10:45 *Coffee Break –Sponsored by Monsanto*

Session II:

10:45-11:45

Phylogenetics/Evolutionary Biology

Chair: Paul Dyer

Dr. Arun Balajee, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta. MLST and the molecular phylogeny of the *Aspergillus* section *Fumigati*.

Dr. Peter J. Cotty, United States Department of Agriculture, University of Arizona. Vegetative incompatibility in *Aspergillus flavus*.

Dr. Rolf F. Hoekstra, Wageningen University.
Experimental means to study evolutionary processes within *Aspergillus*

12-1:00 **Lunch**

Session III:

1:00-2:00 **Annotation, Comparative Genomics, Databases**
 Chair: Masayuki Machida

Dr. Jennifer Wortman, The Institute for Genomic Research.
Comparative genomics as a tool for annotation improvement and analysis of related *Aspergillus* genomes.

Dr. Gavin Sherlock, Candida Database, CGD. Using GBrowse to visualize multiple genome assemblies.

Drs. Jennifer Wortman, Steve Oliver, Dave Ussery, Jaap Visser and Cees van den Hondel. The *A. nidulans* annotation project: a global community effort.

2:00-2:30 **Community Directions Discussion**
 Moderator: Michelle Momany

2:30-2:45 **Coffee Break –Sponsored by Monsanto**

Session IV:

2:45-5:00 **Talks selected from Abstracts** **Chair: Gary Payne**

Dr. Özgür Bayram, Georg August University, Institut of Microbiology & Genetics Goettingen. The *Aspergillus nidulans* F-box Protein Project.

Dr. Jakob B. Nielsen, Technical University of Denmark, CMB, BioCentrum-DTU Kgs. Lyngby. A transiently disrupted non-homologous end joining pathway in *Aspergillus nidulans* allows simple and efficient gene targeting.

Dr. Peter J. Punt, TNO Quality of Life, Microbiology Zeist. New screening approaches for fungal strain development.

Dr. Natalie D. Fedorova, The Institute for Genomic Research, Microbial Genetics, Rockville, MD. Comparative analysis of secondary metabolism gene clusters from two strains of *Aspergillus fumigatus* and closely related species *Neosartorya fischeri* and *Aspergillus clavatus*.

Dr. Ronald de Vries, Utrecht University Microbiology, Utrecht. Colonies from the filamentous fungus *Aspergillus niger* are highly differentiated in spite of cytoplasmic continuity.

Dr. William Steinbach, Pediatrics, Molecular Genetics, and Microbiology, Duke University Medical Center. The benefits and real future of calcineurin inhibition against invasive aspergillosis.

Dr. William C. Nierman, The Institute for Genomic Research.
A pilot project for a high throughput *Aspergillus fumigatus* mutant strain Resource

Dr. Steven Harris, The University of Nebraska. Proposed tiling project

5:15-6:00 **Pontecorvo Lecture: Joan Bennett, Rutgers University**
“On being *Aspergillus*-o-centric: From girl geek to fungus freak”

6:00-7:00 ***Dinner***

7:00-10:00 **Posters and drinks**
Poster session and outstanding student poster sponsored by DSM

March 20, Tuesday

7:30-9:00 ***Breakfast***

9:00-9:15 **Elections**

Session V:

9:15-10:15 **Genomics/Proteomics/transcriptomics/metabolomics updates**
Chair: Gustavo H. Goldman

Dr. Manda Gent, Faculty of Life Sciences, Manchester University
A comparison of the expression of secreted hydrolases in *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Aspergillus nidulans* under phospholipid-rich conditions

Dr. Olaf Kniemeyer, Leibniz-Institut für Naturstoff-Forschung und Infektionsbiologie Hans-Knöll-Institut. Comparative proteomics of the human-pathogenic fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus*

Dr. Jens Frisvad, Center for Microbial Biotechnology, BioCentrum-DTU, Technical University of Denmark. The exometabolomics of *Aspergilli*

Dr. Noel van Peij, DSM. *A. niger* genome update

10:15-10:30 ***Coffee Break—Sponsored by Monsanto***

Session VI:

10:30-11:30

Industrial Applications

Chair: Scott Baker

Dr. Ken Bruno, Chemical & Biological Processes Development Group,
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Cell Biology and Citric
Acid Production in *Aspergillus niger*.

Dr. Mikael Rørdam Andersen, Technical University of Denmark.
Metabolic network driven interpretation of transcription data from
Aspergillus cell factories.

Dr. Adrian Tsang, Concordia University. *Aspergillus niger* as a
host for global expression of secreted proteins.

11:30

**Announce election results and take any further discussion
Announce winner of DSM student poster prize**

12:00-1:00

Lunch