PRESS RELEASE
Barcelona, 19th September 2017

Worldwide scientists share technologies, resources, and results towards precision medicine in Barcelona

On 20th, 21st, and 22nd October, the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG) will hold its 16th Annual Symposium, which will bring together world-leading researchers to share and discuss about the progress in sequencing and other technologies for biomolecular analysis, and their applications in research and clinical settings.

Genomics research is key to foster new scientific and medical advances. Researchers using new technologies as well as other available resources and tools for biomolecular analysis are exploring innovative approaches that will be helpful to prevent and treat cancer, common diseases, and rare diseases. Now, the 16th CRG Annual Symposium, which this year is joint with the 7th International Workshop on Genomic Epidemiology, will gather together outstanding researchers worldwide to share and discuss their latest advances on this topic.

The conference will tackle from solutions for the accumulation, handling and interpretation of huge data sets, to new understanding of gene networks and epigenomic phenomena in health and disease, including the identification of rare and common genetic variants associated with disease, pharmacogenomics, or gene-gene and gene-environment interactions. This event will foster interactions among senior and younger scientists through plenary sessions, short talks selected from abstracts and poster sessions. It will provide opportunities to establish new collaborations, and to discuss progress and future challenges at the cutting edge of precision medicine.

In conclusion, this meeting will be an example of how a combination of new technologies, resources and innovative fundamental research can lead into new approaches for medical application. Once again, Barcelona will be the main focus of genomic research at a very high international level. The CRG annual symposium highlights the contribution of the biomedical scientific pool existing in Barcelona and strengthens networking and collaboration amongst local and international research groups.

NOTES TO THE EDITORS

Information about the 16th CRG Annual Symposium, 7th International Workshop on Genomic Epidemiology:
http://www.crg.eu/en/event/16th-crg-symposium-seventh-international-workshop-genomic-epidemiology

Organiser: Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG), Centro Nacional de Análisis Genómico (CNAG-CRG)

Scientific organising committee:

- William Cookson, Imperial College London, UK
- Ivo Gut, CNAG-CRG, Barcelona, ES
- Mark Lathrop, McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre, CA
- Daniel E. Weeks, Department of Human Genetics, University of Pittsburgh, US

16th CRG Annual Symposium Speakers:

Please, find here the complete list of speakers at the 16th CRG Annual Symposium. You will find below a selection of the invited speakers that may be of your interest for interviews:

- **Gonçalo Abecasis**: Goncalo Abecasis is a Professor of Biostatistics at the School of Public Health, University of Michigan. He received his D.Phil. in Human Genetics from the University of Oxford in 2001 and joined the faculty at the University of Michigan in the same year. Dr. Abecasis' research focuses on the development of statistical tools for the identification and study of genetic variants important in human disease. Software developed by Dr. Abecasis at the University of Michigan is used in several hundred gene-mapping projects around the world. He participated in the 1,000 Genomes Project.
  Website: https://sph.umich.edu/faculty-profiles/abecasis-goncalo.html
  Wikipedia profile: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gon%C3%A7alo_Abecasis

- **Mark Caulfield**: Mark Caulfield graduated in Medicine in 1984 from the London Hospital Medical College and trained in Clinical Pharmacology at St Bartholomew's Hospital (Barts) where he developed a research programme in molecular genetics of hypertension and clinical research. In 2009 he won the Lily Prize of the British Pharmacology Society. He is a Fellow of The Royal College of Physicians.
  In 2000 Mark successfully bid for £3.1m to create the Barts and The London Genome Centre at the Queen Mary University of London. Since 2008 he has directed the Barts National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Cardiovascular Biomedical Research Unit. In 2012 he become Co-Chair of NIHR Comprehensive Research Network Cardiovascular Sub-Speciality Group. In 2013 he became an NIHR Senior Investigator. He is also Chief Scientist at Genomics England.
  https://www.genomicsengland.co.uk/about-genomics-england/the-board/
  https://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v527/n7576_supp/full/527S5a.html

- **Peter Jones**: Dr. Jones was born in Cape Town, raised and attended college in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and received his Ph.D. from the University of London. He joined the University of Southern California in 1977 and served as Director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center between 1993 and 2011. He is currently the Chief Scientific Officer of Van Andel Research Institute (VARI) in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His laboratory discovered the effects of 5-azacytidine on cytosine methylation and he first established the link between DNA methylation, gene expression and differentiation. He pioneered the field of epigenetics, particularly its role in cancer, and helped develop novel therapies for cancer.
  https://joneslab.vai.org/lead-investigator-jones/
  https://joneslab.vai.org/

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