**Asperfest 12 Minutes**

The 12th International *Aspergillus* meeting (Asperfest12) took place at Asilomar, California, USA as a satellite to the 28th Fungal Genetics Conference. There were 134 registered representing 18 countries.

**Community Discussion:** The community discussions were dominated by debate over the future of online databases following the news that AspGD funding was not renewed by NIH, and that data will be moved to FungiDB within EuPathDB (<http://fungidb.org/fungidb/>). FungiDB/EuPathDB is supported by an NIH contract and has many capabilities, but does not have the resources to do curation. However, one option discussed was that managing and updating the AspGD curation might be taken over by a nonprofit organization Phoenix Bioinformatics (http://phoenixbioinformatics.org/), which would set up a subscription based model with a fee depending on user status.

In initial discussions it was clarified that FungiDB/EupathDB does allow curation/updates to be provided by the Aspergillus community, whereas the service from Phoenix would include updating of databases (for instance addition of new journal publications on given genes) not included with the EuPathDB site. It was suggested that a combination of of FungiDB and Phoenix for curation might work if data from both could be linked.

Jennifer Wortman explained that a proposal had been submitted to the Wellcome Trust, which contained support for curation but the outcome was not yet known, but the second option of funding curation through a source such as Phoenix remained. Ronald Devries argued that data needed to be transferred fast to EUPathDB or any other provider, and that this was an essential aspect of any transition plan. It was queried whether FungiDB/EuPathDB could be automatically updated with journal publications triggering a database accession (Nancy Keller). Omar Harb from FungiDB agreed this would be very nice, but at present this was not possible and there is a need to increase enforcement of proper gene ID usage in Journals.

Discussions then turned to gene deletion strains. Gustavo Goldman queried whether the *A. fumigatus* KO collection was to be made available to the public - if so, when and how? Paul Bowyer stated that strains will be made available and archived at Jena (Hans-Knöll-Institut). Mike Bromley, Jean-Paul Latge, and Axel Brakhage should be contacted for more information. Paul Dyer then queried the status of the *A. nidulans* KO cassette collection held at the FGSC. It was reported that stocks of many cassettes had unfortunately dried up or been used up, but that many cassettes were still available. So far very few deletant strains produced using the KO have been deposited back at FGSC (Robb Cramer). A show of hands revealed continued interest in using the *A. nidulans* KO cassette collection.

Finally discussions returned to the issue of databases. Jesse Kissinger explained that the EUPathDB team are working on software implementation to allow annotation of new strains added to EuDB. It was asked how much a subscription would cost with Phoenix (Clay Wang)? Phoenix currently maintains an *Arabadopsis* genome database site, but the *Arabadopsis* community is much larger and wealthier than the *Aspergillus* one. The fee varies according to subscriber status e.g. whether an individual, lab, university or even country. Also Ronald Devries expressed concern about the focus of curation, for example would one species dominate while others would be left behind? It was agreed that Michelle Momany would pursue information with Phoenix and further comments from the community were welcomed.

**Novozyme student Poster prizes:** Paul Dyer chaired the poster judging. Other judges were: Amanda Fischer (Novozymes), Jennifer Wortman and Clay Wang.

Poster prize winners were: Stephen Dolan (Maynooth University), Damien Downes (Kansas State University), Tiffany Norton (University of South Alabama), Franziska Wanka (Technical University of Berlin), Fang Yun Lim (University of Wisconsin-Madison), and Elixabet Oiartzabal (University of the Basque Country).

**Elections:** Terms ended for the following committee members: Clay Wang, Ronald de Vries, Hubertus Haas, and Michelle Momany. The following new members were elected to the committee: Isabelle Benoit (CBS-KNAW Fungal Biodiversity Centre, Netherlands), Nancy Keller (University of Wisconsin Madison, USA), Nick Read (University of Manchester, UK), and Michelle Momany (University of Georgia, USA). Michelle was re-elected chair.