

ESEB 2013 Satellite Meeting: “Creating a European *Drosophila* Population Genomics Network.”

We would like to invite you to participate in an informal satellite meeting on *Drosophila* population genomics that will be held during the ESEB 2013 Congress in Lisbon, Portugal (14th Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology, 19-24 August 2013; <https://www.eseb2013.com/>).

The main goal of the meeting is to explore whether there exist mutual interests among people studying the population genomics of European *Drosophila* (mainly *melanogaster* and *simulans*, but other species might be of interest as well) in initiating a joint, collaborative European network.

This is an extremely exciting time for population genomic studies. The recent advent of powerful next-generation sequencing (NGS) techniques allows us to examine genetic variation at unprecedented scales, at the whole-genome level and with single nucleotide resolution. The continuing technological improvements and the dropping costs of these methods means that even single labs can now generate terabytes of sequence data very rapidly at a relatively low cost. However, the resulting data are typically used to address only a very limited number of specific questions, so that the overall value of these datasets for the community as a whole is somewhat limited. To foster the integration and exchange of population genomic information, we therefore propose that individual European labs build up a joint effort in collecting and generating population genomic data for *Drosophila* species across Europe.

During the meeting we would like to discuss (1) how to develop a collaborative strategy for sampling different European *Drosophila* populations through space and time in order to generate a unique European collection of samples for future sequence (and possibly phenotype) analysis; (2) how to best generate high-quality sequence data from such samples; and (3) how to optimally integrate the resulting data and information so that it can be used to answer a wide range of questions. We would also like to explore potential funding opportunities that could be used to support regular meetings of the network and that would foster scientific exchange and collaboration among the labs involved.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Lisbon!
Details will follow.

Best wishes,
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