



Newsletter N° 2/2021

## IWGSC Newsletter – October 2021 to January 2022

### The IWGSC

- Membership  
The IWGSC has 3,300 members, working at 913 institutions/companies in 71 countries.
- Sponsors
  - Currently, the IWGSC has [10 sponsors](#).
  - In October and December, we were pleased to welcome two new sponsors:
    - [CIMMYT](#), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center. The organization will be represented in the IWGSC Coordinating Committee by Susanne Dreisigacker, wheat molecular breeding laboratory lead. [Read the press release](#).
    - [Curio Genomics](#), a bioinformatics company providing a user-friendly, dynamic real-time data visualization platform. Shawn Quinn, Curio's co-founder and Chief Technology Officer, will be joining the IWGSC Coordinating Committee. [Read the press release](#).
  - We put the [spotlight on RAGT](#) – a seed company that has supported the IWGSC since 2009 – with an interview with John Baison, RAGT representative in the IWGSC Coordinating Committee, and Chris Burt, IWGSC Board member.
  - Sponsor support is essential to ensure continuation of activities. Please inform us if you know of any potential sponsors (research institutes, universities, governmental agencies, or companies).

### Projects

- IWGSC RefSeq Assembly and Annotation
  - As a reminder, revised versions of the wheat genome reference sequence assembly (**IWGSC RefSeq v2.1**) and annotation (**IWGSC RefSeq annotation v2.1**) are now available at the [IWGSC data repository hosted by URGI-INRAE](#) without restriction.
  - Detailed information on how IWGSC RefSeq v2.1 and IWGSC RefSeq annotation v2.1 were developed [are available on this page](#).
  - The article outlining these new resources is available in open access at [Plant J, 107: 303-314](#).
- IWGSC RefSeq Annotation – Contribute to future annotation releases

The annotation of the IWGSC Chinese Spring RefSeq is in continuous improvement. If your team works on a specific gene family, we can integrate your expert annotation into a future release. Sent a GFF file of your favorite genes and a short description of your dataset to INRAE GDEC contacts: [Frédéric Choulet](#) and [Hélène Rimbart](#)
- IWGSC-Arbor Biosciences Promoter Capture

A target capture panel for promoters and other regulatory elements in wheat is now available from [Daicel Arbor Biosciences](#). The panel is designed to capture ~168 Mbp of genomic space as measured on RefSeq v1.0, with the target selection spearheaded by Jorge Dubcovsky at UC Davis (and HHMI) in collaboration with researchers from INRAE. [View the poster](#) presented virtually at PAG XXIX for more details on set composition and behavior. The probe set is available as either a standalone NGS myBaits enrichment kit or can be used in a full-service myReads package, with both options

including bioinformatics via [Curio Genomics](#). Please [contact Daicel Arbor Biosciences](#) for more information.

- Genomic Tools

IWGSC sponsors [Curio Genomics and Daicel Arbor Biosciences announced on 20 January](#) the launch of the cloud-based fully integrated bioinformatics platform myCurio™, an integration of myCurio into Arbor's myBaits™ and myReads™ custom NGS products and services.

If you have any suggestions of genomics tools or resources that would be useful for the wheat community, please contact [Kellye Eversole](#).

## News

- 10 October 2021 – In the Media – [The Science Behind Your Salad podcast](#) on Wheat, featuring interviews with Kellye Eversole, Alison Bentley (CIMMYT) and John Jacobs (BASF).
- 19 October 2021 – Announcement – [The IWGSC Early Career Award becomes the IWGSC and Catherine Feuillet Early Career Award](#)
- 21 October 2021 – Press release – [CIMMYT Joins the International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium](#)
- 1 November 2021 – Announcement – [Ellie Taagen is awarded the IWGSC and Catherine Feuillet Early Career Award](#)
- 7 December 2021 – Press release – [Curio Genomics Joins the International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium](#)
- 20 January 2022 – Press release – [Curio Genomics and Daicel Arbor Biosciences Deliver Fully Integrated myCurio™ Bioinformatics Platform](#)

## People

- [Leader Spotlight on Rudi Appels](#)
- [An interview with John Baison and Chris Burt \(RAGT, UK\)](#)
- [Early Career Awardee profile: Ellie Taagen](#)

## Workshops

The IWGSC held two workshops at [PAG 2022](#) (8 to 12 January 2022) that pivoted at the last minute from an in-person event in San Diego to a virtual meeting. Shoot out to the PAG organizers for providing a platform for the workshops to take place and to all the presenters for their flexibility and availability (sometimes late at night!).

- IWGSC main workshop: [program & slides](#) – [speaker profiles](#) – **This was the most attended workshop at PAG 2022!**
- IWGSC From Structural to Functional Wheat Genomics Workshop: [program & slides](#)
- [IWGSC Poster](#)

## Webinars

IWGSC webinars are FREE and scheduled on Thursdays at 11:00am, Eastern US time. If you cannot join us at that time, the recordings are posted shortly after the live webinars on the [IWGSC YouTube channel](#). Subscribe to the channel to never miss a new upload!

If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, [please let us know](#).

### Upcoming webinars:

- 24 February: "**Solving a 100-year old mystery: Cloning the *P1* locus in *Triticum polonicum***" presented by Nikolai Adamski (John Innes Centre, UK)  
[Register here](#)

- 24 March: "**Evolution of recombination landscapes in diverging populations of bread wheat**" presented by Alice Danguy des Déserts (INRAE-Université Clermont-Auvergne, FR)  
[Register here](#)
- 21 April: "**The *Ph1/ZIP4* story: stabilization of wheat as a polyploid and preservation of grain number**" presented by Azahara Martin (John Innes Centre, UK)  
[Register here](#)

#### Past webinars

In case you missed our [past webinars](#), you can watch all recordings on the [IWGSC YouTube channel](#). Slides of the presentations & Q&A sessions are also available on the website.

Since the last edition of the newsletter, we organized the following webinars:

- [Presentation Skills for Brainiacs - How to present to people who have no idea what you're talking about](#) presented by Laura Foley, Presentation Strategist.
- [Wheat to eat: accelerating plant breeding to address global food & nutrition security](#) presented by Alison Bentley (Director of CIMMYT Global Wheat Program)
- [Interaction between wheat cis- and trans-factors in shaping regulatory networks](#) presented by Yijing Zhang (Fudan University, China)
- [Challenges and opportunities in positional cloning and structural variation in polyploid crops](#) presented by Ellie Taagen (Cornell University, USA)
- [Developing sustainable strategies to protect wheat roots from take-all disease](#) presented by Javier Palma-Guerrero (Rothamsted Research, UK)
- [Recombination and chromatin landscapes in the wheat genome](#) presented by Ian Henderson (University of Cambridge, UK)

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