

GENCODE Consortium Software Release Plan

Grant Number: 5U54HG004555

Background

In 2007, NHGRI funded a Research Consortium to annotate all the evidence-based gene features at high accuracy on the human genome reference sequence. This will lead to a comprehensive discovery of all sequence-based functional elements in the human genome (Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE) programme). A single policy on software release has been developed by members of a subproject of the ENCODE Research Consortium, namely the "GENCODE Consortium" (Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Yale, MIT, UCSC, CRG, Lausanne, University of Washington and CNIO). The policy (below) was developed, in consultation with the members of the GENCODE Consortium and has been agreed upon by the consortium. For the purpose of simplicity, this policy will be referred to as the "GENCODE Consortium Software Release Plan".

Software Release Principles and Standards

The GENCODE Consortium is committed to the principle of rapid data and open source software release to the scientific community. The principle of rapid data release was initially implemented during the Human Genome Project and has been recognized as one of the most effective ways of promoting the use of the human genome sequence and subsequent genomic data sets to advance scientific knowledge and application to human health (<http://www.genome.gov/12513440>). In order for data resulting from this GENCODE project to be optimally analysed it is crucial that software connected with the GENCODE project be publically accessible.

GENCODE Consortium Software Release Plan

Open access to software that has been developed as a result of funding from the GENCODE project is essential to analysis and the resulting further understanding of the data sets generated. However, it is recognized that software developed by individual and collective consortium member institutions prior to initiation of GENCODE project funding may be covered by existing licensing and access arrangements. In most cases these arrangements will also be based on open source software release and therefore would be freely available to the scientific community, but there may be some exceptions. Furthermore, software developed under other funding would not be subject to this software release plan, only software that has been developed with funds from the NIH grant award 5U54HG004555 would be subject.

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