

International consortium initiative (ICI) overview

International steering committee Conifer genomics

Madrid, February 24th 2009



GBC logo



Eligibility criteria

- ⦿ Minimum of \$50M over 3 years (up to 5 years)
 - Genome Canada providing 25% of funding
- ⦿ Large scale genomic focus
- ⦿ International and inclusive in scope
- ⦿ International consortium with formal governance:
e.g. not for profit organization with funders on the board of directors
- ⦿ Requirements for Canadian leadership within the consortium



Process and guidelines

- Initial contact: conference call with Genome Canada to discuss about the ICI opportunity : was done in December 08
- Preparation and submission of a letter of intent (LOI), target timeline for submission to Genome Canada summer 2009
- LOI is evaluated by Genome Canada Science and industry advisory committee
- Funding of \$50 000 (max) for an international workshop (researchers and funders): confirm the potential and capacity for an ICI, identify additional participants and funders, initiate development of the proposal
- Preparation of application with the help of Genome Canada and regional genome centers
- Full application is reviewed by an joint international peer review process involving all funders (science, budgets, co-funding, governance and management) Complete process usually takes up to 2 years after LOI submission



Letter of intent content

- ◉ List of participating organizations and institutions
- ◉ List of potential funders and amount to be requested
- ◉ 5 pages to describe overview of research proposal – including social sciences and humanities research (ex: environment, economic, legal, etc)
- ◉ List of sub projects: research teams, scientific summary and preliminary budget
- ◉ Organisational structure: governance and management description
- ◉ Steering committee members

Evaluation of the LOI:

- Strategic importance of the proposed areas of research
- Potential for impact in Canada and other countries
- Inclusion of experts and other groups working in the area of proposed research



- ◉ Genome Canada provides up to 25% of total budget : \$12.5M of \$50M total
- ◉ Regional Genome centers support; can also reach 25%
 - (Genome Quebec and Genome BC wish to support this initiative and are already supporting pilot projects on conifer genome sequencing)
- ◉ Eligible international sources:
 - Institutional funds, trust funds, or foundations
 - Departments and agencies of federal governments
 - Departments and agencies in provincial and municipal governments
 - Firms and corporations
 - Voluntary organizations
 - Venture capitals or other investment funds
- ◉ No minimal limit on international funding
- ◉ Cash contributions are preferred but in kind contributions (non cash budget items) are also eligible



◎ Active ICIs:

Structural genomic consortium: 3-D structures of proteins of medical relevance, Aled Edwards, UofToronto (Ontario)

Public population project in genomics: biobank harmonization, Bartha Knoppers and Tom Hudson, Uof Montreal (Quebec)

Regulome consortium: regulation of gene functions-stem cell research and regenerative medicine, Micheal Rudnicki, UofOttawa (Ontario)



CONCLUSIONS

- ⦿ Large scale project but not a complicated process: Genome Canada and regional Genome Centers are there to help for the different steps (not a competition but a strategic initiative)
- ⦿ No closed timelines: but maintaining the momentum is really important
- ⦿ Key success factors: commitment and constant communication at the international level (researchers and funders)
- ⦿ Need to engage potential funders early in the process
- ⦿ If final application is well prepared: high success rate
- ⦿ Possibility for Phase II funding