



GIGA News Letter (no. 6) Winter 2021

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year from the outgoing President Lopez

As always, we hope that all folks are safe and looking forward to continued vaccinations and re-openings of their respective communities around the world...

I just wanted to make a brief Season's and Happy New Year's Greetings. GIGA has had a good year, and we look forward to an even better year with more progress.

Wheels are in motion to make GIGA a bona fide tax-exempt 501(c)3 non profit.

With very short notice, we were able to successfully hold our fourth meeting, a virtual GIGA IV gathering, thanks to the leadership of Jean-François Flot, our governing board and many volunteers and speakers.

Secretary Kevin has summarized the outcome of the meeting in an email, which I copy here:

"Thanks to all 144 of you who attended GIGA IV! Special thanks to Jean-François Flot and the rest of the organizing committee and of course the presenters! Talks were recorded and have been made available to registered participants. Recordings will be available for two months.

We thank the governing board (GB) members who are rotating off (Joe Lopez, Heather Bracken-Grissom, Jean-François Flot, and Monica Medina) for their service to the Alliance. Special thanks go to Past President Joe Lopez for his dedicated leadership of the society!! We thank all of the nominees for their willingness to serve the community and are thrilled to **welcome the new GIGA GB members:**

President – Todd Oakley, University of California Santa Barbara

Executive Vice-President for Conferences – Vanessa González, Smithsonian Institution

Executive Vice-President for Early Career Development – Maria Carmen Ablan Lagman, De La Salle University

Executive Vice-President for Development and Fundraising – Joe Lopez, Nova Southeastern University

Student Representative – Kate Castellano, The Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute

The Secretary (Kevin Kocot), Treasurer (Gonzalo Giribet), and Executive Vice-President for Communications (Fabrizio Ghiselli) will continue our terms until they end in October 2023 and the position of President Elect is currently vacant, which we will aim to fill at that time as well.”

With this, we all welcome the new GIGA GB, and success. I am happy to continue to serve and consult as needed, as there is much left to do.

I will end this winter newsletter with a quote and vintage 2015 GIGA holiday card.

“The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.” — Isaac Asimov

-Jose (Joe) Lopez, PhD, GIGA President (2019-2021)



Featured Genome – Chesapeake Blue Crab, *Callinectes sapidus*.



The Chesapeake Blue Crab (*C. sapidus*) is an iconic species of the world’s second largest estuary and world’s most productive ecosystem, the Chesapeake Bay. The Blue Crab is Maryland’s largest commercial fishery and key ecosystem species.¹ This year, the chromosome-level *C. sapidus* genome has been made available through NCBI through the efforts of University of Maryland’s Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology (IMET) and the Horn Point Laboratory.^{2,3}

References:

1. IMET scientists crack blue crab’s genetic code: <https://imet.usmd.edu/news/imet-scientists-crack-blue-crab%E2%80%99s-genetic-code>

2. Bachvaroff TR, McDonald RC, Plough LV, Chung JS. 2021. Chromosome-level genome assembly of the blue crab, *Callinectes sapidus*. G3. 11(9):jkab212. doi:10.1093/g3journal/jkab212.

3. NCBI Genome Page: (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/406?genome_assembly_id=1709665)

Recently accessioned invertebrate genomes at NCBI (Q4 2021)*:

1. *Arion vulgaris* (Spanish slug, Mollusca:Gastropoda)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/87846?genome_assembly_id=1737289
2. *Apostichopus californicus* (Giant California sea cucumber, Echinodermata)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/80139?genome_assembly_id=1730673
3. *Triops cancriformis* (tadpole shrimp, Crustacea)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/7259?genome_assembly_id=1734388
4. *Daphnia magna* (freshwater Crustacea)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/10953?genome_assembly_id=1737170
5. *Dreissena polymorpha* (Zebra mussel, Mollusca:Bivalvia)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/13187?genome_assembly_id=1728122
6. *Acropora hyacinthus* (Cnidaria, Hexacorallia)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/15620?genome_assembly_id=1723628
7. *Crassostrea ariakensis* (Suminoe oyster, Mollusca:Bivalvia)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/8982?genome_assembly_id=1722808
8. *Procambarus clarkii* (Louisiana crawfish, Crustacea)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/24125?genome_assembly_id=1716226
9. *Halochondria panicea* (Breadcrumb sponge, Porifera)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/80940?genome_assembly_id=1717051
10. *Patella pellucida* (Blue-rayed limpet, Mollusca:Gastropoda)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/107440?genome_assembly_id=1729862
11. *Eudrilus eugeniae* (African Nightcrawler, Annelida)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/106458?genome_assembly_id=1715225
12. *Aporrectodea caliginosa* (earthworm – Great Britain, Annelida)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/106418?genome_assembly_id=1713057
13. *Callinectes sapidus* (Blue Crab, Crustacea)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/406?genome_assembly_id=1709665
14. *Procambarus virginalis* (Marbled crayfish, Crustacea)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/66438?genome_assembly_id=1711832
15. *Halicyclotus octoradiatus* (Spotted kaleidoscope jellyfish, Cnidaria:Staurozoa)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/106387?genome_assembly_id=1708464
16. *Steromphala cineraria* (sea snail, Mollusca:Gastropoda)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/106389?genome_assembly_id=1708468

* Genomes are listed by date of accession starting with the most recent. Genomes are most commonly at contig-level of completion, but may represent scaffold-, assembly-, or chromosome-levels of completion. Genomes are from “representative” RefSeq category.

Donations to the GIGA nonprofit

And as always, please provide any support you can for the COS by giving a little back. As you know, GIGA does not impose any formal, required dues for members. Anyone can donate here

<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme2/GIGAIII>

Thank you.