

February 5, 2025



Dear Colleagues and Friends in Invertebrate Genomics,

On behalf of the Global Invertebrate Genomics Alliance (GIGA), it is my great pleasure to extend to you a warm invitation to participate in **GIGA VI**, taking place **July 6–10, 2026, in Boracay, Philippines**. As you know, GIGA is an international scientific community dedicated to promoting collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation in the genomics of invertebrate animals, a group with over 95 % of all animal diversity yet remains underrepresented in genomic research.

GIGA VI will bring together scientists, educators, students, and early-career researchers from around the world to share research, emerging methods, and new insights into evolutionary biology, genome assembly, phylogenomics, and conservation genomics. The program will feature thematic sessions on **genomics of Mollusca, Crustacea, phylogenomics, genome assembly methods, and conservation genomics**, as well as hands-on bioinformatics workshops and career-focused professional development opportunities.

Our community promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, and mentorship. At GIGA VI, we will offer travel grants and plenary sessions designed to support the engagement and advancement of students and early career scientists. Attendees will have the opportunity to present oral talks and posters, exchange ideas with peers and leaders in the field, and help shape future directions for comparative genomics research on invertebrates.

The Philippines's Boracay inspiring setting will provide the ideal environment for scientific conversations and networking. We are also planning optional pre-conference activities for those interested in exploring local biodiversity and a training workshop.

I hope you will join us for this timely event. Whether you are contributing novel genomic data, analytical tools, experimental insights, or integrative frameworks, your participation will enrich our shared mission to support open-science collaboration and advance genomic knowledge across invertebrate phyla.

Please visit www.gigavi.org for registration details, abstract submission guidelines, and updated information. We look forward to welcoming you to the Philippines in July 2026.

Warm regards,

Carlos Prada, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Rhode Island
President, Global Invertebrate Genomics Alliance