

Subject: Possible to meet July 6th?

From: Todd Kuiken <tkuiken@ncsu.edu>

Date: 5/30/2017 9:03 AM

To: Paul Freemont <freemontps@gmail.com>, p.freemont@imperial.ac.uk

CC: Margo Bagley <margo.a.bagley@emory.edu>, Eric Welch <EricWelch@asu.edu>, Federica Fusi <ffusi@asu.edu>

Hi Paul,

I hope you have been well and have forgiven me for getting you all wrapped up in the CBD chaos! Unfortunately, there is yet another treaty that is also struggling to deal with synthetic biology that I'd like to talk with you about.

The UN International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture asked Margo Bagley (Emory Univ.), Eric Welch (ASU) and me to assess how changes in synthetic biology, mainly de-materialization and digitization of data, will affect the structure, function and viability of the Treaty.

As you may know the Treaty is built entirely around physical material and is a multilateral global pool of genetic material from member countries. It's built around open access (for member countries) and benefit sharing from the use of that material.

Our aim is to inform the Treaty community about how current synthetic biology technologies and practices related to the exchange and use of sequence data are relevant for the Treaty. Our main interests concerns how de-materialization and the digitization of sequence data will affect sharing and exchange of inputs to science, and how policies might be best developed to both recognize the rights associated with data and still enable dynamic exchange.

We were planning to be in England on July 6-7 and were hoping we might be able to meet with you and possibly some members of your team to hear how you find, utilize and share data of this kind. We are also extremely interested to hear about your recent trips to Africa around capacity building.

Please let me know if you might be available sometime on July 6th, or even possible July 5th. We are currently scheduled to be up in Cambridge to meet with the Open Plant Initiative folks on the 7th. If those dates don't work please let me know some other potential dates, we have some flexibility in dates. We are also interested in speaking with others in the synbio community who are researching plants and would greatly appreciate any suggestions.

Kindest regards,

Todd

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