

**Subject:** Re: documentary on genetic engineering and your Island Mice Project

**From:** Kenton Vaughan <kentonv@rogers.com>

**Date:** 6/15/2017 7:49 PM

**To:** John Godwin <godwin@ncsu.edu>

**CC:** Jason Delborne <jadelbor@ncsu.edu>, Megan Serr <meserr@ncsu.edu>, Caroline Leitschuh <cleitsc@ncsu.edu>, Royden Saah <royden.saah@islandconservation.org>

Thanks for all this info and hello to all.

There certainly seems to be some parallels between your work and how I hope to approach the documentary. My plan is to make the challenge of telling a story about genetics on television explicit in the film by actually following the process of our lead "explorer" trying to figure out how to make the science of genetics understandable to the audience (even that seems confusing).

My time over the next few days is very flexible as I spend my time reading, writing and talking on the phone. So let me know what time works for you. Alternatively, maybe Caroline or Megan or Jason could chat with me also.

Let me know what works for your group.

Thanks again,  
Kenton

On Jun 15, 2017, at 5:44 PM, John Godwin <[godwin@ncsu.edu](mailto:godwin@ncsu.edu)> wrote:

Hi Kenton,

Happy to figure out a time to chat before the end of the month. We're working on a sex-changing fish here in Florida and the schedule is determined by the time of the daytime high tide (funny to have one's schedule determined by the sex life of a fish, but that's the case) If you'd like to do that, perhaps send me some times that work and I can check it against tide tables here.

The work in my lab is mostly focused on understanding how competitive an engineered mouse might be in mating and territorial interactions and how to potentially augment that competitiveness. We are also very interested in the social implications of the technology and I have a couple of doctoral students in our group (Caroline Leitschuh, Megan Serr - copied here) who are participants in an interdisciplinary program where social implications have been an important focus (please see the link below that a cohort of students on this project put together). Caroline will be doing a 'story collider' event where she will be talking about the

mouse project on June 26th. That is probably too soon to put something together from your end, but there may be recordings from it that would be useful?

<https://research.ncsu.edu/ges/research/igert/student-research/island-mice-conserving-island-biodiversity/>

My colleague Jason Delborne (copied here) is the member of our team most focused on the social implications aspect of the technology and he was also centrally involved with the National Academies report *Gene Drives on the Horizon* produced last year. We also have other faculty at NCSU with strong interests in this area and I'd be happy to put you in touch with them as well if that was helpful (see also <https://research.ncsu.edu/ges/>).

Also copying Royden Saah, who is our project coordinator in the GBIRd program.

Rgds, John

On Thu, Jun 15, 2017 at 5:16 PM, Kenton Vaughan <[kentonv@rogers.com](mailto:kentonv@rogers.com)> wrote:

Thanks for your response.

I do have a deadline for the end of the month but we could put chatting off if it's best for you.

It would be helpful if you have some background material as to how the project works from a practical perspective. Thinking visually (we are TV after all), what do your project members actually do to investigate the social implications of using genetic engineering to eradicate an invasive species?

Best,  
Kenton

On Jun 15, 2017, at 5:02 PM, John Godwin <[godwin@ncsu.edu](mailto:godwin@ncsu.edu)> wrote:

Hi Kenton,

I'd be very happy to talk to you about this. I'm currently doing field work in Florida until the end of the month with a brief period back in Raleigh next week (although that will be busy as I have a student defending her dissertation then). Would early July be too late to chat about this?

Rgds, John

On Thu, Jun 15, 2017 at 4:33 PM, Kenton Vaughan <[kentonv@rogers.com](mailto:kentonv@rogers.com)> wrote:

Hello,

Yap films is an award-winning documentary production company based out of Toronto.

In the last couple of years we've produced documentary specials and series for channels like National Geographic, Discovery Channel, History, the BBC, PBS, and Smithsonian, among others. If you want to check us out online, you can visit our website at [www.yapfilms.com](http://www.yapfilms.com)

We are currently in the advanced stages of development on a documentary project for CBC's Nature of Things about gene editing, its possibilities and the ethical considerations as the science progresses forwards at a rapid pace. The film is a 360-degree exploration of this new technological revolution.

I was hoping to talk to you about your Island Mice Project which I believe is being conducted in collaboration with Island Conservation. I will be talking to Heath Packard from IC on Monday, but also would like to talk to you and/or your students about the social communication aspects of such a project.

Would that be possible?

Best regards,  
Kenton Vaughan  
Writer/Director

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