

Subject: Re: Gene drive engagement
From: Isabelle Coche <isabelle@emergingag.com>
Date: 8/1/2017 11:23 AM
To: Fred Gould <fgould@ncsu.edu>

Hi Fred

Thanks for pointing this out and I understand your point. I think this is precisely the kind of conversation that we all need to have so we understand what people like/want/feel comfortable with. There is also the option that not everyone is involved to the same degree - you can join for information sharing like we currently do on the calls, and then decide what specific activities you want to be part of or not. For example, you might be fine being a speaker on a panel at an event but you may not want to join bilateral meetings with governments... I think the core of the group would continue to convene around regular calls and then we could develop some activities (like participating in CBD meeting or organising a panel at ASTMH) that people opt in or out of.

I would appreciate your inputs into this conversation, with your role in GBIRD and Target Malaria in mind, so if you are willing to join an exploratory phone call that would be great. If not, I understand.

Best

Isabelle

Sent from my iPhone

On 1 Aug 2017, at 15:46, Fred Gould <fgould@ncsu.edu> wrote:

Hi Isabelle,

I see the utility of having this group activity. However, because I am on the Target Malaria Ethics Committee, I think it would be problematic for me to be involved in an effort that includes "support advocacy and engagement activities on gene drive - in particular information sharing, collaboration and coordination on advocacy between different groups involved in this field. "

The term "advocacy" especially points to a compromise of my role on the ethics committee as impartial.

I think this will make sense to you.

Fred

On Aug 1, 2017, at 7:47 AM, Isabelle Coche <isabelle@emergingag.com> wrote:

Dear all

As you know we (Emerging) have been facilitating calls and coordination around CBD and related activities for a group of interested parties for the past few months. This started in December because of the CBD COP-MOP and continued afterwards as it seemed there was a growing group of people interested in sharing information and coordinating activities. Island Conservation and GBIRD, along with FNIH, Target Malaria and the Danforth Center were 'early joiners'. Target Malaria (whom as you know we've worked with for the past few years) offered to 'donate' some of the time we provide to them so that we would facilitate the calls and follow up. Thanks to different people's contacts, we now have a broader group of people participating, including yourselves, which is great and adds a lot of value.

Target Malaria had flagged that while they were happy to have us spend some of our time on this, this was not a long-term solution for a variety of reasons, and so we (Emerging) have been in talks with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation about securing longer term resources to enable and support advocacy and engagement activities on gene drive - in particular information sharing, collaboration and coordination on advocacy between different groups involved in this field.

As I mentioned on the call of our group last Monday, the Foundation has now offered to put up some seed funding to ensure this effort continues. It is in the hope that others may join to support activities, either through funding or 'in kind' by contributing time and effort on advocacy and engagement. It is also not prescriptive funding, in the sense that there isn't a list of deliverables attached to it, but it is meant rather as a resource if people are willing to get together and work jointly on this.

As you have been actively engaged in the calls for the past few months, I am reaching out to you to hear your thoughts on this proposal. Assuming this is of interest, the idea is that I will speak to everyone who's been active to date and try to collate the views and suggestions into a proposal of sort for an activity plan that then could be discussed by everyone. It would encompass what you think is useful for a coordinated group to do (or not), what would be complementary to your own activities and add value, and how you'd like to see this work. Of course there is no obligation to continue to join the calls or participate in whatever emerges from this effort.

If that makes sense, I'd be happy to have a call with you to discuss this further.

Best,

Isabelle

<image001.png>

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CBD Online Forum on Synthetic Biology will take place soon! Experts should [register online](#) to participate.

Contact us if you require assistance.

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