

**DNA WG Meeting Notes**  
**30 March 2017 15.00 – 16.10 (Paris time)**

1. Call to Order

Chair Brian Van Doormaal started the Zoom meeting at 15.00 Paris time.

2. Roll Call of Participants

Brian Van Doormaal (Chair), Dariusz Kamola, Matthew McClure, Ezequiel Nicolazzi and Wim van Haeringen as well as Cesare Mosconi from ICAR.

Apologies were received from Andre Eggen, Suzanne Harding, Sandra Kipp, Nilesh Nayee, Raffaele Mazza, Carine Megneaud and Romy Morrin-O'Donnell.

3. Review of Agenda

Brian mentioned that the main agenda for this meeting was the continuation of the agenda from the previous meeting, starting at point 6.2. As an addition item, it was agreed to start the agenda with the email request from ICAR dated March 25, 2017 for input regarding the 2017 round of ICAR accreditation for parentage verification by genetic laboratories.

4. ICAR Accreditation for Parentage Verification by Genetic Laboratories

Cesare summarized the intent of the email, which was to seek input into how the 2017 round should be conducted. Wim provided background on the processes used in the past noting that focus was generally put on implementing the easiest solution. He noted no specific preference regarding the two options presented by ICAR. By email, Romy had previously commented that option 1 would be fine if ISAG certificates are usually valid for two years and ISAG is in the process of changing the timing of its bi-annual meeting to be every odd year to avoid possible conflicts with WCGALP meetings every even year.

It was therefore agreed that option 1 would be used by ICAR, which means that the 2017 call for accreditation will be issued in April with a deadline for submission to ICAR by the end of May or early June and the DNA WG will consider the analysis of submissions from each laboratory at its meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2017 in Edinburgh. Laboratories may use the ISAG certificate issued in 2016 for this round of accreditation.

**ACTION:** Cesare/ICAR to proceed with the 2017 call for accreditation as agreed.

5. Notes of the Previous Meeting and Business Arising

Brian had circulated the notes of the partial meeting held on February 20, 2017, which were approved for accuracy and content.

A review of the action items followed with the following highlights:

- A table describing the number of ISAG 200 SNP for PV and the 554 SNP for PD that were present on many of the chip panels used globally was prepared by Sandra and Matt, and posted on the DNA WG discussion forum. This showed that at least one chip only has 185 of the 200 ISAG chip and there were some chips that had roughly 500 of the 554 PD SNP included. Brian mentioned that these facts may be important as the WG defines guidelines for PV and PD using these SNP lists.

- Regarding the possible exclusion of specific SNP for PV or PD based on evidence from various organizations, as agreed at the previous meeting, Brian noted that any such reasons have not yet been gathered from each organization. Doing so was noted as an action item for the next meeting on April 21.
- Brian also noted that it was agreed that the DNA WG would revise the existing ISAG guidelines from 2012 for PV from SNP genotypes and that similar guidelines are required for conducting Parentage Discovery. He suggested that a discussion document with recommendations be prepared for the next meeting in April and offered to take the lead in preparing it. It was agreed that Matt and Romy would contribute to the development of that document and the associated recommendations and the entire WG would have opportunity for input during the next meeting.

## 6. ICAR Accreditation for DNA Data Interpretation Centres

Given that the previous meeting had included agenda items 6.1 and 6.2, and the discussion of business arising and actions from that meeting covered items 6.3 and 6.4, this meeting continued with agenda item 6.5.

### 6.5 Draft ICAR Accreditation Application Form

Brian mentioned that this form had been prepared with input from ICAR and Interbull but a review by the members of the WG would be beneficial to be sure it is complete and appropriate. It was noted that the circulated ICAR document referred to as Doc Number 05\_CER\_GNTX\_0003, dated July 19, 2016, was incomplete in terms of the final section of Service ICAR fees. Brian mentioned that ICAR had approved an administrative fee of 300 Euro and that renewal would be required every two years. It was unclear if the fee of 300 Euro would be required every two years, and if so, it was suggested that it might be better to simply establish a base annual fee that includes the bi-annual renewal cost (say 150 Euro) and perhaps an added 150 Euro for first time applicants (to achieve the current initial fee of 300 Euro).

Discussion ensued regarding the need and benefit of any renewal process since this ICAR accreditation is to prove the organization's ability to properly carry out PV or PD procedures, using a standard test data set, but several of those certified organizations would end up using a higher number of SNP for PV and/or PD at their national/internal level. In any event, if a renewal process is required, it could perhaps be done at a longer interval than every two years.

**ACTION:** It was agreed to discuss this topic again at the next meeting in April to allow more members of the DNA WG to be involved in formulating any recommendations to ICAR.

## 7. Status of GenoEX PSE Service

Brian provided an update on the current status of the development of the GenoEx-PSE software and database at the Interbull Centre. Some delays were experienced in this area due to technical issues associated with moving the developed software from the "development" to "production" environment but they have now been resolved. In addition, some additional business rules still needed to be programmed. The Interbull Centre staff intends to share the developed software (entry portal) with Brian for some quick and initial feedback and edits and then open up the request for input/feedback to some of this WG members. This is expected to happen in the coming weeks in advance of the April meeting.

Brian noted that it is important to move forward on both the ICAR accreditation service as well as the GenoEx-PSE development since they are highly interdependent.

8. Proposed Interbull Service for Exchange of "Genetic Trait" Codes

Brian provided a summary of the new service that Interbull plans to offer, especially to users of MACE and/or GMACE services. It was clarified that Interbull plans to include only those genetic traits, and the associated codes, that have been approved by the recognized world level authority, such as the World Holstein-Friesian Federation (WHFF) for that breed and other world federations for various dairy cattle breeds. It was unclear if this service would also include beef cattle breeds and, if so, what organization would be recognized for defining which genetic traits and codes would be included.

9. Emerging DNA technologies

Brian mentioned that the background material included in the meeting package (for the February meeting) was for information purposes. It was noted that the scientific community in the United States is seeking scientific evidence and arguments for submission to FDA to counter the current policy position announced to date.

10. Future meetings

Next Zoom meetings are scheduled for April 21 and May 19 at 15.00 Paris time. As usual, members are asked to schedule a 2-hour time slot.

Brian mentioned that the live meeting of the DNA WG has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 13 from 14.00 to 18.00 during the ICAR annual meetings in Edinburgh, Scotland. It is hoped that as many WG members as possible could attend that meeting and they were encouraged to register and book hotel accommodations as soon as possible.

11. Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 16.10 Paris time.