Bioinformatic and Public Health Research Databases, Collaborative Environments, and Virtual Organizations

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Department of Biological Sciences Department of Computer Science & Engineering

Workshop on Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research University of Notre Dame April 10 - 11, 2008

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

- Five year collaboration between the Departments of Biological Sciences and Computer Science & Engineering
 - VectorBase: NIH/NIAID Bioinformatic Resource Center
 - Malaria Transmission Consortium (MTC):
 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation project
- International collaborators
- International users of resources

Cyberinfrastructure

- Enabling Technologies for Collaboration
 - 1. Development of Shared Resources
 - 2. Use of Shared Resources
- Convergence of
 - Collaboratories
 - Virtual Organizations (VO) / Virtual Teams
 - Web 2.0
 - Computer Supported Collaborative Work (CSCW)

Cyberinfrastructure / VO Functionality



CAUSES OF DEATH



Pathogen-Specific Causes of Death by Infectious Diseases (1997)

	Annual Mortality	Prevalence
ТВ	2,900,000	16,300,000
AIDS	2,300,000	>30,000,000
Malaria	~2,000,000	>500,000,000
Arboviruses	200,000	
African Trypanosomiasis	100,000	400,000
Leishmaniasis	80,000	12,000,000
American Trypanosomiasis	45,000	18,000,000
Filariasis + Onchocerciasis		140,000,000



Malaria Transmission Consortium (MTC)

"The University of Notre Dame has received a \$20 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support research aimed at evaluating existing malaria control programs and designing improved methods for malaria control.... This study represents multiple institutions in multiple countries, carrying out multiple field studies, gathering huge amounts of data, developing appropriate data bases, data analysis and management methods, geographical information systems, maps, data quality assessment, modeling and simulation — all activities that will involve, to a very large extent, contributions from the College of Engineering." (News Release - September 2007)

Malaria and Global Health

- Malaria is responsible for more than 1 million deaths per year among infants and small children.
- Malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS are top three pathogen-specific causes of human death.
- Malaria is a disease of poverty in the tropics, especially Africa.



Distribution of Malaria



Malaria Transmission Consortium

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded Project to Implement and Evaluate Malaria Control
- Project Leadership by Notre Dame Colleges of Engineering & Science
- \$20 Million, 5-year Program
- Consortium Project

MTC Participants

- Notre Dame Lead Organization
 - Biological Science & CSE, Center for Global Health and Infectious Diseases, Frank Collins
 - CSE, College of Engineering, Greg Madey
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control
- London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
- Durham University, UK
- Swiss Tropical Institute
- Partners in Indonesia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia

Major Objectives of Malaria Transmission Consortium

- Develop Improved and Measures of Malaria Transmission
- Use Impact on Malaria Transmission to Assess Malaria Control Methods
 - Insecticide-impregnated Bed Nets
 - Indoor Residual Insecticide Sprays
 - Combination Treatments
- Assess Mosquito Characteristics that Impact Control Effectiveness
 - Insecticide Resistance
 - Blood Feeding Behavior
- Develop Data Management and Analysis Systems
 - Web-based Relational Database Management System
 - Simulation Modeling

Malaria Life Cycle





Figure from Paul Libiszowski



Figure from Paul Libiszowski

Activities

- Database design, web interface, deployment
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS)





 Handheld PDA/ GPS data collection and transfer to Notre Dame

Activities

- Agent Based Simulation & Modeling
- Data mining, statistical analysis, assessment
- Predictive tools, decision support systems, operations research





VectorBase

"The Center for Global Health & Infectious Diseases at the University of Notre Dame has been awarded a \$10 million contract from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), an arm of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to create and maintain a public Bioinformatics Resource Center (BRC) that will manage genomic information on insects and other arthropods that transmit human pathogens." (News Release - August 2004)

VectorBase

- PI Frank Collins, Biological Sciences & CSE, ND
- Co-PI's/Subcontractors
 - EMBL/Imperial College (Fotis Kafatos)
 - EBI Hixton, Cambridge (Ewan Birney)
 - Institute of Molecular Biology, Crete, (Christos Louis)
 - Harvard (William Gelbart)
 - CSE Notre Dame (Greg Madey)



Activities

- Coordinate with authors of "white papers" and sequencing/assembly centers
- Gene annotation pipeline: auto, manual, and community
- Development and deployment of VO functionality
 - Genome browsers, CV & ontologies, search, bioinformatic tools

Activities



Species: *Anopheles gambiae PEST* Genome size: 260 Mb Status: 4th assembly and annotation NIAID funded



Species: *Aedes aegypti Liverpool* Genome size: 1.3 Gb Status: 1st assembly and annotation NIAID funded



Species: *Pediculus humanus USDA* Genome size: 105 Mb Status: 1st assembly and annotation completed NHGRI funded



Additional Species in Progress

- Culex pipiens: 540 Mb
- Ixodes scapularus: 2.1 Gb
- Rhodnius prolixus: 670 Mb
- Glossina morsitans: 600 Mb
- Sand Flies: ~ 450 Mb
- 13 Anopheles species: 3.4 Gb
- 100 Anopheles gambiae genomes: 26 Gb

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The Grand Challenge!

October 17, 2007

Eliminate Malaria from the Planet

Bill and Melinda Gates Call for New Global Commitment to Chart a Course for Malaria Eradication

New resources and scientific progress help pave the way toward malaria eradication

U.S. presidential candidates urged to sustain and expand President's Malaria Initiative

SEATTLE -- Bill and Melinda Gates today called on global leaders to embrace "an audacious goal—to reach a day when no human being has malaria, and no mosquito on earth is carrying it." They delivered the call to action at a forum of 300 leading malaria scientists and policymakers from around the world.

"Advances in science and medicine, promising research, and