JAX Synteny Browser Use Cases http://syntenybrowser.jax.org/

June 2019

The basic workflow for the JAX Synteny Browser involves four steps:

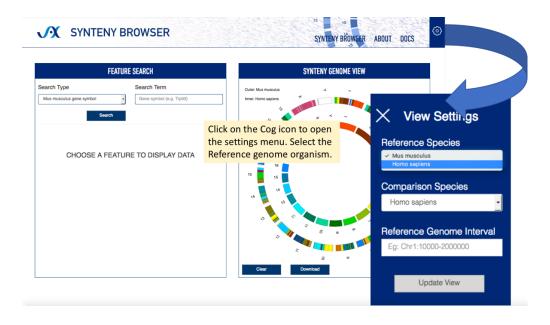
- (1) selecting the Reference genome,
- (2) specifying a region of interest on the Reference,
- (3) visualizing the region of interest and its corresponding conserved syntenic block(s) in the Comparison genome, and
- (4) selectively highlighting genes in the Reference and Comparison genomes based on their biological attributes.

Two specific use cases are described below serve to demonstrate this workflow.

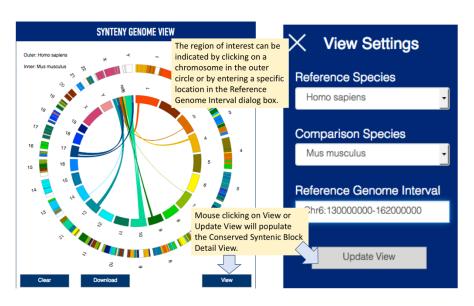
Use Case #1: Identify candidate genes in a mapped interval for human lung cancer susceptibility

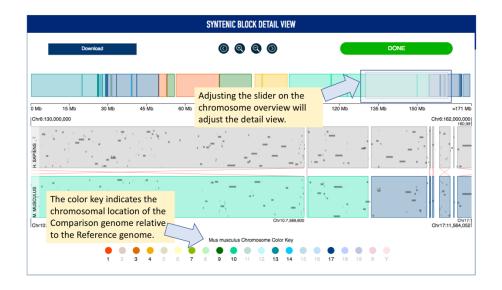
A region of human chromosome 6 (6q23–25; GRCm38 chr6: 130300000-161000000 bp) was identified previously as a linkage interval associated with human lung cancer susceptibility (Bailey-Wilson, et al., 2004). Because this linkage interval also overlaps regions of allelic loss observed in several cancers, the authors hypothesized that genes involved in regulating apoptosis would be good candidates for the susceptibility phenotype.

The first step in using the JAX Synteny Browser to find potential candidate genes for the lung cancer susceptibility locus is to select human as the Reference genome using the Settings menu.

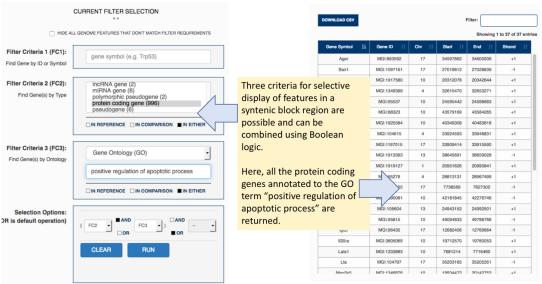


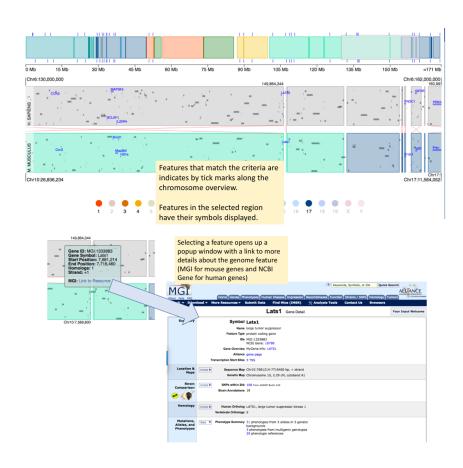
Next, the user navigates to the region of interest on chromosome 6 using one of two options. For the first option, human chromosome 6 is selected in the Synteny Genome View graphic. Clicking on the View button in this panel results in the entire chromosome being displayed in the Syntenic Block Detail window. The display interval can then be refined interactively using the slider on the chromosome overview graphic. Alternatively, the coordinates of a genomic interval for the Reference genome can be entered in the appropriate dialog box within the Settings menu. When the "Update View" button is selected, the user-specified genomic region is then displayed in the Syntenic Block Detail panel.





Once the Syntenic Block Detail View display is finalized, searches for genome features according to their biological and functional annotations can be performed using the Syntenic Block Features Display Filters function. For the lung cancer susceptibility interval, a search for genome features that are protein coding genes and are annotated to the GO function term of "positive regulation of apoptotic function" in either genome results in eight genes (CCN2, MAP3K5, BCLAF1, IL20RA, LATS1, FNDC1, IGR2R, and PRKN) being highlighted in the Syntenic Block Detail View. Four of these genes (IGR2R, PRKN, CCN2, and IL20RA) were identified by the authors of the mapping paper as likely candidate genes.

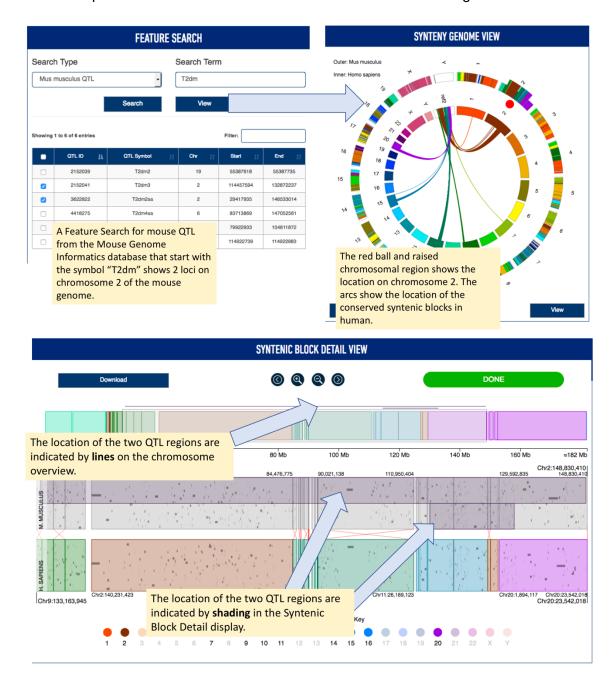




b. Identifying candidate genes for Type 2 diabetes

The Quantitative Trait Locus (QTL) *T2dm3* (MGI:2152041) was identified as a region of mouse chromosome 2 associated with insulin resistance in genetically obese mice (Stoehr, et al., 2000). This region is overlapped by another QTL for impaired glucose tolerance, *T2dm2sa* (Kobayashi, et al., 2006).

The Feature Search option allows users to search for mouse QTL records in the Mouse Genome Informatics (MGI) database. A search for the symbol "T2dm" (type 2 diabetes mellitus) returns several results, including the two QTL on chromosome 2 referenced above. Selecting both T2dm3 and T2dm2sa from the Feature Search results table and then clicking on the View button locates the features on mouse chromosome 2 in the Synteny Genome View panel. Clicking on chromosome 2 and then View from this panel generates the Syntenic Block Detail panel which shows the relative location of the two QTL regions to each other.



Searches of the mouse (Reference) genome using the Mammalian Phenotype term, "impaired glucose tolerance" using the Syntenic Block Features Display Filters identifies two mouse genes that fall within the boundaries of both mapped intervals: *Hdc*, and *Ap4e1*. A search of the human (Comparison) genome using the Disease Ontology term "type 2 diabetes" returns 3 genes in the human syntenic genome interval for mouse *T2dm2sa* (but not *T2dm3*): GPD2, NEUROD1, MAPK8IP1.

