# JAX Big Genomic Data Skills Training - 2018 Mouse Exome Variant Discovery Module

#### Introduction

This data analysis module introduces next generation sequence analysis to students. The sequence provided comes from a Mouse Exome sequencing experiment at The Jackson Laboratory (JAX). For decades JAX has bred, cared for and distributed mouse models of human disease. With thousands of sub-strains of mice being bred, spontaneous mutations in the mouse genome occur with reasonable frequency across the plethora of JAX mouse breeding colonies. Additionally JAX has led several large scale mutagenesis projects to discover novel genes and/or novel gene functions. Over 5,000 spontaneous or induced mutant alleles with clinical phenotypes are cataloged in the Mouse Genomic Informatics database.(
<a href="http://www.informatics.jax.org">http://www.informatics.jax.org</a>) Estimates suggest that ~1000 of these mutant alleles occur in coding sequence or within ~20 bp of intron/exon boundaries (Fairfield et al. Genome Biology 2011, 12:R86). Therefore exome sequencing can and has been used to uncover DNA sequence variants that lead to clinical variation relevant to human disease.

In the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century scientists at JAX designed a sequence capture probe pool in order to enable mouse exome sequencing experiments. The exome capture probes cover 203,225 exonic regions in the mouse genome representing ~ 54.3 Mb of the C57BL6/J mouse genome (For specific details see Fairfield et al. 2001, above).

This training exercise is based upon exome sequencing of a mutant mouse in the JAX colonies.

Students are provided with the sorted exome sequences, paired end reads (both directions). JAX has sorted the reads to come from only Chromosome 1 in order to accelerate the computational steps. Genomic DNA was prepared from the mouse using standard techniques and Illumina paired end libraries were generated at JAX. Sequence read depth is ~18X, in other words each captured exonic region was sequenced ~ 18 times.

The goal of this exercise is identify the genomic DNA sequence variant and gene responsible for the phenotype in the mouse. The mouse is phenotypically different than wildtype C57BL6/J animals. The mouse of interest for this exercise is named "Leg dragger"; the mutation was spontaneous on the C57BL6/J strain. Homozygotes are slightly smaller than their unaffected littermates and lose most of the use of their rear legs such that they drag their rear legs and pull themselves along with their front legs to move. This phenotype can be detected as early as 2 weeks of age and is evident by 3 weeks of age. A few homozygotes nearing wean age are found to roll over and over in a struggle to right themselves. When raised by their tails they do not splay their legs outward but rather cross the front pair and the rear pair. Auditory brainstem response analysis of one homozygous animal at 18 days of age showed severe hearing loss and no others were tested. Heterozygotes appear normal and fertile but produce slightly fewer

homozygotes than the 25% expected when intercrossed. The strain appears to provide a model for autosomal recessive **spastic paraplegia 30**.

The mouse model system has numerous, significant benefits. First and foremost one can breed the animals, determine heritability of traits and map traits to different parts of the mouse genome. In the case of this leg-dragger, mapping data does exist and the phenotype appears to be driven by a mutation on mouse chromosome 1.

For the purpose of this training exercise knowing that the mutation is very likely on Mouse chromosome 1 simplifies the data analysis approach. It is computationally intensive to map tens of millions of short sequence reads to the mouse genome. By knowing the chromosome of interest, this exercise can run more rapidly as the 'mapping reads to the reference' step can be targeted. A mouse chromosome 1 'mm10.chr1.fa' file will be specified so that the reference genome will be represented by just a single reference chromosome.

Specifics about how analyze data and target to a specific region of a genome are provided below in this document.

## What do students need to know coming in (or cover before launching the analysis)?

Basic molecular biology- DNA, RNA, proteins. Transcription. Translation.

What is Next Generation or High Throughput DNA sequencing.

What does it mean to align sequence to a reference genome.

What is the difference between a variant, polymorphism, and mutation in genomic DNA, and what is a pathogenic mutation.

#### **Bonus Knowledge for students**

Introductory knowledge of bioinformatics resources would be useful including NCBI gene resources, OMIM.

Know why different genome sequence references exist, e.g. different 'releases' of the genome with different coordinates and annotations

Having experience with Ensembl genome database would be useful.

#### Knowledge (concept) goals

What is a fastq file, and what information does it hold (in groups of four lines)?

What QC steps are recommended for genomic sequencing

What is the difference between aligning directly to a genome or aligning to a target region.

How are duplicate short reads identified and removed to avoid bias.

#### Practical skills goals

Logging in to Galaxy

Uploading a working sequence set and a fasta file of a single human chromosome Gaining familiarity with file types, fasta, fastq, bam, vcf, bed

Perform QC steps and possibly process the sequence files to remove issues

Aligning individual files to a single chromosome

Calling sequence variants from aligned short reads Interpreting types of variants reported in a vcf file

## **Leg-Dragger Mouse Exome Variant Discovery Module**

#### 1. Getting Data

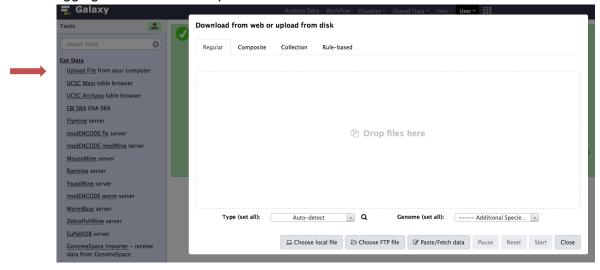
#### To Get Mouse Exome Data:

- I. Data for the module can be downloaded from <a href="ftp://ftp.jax.org/encode/MouseExome">ftp://ftp.jax.org/encode/MouseExome</a>, open as GUEST
- II. You should see a variety of files for your use:

**SRR1783944\_chr1\_R1.fastq.gz** This is *forward* reads from exome sequencing, file is filtered to include only Chr. 1 sequencing reads.)

**SRR1783944\_chr1\_R2.fastq.gz** This is *reverse* reads from exome sequencing **Mm10.chr1.fa** this is a single fasta file for mouse chromosome 1, used for mapping reads as reference

III. Open up your Galaxy then click 'Upload File' under 'Get Data'. Upload all the files by dragging the files into the upload window.



- IV. <u>Note on formats</u>: In some cases raw data files come in different formats. Usually fastq, fastqsanger or others. Data is essentially the same but certain analysis tools expect certain formats. If necessary sequence files can be converted (For this practice, you don't need to modify the datatype.):
  - a. Load data in to Galaxy
  - b. Highlight data file and click on ? after database (red circle):

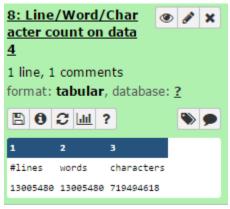


- c. Go to main screen and highlight "datatype" tab and use pull down to select type you need and hit save.
- d. You can also reach this screen via the 'edit attributes' pencil icon



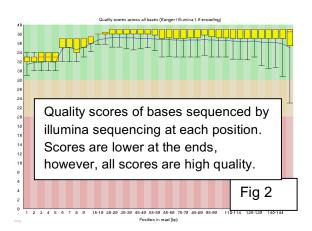
## 2. Simple raw data visualization Line/Word/Character tool count

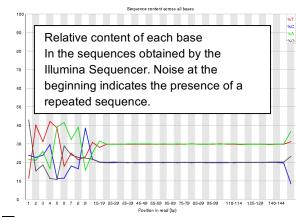
It may be valuable to have students run this very simple Galaxy tool. The tool simply tells you how many sequence reads are in your file; paired files should have equal numbers of reads. For instance after hitting the eye-ball symbol on the Line/Word/Character count tool students will see that the file includes, in this instance, over 13M reads (#lines):

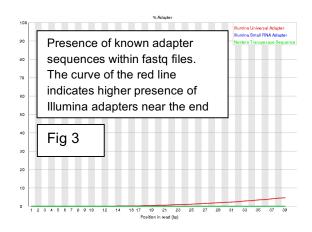


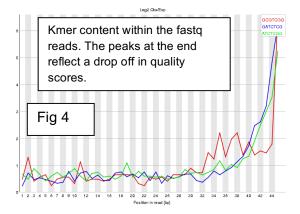
#### 3. Performing Quality Control (QC) (fastqsanger)

The raw data is presented in a fastg file, which is specific for Illumina sequencing. This file is comprised not only of the nucleotide sequence, but also includes an ID number and quality score which is important for determining the integrity of the data obtained. A fastq file is obtained for both the forward and reverse reads (R1 and R2), and these typically range from 50-150 base pairs, in this module raw reads are 150bp. These files are stored separately and run through the FastQC tool on Galaxy in order perform quality control checks on raw sequence data. This tool is characterized by primarily the per base sequence quality (Fig.1), the per base sequence content (Fig.2), the adapter content (Fig.3) and the Kmer content (Fig.5). The per base sequence quality should be over 30 for it to be considered a high quality score for use. Quality scores tend to be lower near the beginning of the read and drop off near the end. The per base sequence content should be uniform, such that there are equal numbers of each base (~25%) over the whole read. The adapter content indicates the location and amount of the adapter sequence that is included in the read, which is important to note for trimming purposes. Finally, the Kmer content indicates sequences that are abnormally repeated. Based on the FastQC, the reads should be trimmed using the *Trimmomatic* tool in Galaxy in order to remove any low quality portions of the reads that would affect alignment in subsequent steps.





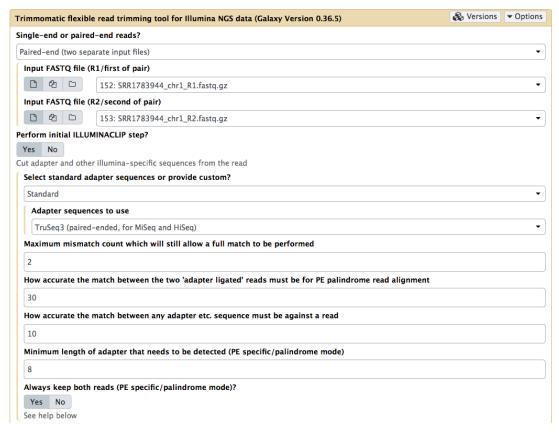




## 4. QC processing with trimmomatic. (Actually unnecessary with this very clean data)

Trimmomatic is one popular tool for removing systematic problems from NGS data. (You are welcome to use others that are available and that you prefer).

A suggested set of settings for our data is shown below:



Continued:

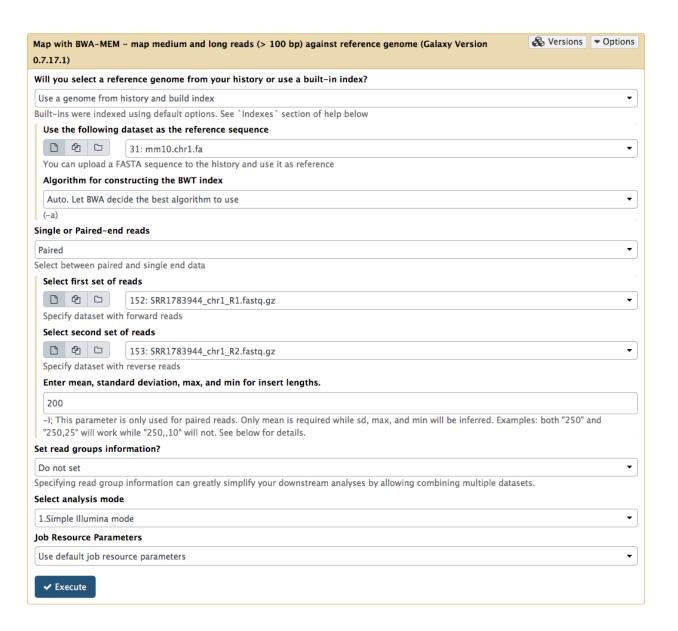
Trimmomatic Operation	
1: Trimmomatic Operation	
Select Trimmomatic operation to perform	
Sliding window trimming (SLIDINGWINDOW)	
Number of bases to average across	
4	
Average quality required	
20	
→ Insert Trimmomatic Operation  ✓ Execute	
) What it does  Trimmomatic performs a variety of useful trimming tasks for illumina paired-end and single ended data.	J
This tool allows the following trimming steps to be performed:	
ILLUMINACLIP: Cut adapter and other illumina-specific sequences from the read SLIDINGWINDOW: Perform a sliding window trimming, cutting once the average quality within the window falls below a threshold MINLEN: Drop the read if it is below a specified length LEADING: Cut bases off the start of a read, if below a threshold quality TRAILING: Cut bases off the end of a read, if below a threshold quality CROP: Cut the read to a specified length HEADCROP: Cut the specified number of bases from the start of the read	
f ILLUMINACLIP is requested then it is always performed first; subsequent options can be mixed and matched and will be performed in the order the specified.	at they have been
Note that trimming operation order is important.	

5. Examine the updated (newly generated) fastq file with FASTQC, using the same logic as for step 4 above.

Has Trimmomatic changed and/or improved following the QC processing?

## 6. Alignment to Reference using Map with BWA-MEM

Aligning a sequence to a reference is a critical and time consuming step in the process. This is the step where the short sequences are aligned back to a reference genome, human, mouse yeast etc. It is vital that you know what reference genome you are aligning to, specifically what version or release of an annotated genome. In this module mapping will be to mouse chromosome 1. Genome version is very important: in this exercise we use Mouse Dec. 2011 GRCm38/mm10 or mm10. In the window below notice that you will select: 'Use the following dataset as the reference sequence' then select 'mm10.chr1.fa'. This set will create a BAM file (Binary Alignment Mapping file). Analysis may take several hours (or days depending on activity on galaxy instance).



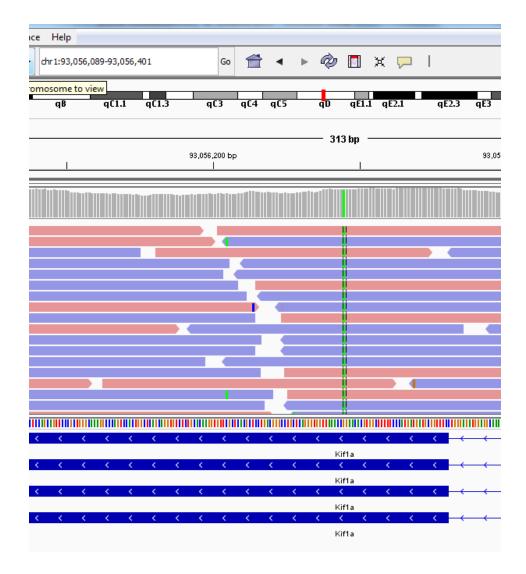
#### 7. Post BWA-MEM

At this point it is possible to visualize all the reads aligned against the reference genome (Mouse mm10 in this case). This can be done by using IGV which is linked to Galaxy.



Use the *display with IGV*. Depending on your computer platform you may need to install IGV on your machine. It will load the genome reference.

Be patient you will need to wait as it builds the graphical interface with all the reads. Also the level of zoom-in is important. The display below is mouse data from chromosome 1 from this exome dataset.

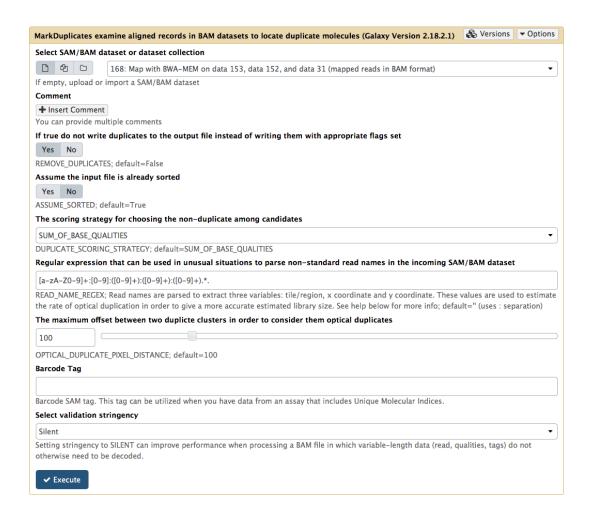


## Note: IGV Visualization Tool

IGV can be used to visualize data with reference to a chromosome. The bottom track shows the genes on the chromosome including the introns and exons. Variants are visible in the reads shown above the gene. More information about each variant can be found by scrolling over the variant to see the cigar and phred scores. The total number of reads for each variant can be found including the number and percentage of reads for each type of base (A, T, C, G).

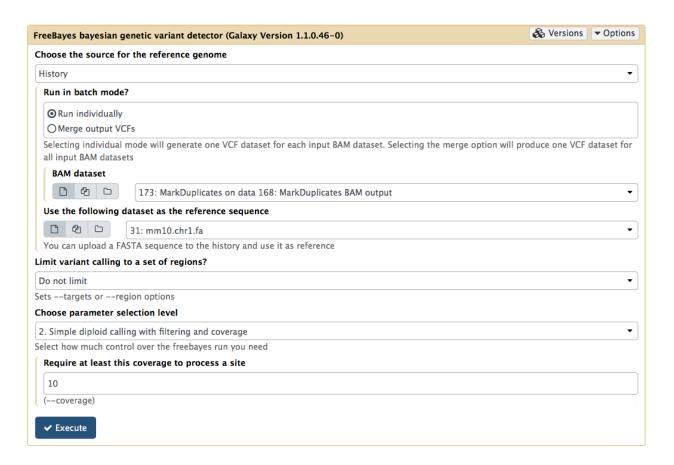
## 8. Mark duplicates

When looking for DNA sequence variants, using the Mark duplicates tool is important for weeding out duplicate (identical reads) that can introduce frequency and absolute number bias in variant calling. Duplicate short sequence reads start and end on the exact base in a BAM file and can be easily identified in your BAM outputs from BWA-mem in step 7. Duplicates will also have identical base scores.



## 9. Generating a Variant Call File

After aligning to a reference genome and removing duplicate reads, a VCF file is produced using FreeBayes. As we know that the Mouse variant maps to chromosome #1 we ask for sequence variants only on that chromosome. Sometimes you may want to ask FreeBayes to search variants in target regions by specifying a '.bed' file.



A VCF file should include all genetic changes at a scale smaller than the imputed read sizes (~50-150 bp in length). The VCF file generated by FreeBayes is shown below. The VCF QUAL score is a Phred Quality score scaled to the probability that a base is incorrectly called.

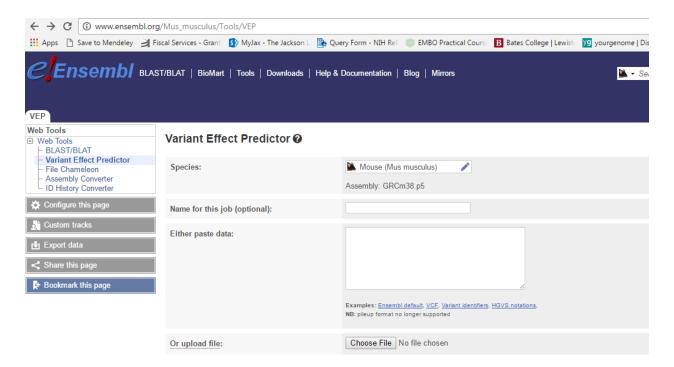
#CHROM	POS	ID	REF	ALT	QUAL	FILTER	INFO
chr1	4783928		С	A	0.0536891		AB=0.2; ABP=10.8276; AC=1; AF=0.5; AN=2; AO=2;
chr1	5162181		С	A	1.08773		$AB{=}0.2; ABP{=}10.8276; AC{=}1; AF{=}0.5; AN{=}2; AO{=}2; AC{=}1; A$
chr1	6233869		TTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT	TTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT	52.6532		AB=0;ABP=0;AC=2;AF=1;AN=2;AO=2;CIGAR=1M
chr1	7190347		С	T	0.321023		$AB{=}0.2; ABP{=}10.8276; AC{=}1; AF{=}0.5; AN{=}2; AO{=}2; AC{=}1; A$
chr1	9545471		С	Т	117.447		AB=0.636364;ABP=4.78696;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;A
chr1	9545476		C	Т	162.203		AB=0.666667;ABP=5.9056;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;A
chr1	9545481		CGCC	TGCT	210.876		AB=0.714286;ABP=8.59409;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;A
chr1	9545492		С	A	256.897		AB=0.6875;ABP=7.89611;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;AO
chr1	9545511		С	Т	352.284		AB=0.777778;ABP=15.074;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;A
chr1	9545516		С	Т	336.397		AB=0.736842;ABP=12.2676;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;
chr1	9545539		G	A	356.836		AB=0.714286;ABP=11.386;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;A
chr1	9545545		GAGC	CAGG	327.591		AB=0.631579;ABP=5.8675;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;A
chr1	9545577		G	A	510.858		AB=0.625;ABP=7.35324;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;AO=
chr1	9545597		С	Т	581.323		AB=0.564103;ABP=4.40227;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;
chr1	9545621		A	Т	583.903		AB=0.621622;ABP=7.76406;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;
chr1	9545654		G	A	630.78		AB=0.714286;ABP=16.9698;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;
chr1	9545663		CGACCG	TGATCA	206.39		AB=0.533333;ABP=3.15506;AC=1;AF=0.5;AN=2;

Not all the variation calls in a VCF file are correct or worth further exploration. Galaxy's FreeBayes tool, which produces a VCF file from a BAM file, only declares variations that are corroborated by at least 2 reads or 20% of reads, a relatively low threshold that allows for extraneous variation calls. So, it is important to view a VCF file in some sort of visualization software, such as IGV, which aligns the reads and variation calls against a reference genome, making it easier to see which variation calls are strong and which are

weak. Galaxy also has a tool (slice VCF) that limits VCF data to a specific part of the genome as specified by a bed file. Variations are then used to identify sequence variants which may be deleterious.

**10.** <u>Variant Identification using (Ensembl Variant Effect predictor, VEP)</u> http://www.ensembl.org/Mus musculus/Tools/VEP

The first step is to download and save the VCF file produced by FreeBayes. In case your analysis goes awry a vcf file is available in the shared data library, named 'FreeBayes on data 14 and data 13'. Upload the file through the 'Choose File' option on Ensembl VEP. Important: for this exercise use Mouse mm10 as your reference. This will match the alignment to reference mm10; this is important.



The VEP tool will look at the mouse genome in Ensembl and then compile a list of variants that are may be causative of a phenotype, in this case within the genetic region entered, mouse chr. 1. The annotated VEP file is below.

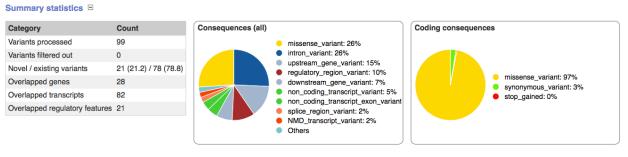
Uploaded variant	Location	Allele	Consequence	Impact	Symbol	Gene	Feature type
	1:4783928- 4783928	A	intron_variant, NMD_transcript_variant	MODIFIER	Mrpl15	ENSMUSG00000033845	Transcript
	1:4783928- 4783928	A	intron_variant, non_coding_transcript_variant	MODIFIER	Mrpl15	ENSMUSG00000033845	Transcript
	1:4783928- 4783928	A	intron_variant	MODIFIER	Mrpl15	ENSMUSG00000033845	Transcript
	1:4783928- 4783928	A	non_coding_transcript_exon_variant	MODIFIER	Mrpl15	ENSMUSG00000033845	Transcript
	1:4783928- 4783928	A	intron_variant	MODIFIER	Mrpl15	ENSMUSG00000033845	Transcript
	1:4783928- 4783928	A	intron_variant	MODIFIER	Mrpl15	ENSMUSG00000033845	Transcript
	1:4783928- 4783928	A	non_coding_transcript_exon_variant	MODIFIER	Mrpl15	ENSMUSG00000033845	Transcript
	1:4783928- 4783928	A	upstream_gene_variant	MODIFIER	Gm37144	ENSMUSG00000102275	Transcript
	1:5162181- 5162181	A	3_prime_UTR_variant	MODIFIER	Atp6v1h	ENSMUSG00000033793	Transcript

**Info:** Consequence describes the change in gene function. IMPACT type is the proposed extent of the amino shift.

This may take 3-5 minutes to calculate in VEP. Output in this module will look like this:

Job details ■ Category Count Consequences (all) Coding consequences Variants processed 1165 intron\_variant: 36% Variants filtered out downstream\_gene\_variant: 17% 0 upstream gene variant: 13% 297 (25.5) / 868 (74.5) missense\_variant: 58% Novel / existing variants regulatory\_region\_variant: 12% synonymous variant: 34% Overlapped genes 169 non\_coding\_transcript\_variant: 7% protein\_altering\_variant: 4% 3 prime UTR variant: 4% 579 Overlapped transcripts stop\_gained: 3% missense\_variant: 3% frameshift variant: 2% Overlapped regulatory features 115 non\_coding\_transcript\_exon\_variant svnonvmous variant: 2% Others

The results of VEP can be sorted consequence or gene symbol by toggling between options in the Ensembl table. You will need to use the **Filters** function in the center to pull 'consequence' is 'missense\_variant', :



Once you have missense variants you should download the text file (TXT) in the download section here just to the left of the filter section.

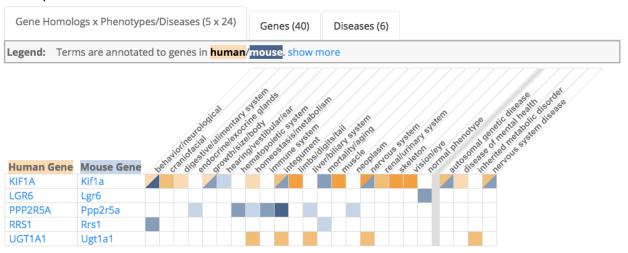
You will use the gene symbols/names to see if any variants found are connected to the mouse phenotype we see. In the download the gene symbol/names are most likely in column 6 or 7. In this case they are in column 6.

**11.** Go to the JAX Mouse Genome Informatics Human-Mouse Genome Connection tool: <a href="http://www.informatics.jax.org/humanDisease.shtml">http://www.informatics.jax.org/humanDisease.shtml</a>

You will need to use "Gene File Upload" setting and identify what column the gene names fall in. Should be column 6.

Click to hide search		
Search by:		
Gene File Upload \$	Add	
	Gene Column *    Tab \t	
Search		Reset

The Human-Mouse Disease Gene query will give you a list of human and mouse genes linked to disease from your variant call/VCF file. These are the exome variants with High consequence from Mouse Chromosome #1.

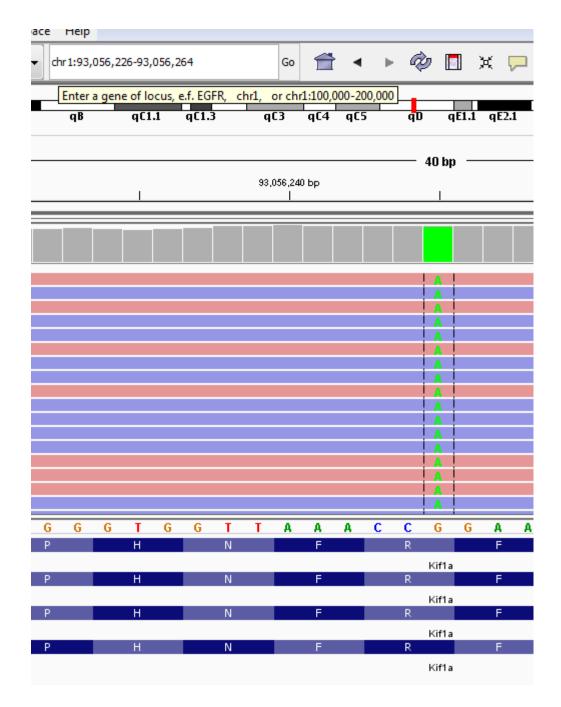


Showing 5 of 5 rows.

Students should scan anatomical systems to look for limb phenotypes by gene. By scanning down one will note that Human gene KIF1A and mouse gene Kif1A are implicated in a wide range of phenotypes; in the yellow to blue boxes, the darker the color in the square the more evidence that exists for a gene to disease connection.

Alternatively one can apply a filter on the phenotypes/disease and see what genes might be connected to weak back legs or 'leg dragger', in the mouse. Filtering on limbs and neurological/behavioral will limit the number of genes.

By filteringon phenotype disease two genes Dst and Kif1a will appear to be involved in limbs and neurological conditions. Kif1a appears to be the gene altered in the mouse we started with.



**12.** Students can also use OMIM to investigate genes involved in the apparent phenotype: 'spastic paraplegia 30'. In doing so they will find OMIM record 610357

Search ▼ Download ▼ More Resources ▼ Submit Data Find Mice (IMSR) ※ Analysis Tools Contact Us Browsers ? **Disease Ontology Browser** hereditary spastic paraplegia 30 (DOID:0110781)

Alliance: disease page
Synonyms: autosomal recessive spastic paraplegia 30, autosomal spastic paraplegia type 30; SPG30
Alt IDs: OMIM:610357, ICD10CM:G11.4, ORDO:101010
Definition: A hereditary spastic paraplegia that has material basis in mutation in the KIF1A gene on chromosome 2q37.

Genes (2) Term Browser Models (2)

Excel File Text File \*Disease is associated/modeled with this Gene or a homolog. More... Disease Term Human Homologs Mouse Homologs Mouse Models Homology Source hereditary spastic paraplegia 30 KIF1A\* Kif1a\* 2 models HomoloGene and HGNC

