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April 13, 2009

Alexander D. Diehl, Ph.D.
Mouse Genome Informatics
The Jackson Laboratory
Bar Harbor, ME 04605

Dear Alex,

I am writing this letter as co-PI of the Gramene database project (www.gramene.org) and leader of the Plant Ontology Project PO (www.plantontology.org), to collaborate on your Competitive Revision Application, "Development of the Cell Ontology as a Component of the Gene Ontology Consortium." The aims of the proposal are to restructure the Cell Ontology using a logical definition/cross-product approach, enhance the biological content of the ontology, and utilize the Cell Ontology to drive further development of the Gene Ontology (GO) for cell type specific terms including those of the Plants and allow for more information-rich GO annotation that includes references to cell types. We will be happy to collaborate with you on sharing the Plant Cell Type terms that are developed as part of the Plant Ontology project to introduce consistency in the spatial annotation of the gene function(s), expression and associated phenotypes across various plant species and experiments. Also as proposed by you, its cross products with the GO Biological Process, function and component parts may become a valuable tool in computational analyses and modeling of the whole genome/pathway centric interactomes and phenotype associations to a given cell type. We have worked on a variety of plant-related ontologies and databases, as well as the Gene Ontology, and certainly think that improving the Cell Ontology and the Gene Ontology is of great interest to our projects. Ontologies are an important infrastructure for data integration and analysis, and I would be happy to collaborate with your project on ensuring that plant cell types are appropriately represented in a revised Cell Ontology.

I wish you good luck with the project.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pankaj".

Pankaj Jaiswal