



Virus Proficiency Test 2016

The virus proficiency test (PT) within the COMPARE network aims to contribute to the harmonization and standardization of high-throughput sequencing (HTS), with the main goal to improve the detection, identification and analysis of viral pathogens in diagnostic samples.

The participant's proficiency in identification and analysis of viral pathogens in complex samples and HTS datasets will be evaluated in three general parts of the virus PT: (1) the laboratory's proficiency to analyze HTS data and identify viral pathogens, (2a) the laboratory's sample preparation and sequencing procedures and (2b) the laboratory's high-throughput sequencing performance and output.

Therefore you will be invited to (1) analyze a complex metagenomic fastq dataset to identify viral sequences, (2a) perform purification, DNA/RNA extraction, library preparation and sequencing of different virus strains within a complex sample matrix and (2b) perform library preparation and sequencing of pre-prepared viral RNA/DNA.

The COMPARE virus PT is prepared and executed by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) and is part of the COMPARE working package 2 (WP2).

Please sign in through this link:

<https://befragungen.rki.de/SE/1/CompareRegistration/>

Who can participate?

All laboratories of the COMPARE and GMI community performing high-throughput sequencing and/or bioinformatics analyses of HTS datasets are invited to participate. Each part of the virus proficiency test is optional but participating in all parts is recommended.

Deadline for the sign up for the COMPARE virus PT 2016 is October 16th 2016.

Protocol

Part 1: After sign up, you will be invited to download and analyze a fastq dataset via the RKI share website. The fastq dataset will be accompanied by further instructions for data analysis and an internet-based survey. Please upload your identified viral sequences to the RKI share site as explained in the protocol. The deadline for submitting the survey and viral sequences is November 16th 2016.

Part 2: Virus samples and viral RNA/DNA will be shipped from RKI in November 2016. After sequencing of the samples by your laboratory, we ask you to submit the resulting sequence data (fastq-files) to an ftp-site. Deadline for uploading all sequences and results from virus PT part 2 is December 16th 2016.

Contact

If you have questions or comments, please contact Andreas Nitsche (NitscheA@RKI.de) or Annika Brinkmann (BrinkmannA@RKI.de).