

“Explore your most interesting genome” SMRT® Grant Program & Community Polling Frequently Asked Questions

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What is the purpose of this FAQ?

This FAQ is intended to explain details of the “Explore our most interesting genome” SMRT Grant program to help the community understand polling activities to determine this year’s winning proposal. This document is not legally binding and may be subjected to change.

What is the “Explore your most interesting genome” SMRT Grant Program?

With the PacBio® RS II and Sequel™ System, scientists now have the opportunity to engage in the full spectrum of genomic investigations with higher-quality genomes, transcriptomes, and epigenomes at reduced project costs and timelines. The 2016 SMRT Grant program supports this new wave and democratization of science with long-read sequencing, and encourages community engagement to help select the winning proposal that generates the most interest.

Remind me again, what is the prize?

The winner of the SMRT Grant program will be awarded 10 SMRT® Cells with size selection of genomic and/or transcriptomic samples using Sage® size-selection systems. Bioinformatics analysis will be provided by Computomics.

Does my project qualify for the program?

The “Explore your most interesting genome” 2016 SMRT Grant program is now closed for submissions and proposals have been screened to identify the top 5 finalists for the program (see [Official Rules](#)). We are currently turning to the community for help to decide the winner by May 1, 2016. The Genome Galaxy Initiative on Experiment is open year-round for scientists interested in crowdsource-funded support for proposals utilizing SMRT Sequencing to address their research challenge.

How will the winner be identified?

The community will determine the winner through votes submitted on the PacBio SMRT Grant Program Polling Page (<http://www.pacb.com/smrtgrant>) during this final selection round. Finalists are encouraged to engage with the community to educate on the value of their project and impact of their research efforts during this stage of the open competition. Daily votes will be collected, giving the opportunity for the community to change their minds as the finalists engage with the community over the course of the polling period.

How will the top 5 finalists campaign for their project in the final selection round?

The top 5 finalists are encouraged to promote their projects and campaign for community votes during the final selection round, which will be modeled after [Experiment](#), the dedicated crowdsourcing funding platform for scientific research. Each finalist will be given the opportunity to create a project page to share their research efforts and passions. Finalists are also encouraged to recruit support from friends, family, colleagues, and students to engage with the larger community to vote and support the project campaign.

How will the community be polled?

A landing page on Pacific Biosciences' website (<http://www.pacb.com/smrtgrant>) will be made available to announce the top 5 finalists' projects and will include a form to support community polling. The community can interact directly with researchers to learn more about these interesting genomes on dedicated project pages through Experiment. This polling page will be linked to the project pages on Experiment for more information.

When will community polling take place?

Community polling will launch April 11 and close May 1, 2016.

Who can vote?

Anyone at least 18 years of age with access to the internet and a valid email account is eligible to vote for his or her favorite genomic investigation.

How will the votes be counted?

Votes are counted as one per valid email address, per day within a 24 hour period based on Pacific Time Zone in California with intervals starting at every 12:00 a.m. PDT. The last submission made per email address, per day will be counted as the vote for that day. Real-time polling results reflect all interactions with the voting tool, and are not indicative of actual votes which will be tallied when polling is closed. All daily votes will be tallied after the polling period closes on May 1, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. PDT. The finalist with the most cumulative votes over the polling period will be the winner. Each individual may vote using no more than 3 email accounts per project, per day. Any votes above 2,000 per contestant, per day will not be counted. In the event of a tie, the project with the most number of unique email addresses will win. Voting rules and procedures are subject to change at Pacific Biosciences' sole discretion and without notice.

If you vote, you are agreeing not to use any unofficial third party services to cast your votes on your behalf. Pacific Biosciences reserves the right to remove votes that are identified as having been cast in violation of the foregoing and/or in such a significant block, either by technical enhancements or otherwise, that it could unfairly influence the outcome of the voting. Pacific Biosciences reserves the right to remove votes identified as coming from anonymizing web proxy IP addresses.

What happens if my favorite project doesn't win?

Runner-ups will have the opportunity to crowdsource funds on Experiment to see their project continue through this program. Project pages will automatically transition from voting to funding mode for another 30 days once the winner has been identified. We encourage you to consider supporting your favorite project if they do not win. Experiment is an all-or-nothing funding platform, so donations will only be accepted in the event that campaign milestones are achieved ([see Experiment's FAQ](#)). The platform on Experiment takes an 8% processing fee which will be covered by Pacific Biosciences so all donations will benefit the direct cost of the project. All raised funds for successful campaigns will be directly transferred to Pacific Biosciences who will help oversee the project based on the proposal and experimental design discussions within the scope of the allotted SMRT Cells. Bioinformatics analysis and other offerings for the SMRT Grant Program Winner are not guaranteed for runner-ups. Projects are restricted to a maximum allocation of 10 SMRT Cells on the Sequel System through this program. Any indicated pricing is offered only through this program.

Is my personal information collected by participating in the SMRT Grant Program and community polling activities?

The information collected from participants involved in the SMRT Grant program and community polling for winner selection is set forth in the Pacific Biosciences Privacy Policy which can be found at <http://www.pacb.com/legal-and-trademarks/privacy-policy/>.