Welcome to the 6th quarterly Newsletter highlighting the progress of the Renal GOA Initiative.

Renal target list
The list of renal curation targets now comprises 1629 distinct renal-related proteins which include human and murine orthologues and additional proteins involved in the developing genitourinary system. This also includes a list of differentially expressed kidney-related proteins in response to overexpression of neuropilins and a list of proteins from GUDMAP without any GO annotations.
The current GO annotations for 1484 of this protein set that have been tagged with the acronym KRUK can be viewed using the EBI’s GO browser QuickGO (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/QuickGO/GAnnotation?protein=KRUK).

Protein Annotation
To date, since 1st April 2009, this initiative has associated 7542 GO terms to 829 distinct UniProtKB proteins from the prioritized renal-related list. Of these, 173 prioritized proteins have been comprehensively annotated using GO terms.
Annotation is ongoing for the list of gene products provided by the GUDMAP Consortium Edinburgh team, which are expressed in the developing mouse genitourinary system, but previously had no associated GO terms.
Also, GO annotation for the list of differentially expressed kidney-related proteins in response to overexpression of neuropilins, is ongoing.

Gene Ontology Development
As a result of the Kidney Development Ontology Content Meeting (held in January 2010) and collaboration with renal experts, an additional 100 mesonephros-specific terms describing kidney development in the Zebrfish have been created. 18 new fly renal system development terms have also been created (as shown in Figure 1) bringing the final total of new kidney development GO terms to 445 new GO terms. This is a great achievement and represents 1.36% of the total terms in the whole of the Gene Ontology!
Figure 1: Section of the Gene Ontology highlighting the fly-specific renal development terms following the focused ontology development effort.

New renal interest mailing list
I have set up a new renal interest mailing list and plan to send future newsletters through this list. It will be low traffic and it would be a more convenient way of sending out information relating to the Renal GOA Initiative. So, if you are interested in continuing to receive these newsletters please could you sign up to it at renal@ebi.ac.uk. Similarly, please do let me know me if you no longer wish to be on the original mailing list which I have been using to send out these quarterly newsletters.
Meetings attended

- I attended the Kidney Research UK Fellows Day in September 2010, held at Warwick University in Coventry, where I presented the Renal GO Annotation Initiative at a moderated poster session. Dr. Rolf Apweiler also attended this and presented a talk entitled 'Databases for life scientists: UniProt, the Renal Gene Ontology Annotation Initiative, and beyond' at the Fellows Day Workshop: The New Genetics: What can it do for my research?
- The Initiative was also presented to members of the pharmaceutical industry at the EBI Industry Workshop on Ontology Development and Engineering, held at the EBI in October 2010, focusing on the logistics and outcome of the Kidney Development Ontology Content Meeting. At this workshop I learned about the theory behind ontology development and had an opportunity for hands-on experience of creating and editing a cell-line ontology in OBO Edit, the editing tool most widely used by the Gene Ontology editors. The other tool that was demonstrated was Protégé.

New look QuickGO
For those of you who use the EBI’s GO browser, QuickGO, we have just launched the new user interface at http://www.ebi.ac.uk/QuickGO. Please do try it out and feedback your experience to the UniProtKB-GOA team (goa@ebi.ac.uk).

Call for contributions from the renal biomedical research community
If you are interested in providing suggestions/advice/discussions on renal gene/protein-related issues in this initiative then please contact the UniProtKB-GOA group at http://www.ebi.ac.uk/GOA/contactus.html or email goa@ebi.ac.uk. If you have a specific renal-related gene/protein of interest that is not on the current curation target list, or would like a particular one to be prioritized for GO annotation then please do let me know. Similarly, let me know if you are aware of any large dataset or set of proteins that are involved in a particular kidney function/development/disease pathway requiring annotation. If you know of anyone in the biomedical scientific research community working on any aspect involving the genitourinary tract who you feel would be interested in this effort, please could you forward this newsletter onto them - your assistance with this would be greatly appreciated.

Editor: Dr. Yasmin Alam-Faruque
email: yalam@ebi.ac.uk