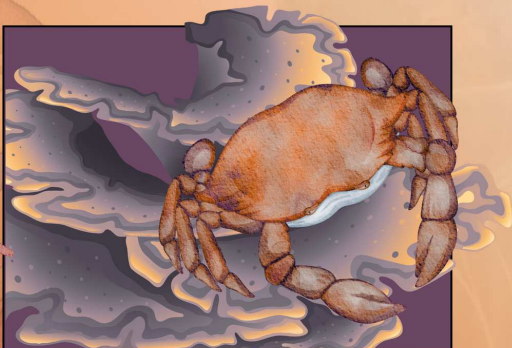


GIGA^{VI}

Global Invertebrate Genomics Alliance



CONFERENCE

Boracay, Philippines

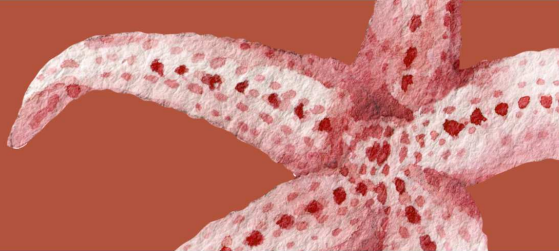
July 6-10, 2026



6 July

Monday

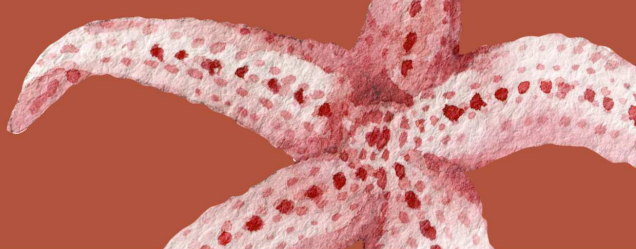
Time	Session/Activity	Speaker/Chair
14:00–15:00	Welcome Remarks and Opening of the Conference	Clement C. Camposano UP Visayas Chancellor H.E. Jaime Víctor Ledda Philippine Ambassador to Belgium Jose V. Lopez GIGA Executive Board Jean-François Flot Conference Director, GIGA VI
15:00–17:20	Session 1: Philippine Biodiversity	Machel Malay University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines
15:00–15:40	Keynote Lecture	Ma. Carmen Ablan Lagman De La Salle University, Philippines "Maximizing reference genomes for informed conservation action in the Philippines: an advocacy for multi-omics approaches"
16:00–16:15	Contributed Talk 1	Cynthia P. Saloma University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines "Biodiversity genomics of threatened endemic Philippine eagles and owls"
16:20–16:35	Contributed Talk 2	Dina Mae Rañises Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium "Genome size variation and hybridization patterns in <i>Corbicula</i>"
16:40–16:55	Contributed Talk 3	Richmundjay Sobretudo University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines "Philippine wood-boring shipworms (Bivalvia: Teredinidae) maintain taxonomically distinct but functionally conserved gill-associated microbiomes"
17:00–17:15	Contributed Talk 4	Tristan Permentier Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium "Unraveling intra- and interspecific variations in genome sizes among scleractinian corals"
17:20–17:40	Health Break	
17:40–18:30	Round Table on Biodiversity Research in the Philippines	Victor Marco Emmanuel N. Ferriols University of the Philippines Visayas, Philippines Joel T. Abalayan Department of Agriculture– Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Discussion with Philippine and foreign researchers, and representatives of agencies involved in granting research permits in the Philippines
Evening	Welcome Dinner - Featuring traditional dances and music of the Philippines	



7 July

Tuesday

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker/Chair	
10:00–12:20	Session 2: Genomics of Marine Holobionts	Cecilia Conaco <i>University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines</i>	Genomics of marine holobionts
10:00–10:40	Keynote Lecture	Chuya Shinzato <i>University of Tokyo, Japan</i>	"Illuminating the molecular mechanisms and evolution of algal symbiosis through genomic analyses in corals and giant clams"
11:00–11:15	Contributed Talk 1	John Bennedick Quijano <i>University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines</i>	"Innate signatures of heat tolerance in the <i>Acropora</i> cf. <i>tenuis</i> holobiont"
11:20–11:35	Contributed Talk 2	Michael Middlebrooks <i>University of Tampa, USA</i>	"Genomic sequencing to reconstruct the diets of sacoglossan sea slugs"
11:40–11:55	Contributed Talk 3	Andia Chaves Fonnegra <i>Florida Atlantic University, USA</i>	"Serotonin (5-HT) in sponge holobionts"
12:00–12:15	Contributed Talk 4	Padmanabhan Mahadevan <i>University of Tampa, USA</i>	"Fragmented hybrid genome assembly of the photosynthetic sea slug <i>Elysia crispata</i> "
12:20–14:00	Lunch Break Sponsor Presentation: RainPhil Inc.		
14:00–15:00	GIGA General Assembly		
15:00–17:20	Session 3: Frontiers of Invertebrate Genomics: Focus on Little-Known Taxa	Gonzalo Giribet <i>Harvard University, USA</i>	
15:00–15:40	Keynote Lecture	Agostinho Antunes <i>University of Porto, Portugal</i>	"Invertebrate genomes and ecological diversification: linking molecular innovation to adaptation"



7 July

Tuesday

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker/Chair	
16:00–16:15	Contributed Talk 1	Meghan K. Yap-Chiongco <i>University of Copenhagen, Denmark</i>	"Small worms, big questions: a draft genome of the miniaturized annelid <i>Ophryotrocha labronica</i> "
16:20–16:35	Contributed Talk 2	Feren Kagan <i>MPINAT, Germany</i>	"Challenges of planarian genome assemblies"
16:40–16:55	Contributed Talk 3	Ismael Chowdhury <i>University of Otago, New Zealand</i>	"Genome assembly and annotation of the bryozoan <i>Bugulina</i> sp.: a hybrid sequencing approach"
17:00–17:15	Contributed Talk 4	Gonzalo Giribet <i>Harvard University, USA</i>	"Putting ecdysozoan genomics on the map—a Trans-Atlantic effort"
17:20–17:40	Health Break		
17:40–19:00	Session 4: Methods in Invertebrate Genomics	Jose V. Lopez <i>Nova Southeastern University, USA</i>	
17:40–17:55	Contributed Talk 1	Jean-François Flot <i>Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium</i>	"Why have invertebrate genomes long been difficult to sequence?"
17:55–18:10	Contributed Talk 2	July Ariñez <i>University of Otago, New Zealand</i>	"Developing reference genomic resources for examining climate change resilience in key aquacultural species for Aotearoa New Zealand"
18:10–18:25	Contributed Talk 3	Mohammed M. Tawfeeq <i>Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium</i>	"Refining Feulgen: low-cost and accurate genome size measurements for everyone"
18:25–19:00	Round Table Discussion		Current challenges in invertebrate genomics

*Dinner: Participants' own arrangements



8 July

Wednesday

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker/Chair	
09:00–10:30	Genome Assembly Workshop	Jean-François Flot <i>Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium</i>	Two-minute presentations introducing each participant's research interests
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00–13:00	Theoretical Principles of Genome Assembly	Jean-François Flot <i>Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium</i>	Overlap searching, greedy assembly, OLC assembly, DBG assembly
13:00–14:00	Lunch Break		
14:00–16:00	Genome Assembly Practical	Jean-François Flot <i>Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium</i>	Assembling Nanopore reads using Flye and Hifiasm; assessing results using Bandage, KAT and BUSCO
16:00–16:30	Coffee Break		
16:30–18:30	Annotation and Downstream Analyses	Jean-François Flot <i>Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium</i>	Mapping reads, finding genes and looking at synteny/colinearity
Alternative Option	1-Day Excursion / Free Day – Optional local excursions, including wind sports, scuba diving, snorkeling, guided island tours, and traditional Filipino cultural activities; or free time for participants.		

*Dinner: Participants' own arrangements



9 July

Thursday

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker/Chair	
10:00–12:20	Session 5: Conservation Transcriptomics	Jean-François Flot <i>Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium</i>	
10:00–10:40	Keynote Lecture	Manuel Aranda <i>King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia</i>	"A predictive genomics framework for climate-resilient conservation"
11:00–11:15	Contributed Talk 1	Didier Zoccola <i>Monaco Scientific Center Centre Scientifique de Monaco, Monaco</i>	"A transcriptome-derived marker set for high-resolution coral molecular taxonomy"
11:20–11:35	Contributed Talk 2	Ruiqi Li <i>University of Southern California, USA</i>	"Integrative transcriptomic analysis reveals conserved neurogenic responses to heat stress in reef-building corals"
11:40–11:55	Contributed Talk 3	Matias Gomez-Corrales <i>Nova Southeastern University, USA</i>	"Transcriptomic signatures of resilience in Caribbean octocorals"
12:00–12:15	Contributed Talk 4	Kelly Rome Publico <i>University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines</i>	"Gene expression and chromatin accessibility of <i>Acropora digitifera</i> larvae under thermal stress"
12:20–14:00	Lunch Break • Sponsor Presentation: Lifeline Diagnostics Supplies, Inc.		
14:00–15:00	Career Panel		How to make it in academia?
15:00–17:20	Session 6: Population and Evolutionary Genomics	Michael Middlebrooks <i>University of Tampa, USA</i>	
15:00–15:40	Keynote Lecture	Scott Edmunds <i>Pensoft</i>	"GIGA meets GigaScience: targeted data mobilization approaches to fill taxon and geographic areas underrepresented in biodiversity and genomics research"
16:00–16:15	Contributed Talk 1	Carlos Prada <i>University of Rhode Island, USA</i>	"Speciation in corals across depths"
16:20–16:35	Contributed Talk 2	Austin Betancourt-Sanchez <i>University of California, Los Angeles, USA</i>	"Genetic connectivity and signals of selection across biogeographic barriers of <i>Metacarcinus magister</i> in its native range using whole genome sequencing (WGS)"



9 July

Thursday

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker/Chair
16:40–16:55	Contributed Talk 3	Catalina Romero-Ortiz Harvard University, USA “From Gondwana to the Caribbean: UCE phylogenomics reveals the biogeographic history of <i>Ideobisium</i> (Pseudoscorpiones: Syarinidae)”
17:20–19:00	Speed Talks and Poster Session	Short research presentations followed by a poster session with refreshments and finger foods

Speed Talks

Snigdha Baliarsingh

Fakir Mohan University, Nuapadhi, Balasore, Odisha, India

“Candidate peptides with antimicrobial functions characterized from the transcriptome assembly of Indian freshwater mussel *Lamellidens marginalis*”

Le Qin Choo

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

“Speciation and adaptation genomics of *Acropora* in a high nutrient habitat”

Aaron Garcia Bernal

Posgrado en Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, UNAM, Mexico

“Chromosome-level genome assembly reveals massive genome duplication in the copepod *Amphiascoides atopus*”

Javier Montenegro

Minderoo-UWA Deep Sea Research Centre, InKFish Science

“Global patterns of adaptation to extreme pressure in the hadal amphipod *Hirondellea dubia*”

Andrian Gajigan

Cornell University

“Discovery of coral-associated RNA viruses from transcriptomics data”

Poster Presentations

Gabriella Juliane Maala

UP Marine Science Institute

“Comparative genome analysis of photosymbiotic and non-photosymbiotic marine molluscs”

Kenneth McNally

University of the Philippines Los Baños

“Bioinformatic databases and tools built with local expertise and global collaboration for pangenome exploration”

Saarah Dorothy Alquero

University of Santo Tomas

“Pharmacotherapeutic implications of heightened shellfish hypersensitivity during harmful algal blooms season in Pamarawan, Bulacan”

Mateo López Victoria

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali

“coraDNA: Coral histories reconstructions using ancient DNA”

Taiga Uchida

Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, The University of Tokyo

“Molecular basis of Symbiodiniaceae-giant clam symbiosis: Similarities and differences with corals”

Jing Hui Ong

Tropical Marine Science Institute, National University of Singapore

“Species diversity of pteropods and heteropods (Mollusca: Gastropoda) from the seamounts of Monsoon Rise, Indian Ocean”

Marc Mapalo

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

“Ultraconserved element probes for tardigrade phylogeny”

Evening

Gala Dinner – Featuring a live demonstration of Arnis, the traditional martial art of the Philippines



10 July

Friday

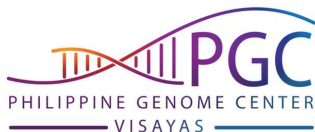
Time	Session/Activity	Speaker/Chair	
10:00–12:20	Session 7: Biodiversity Genomics	Cynthia P. Saloma <i>University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines</i>	
10:00–10:40	Keynote Lecture	Caroline Howard <i>Wellcome Sanger Institute, United Kingdom</i>	"Generating reference genomes at scale in the Tree of Life Programme"
11:00–11:15	Contributed Talk 1	Jeffrey Robinson <i>University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)</i>	"Data curation strategies for GIGA in the 5V era of data science and omics"
11:20–11:35	Contributed Talk 2	Jose V. Lopez <i>Nova Southeastern University, USA</i>	"Update of the Earth BioGenome Project (EBP): entering Phase II"
11:40–11:55	Contributed Talk 3	Aabha Deshpande <i>inStem, India</i>	"Genomic resources of chronically stressed scleractinian corals"
12:00–12:15	Contributed Talk 4	Bharat Bhusan Patnaik <i>Fakir Mohan University, India</i>	"The utility of transcriptomics in conservation management of threatened taxa: case studies from molluscs and the road ahead for Indian Horseshoe Crabs"
12:20–14:00	Lunch Break		



10 July

Friday

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker/Chair	
14:00–16:00	Session 8: Genomics of Mollusca	Jeffrey Robinson <i>University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)</i>	
14:00–14:40	Keynote Lecture	Marcela Uliano-Silva <i>Wellcome Sanger Institute, United Kingdom</i>	"An atlas of molluscan genomics"
15:00–15:15	Contributed Talk 1	Biswajit Panda <i>Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Berhampur</i>	"Lineage-specific class-A GPCR dynamics reflect diverse chemosensory adaptations in Lophotrochozoa"
15:20–15:35	Contributed Talk 2	Tauana Cunha <i>Loyola University, USA</i>	"New giant species in two oceans — mitogenomes from deep-sea <i>Zeidora</i> and an 1890s holotype (Gastropoda: Fissurellidae)"
15:40–15:55	Contributed Talk 3	Alessia Carini <i>University of Hong Kong, China</i>	"Evolutionary and developmental regulation of pteriomorphian biomineralization"
16:00–16:30	Closing remarks, presentation of awards, and farewell.		



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