

Expedited Submitters of genome annotations at phagesdb.org

Overview & Benefits

As faculty members increase their understanding of phage biology and their annotation skills, the quality of their genome annotations increases as well--- to the point that some no longer routinely have their annotations reviewed by SMART prior to GenBank submission. These “Expedited Submitters”—so called because their annotations bypass the review process—have distinguished themselves by consistently submitting high quality annotations that adhere to the formatting guidelines laid out in the Bioinformatics Guide.

Once a faculty member has been identified as an Expedited Submitter, that faculty member

- has additional leeway regarding annotation deadlines (as no one else will be reviewing the work, except upon request), as well as more control over when annotations are submitted to GenBank. Since their annotations will not be reviewed by SMART, Expedited Submitters also generate a different set of submission files, NOT including a complete “Notes” DNA Master file. *See notes on workflow below*.*
- are eligible to serve on SMART, and SMART members/alumni are eligible to serve as Bioinformatics Workshop Facilitators. SMART members and Facilitators are provided honoraria by HHMI as compensation for their time.

**Workflow: All genome annotations finished by the SEA-PHAGES program are submitted to phagesdb.org (whether through SMART or through Expedited Submission) and subjected to a final, computer-based quality control process to ensure the integrity of the underlying genome sequence and the file formatting. Annotation files that pass this final test are submitted to GenBank en masse approximately once a week directly from the University of Pittsburgh.*

Becoming an Expedited Submitter

- **Nomination**
Expedited submitters may be identified and nominated by SMART members through review of multiple genome annotations, or self-nominated by following the guidelines in the “Review to Improve” section of the Bioinformatics Guide. See additional notes below.
In general, a faculty member must submit high quality annotations for phages from three different clusters prior to becoming an Expedited Submitter.
- **Training**
Once identified, Expedited Submitters go through additional training in file formatting and use of quality control programs before they are officially added to the Expedited Submitter list with all of the privileges that entails.

*If you believe you are submitting high quality annotations and have not been contacted about Expedited Submitter status, follow the [Review to Improve](#) guidelines in the Bioinformatics Guide using your submitted annotation files (these should be your initial submissions, not files that were re-submitted after preliminary QC. Remember, Expedited Submitters no longer go through Preliminary QC, so if your files were returned during the initial screen you may not be ready yet). If your file comparisons show three or fewer changes were made between your files and the final versions, please contact welkin@pitt.edu to discuss becoming an Expedited Submitter.