
Designing new services to coordinate and communicate evolving knowledge in phylogenetic systematics

FuturePhy Workshop - Duke Center for Genomic and Computational Biology, Duke University,
April 27-29, 2017

The FuturePhy project (<https://futurephy.org/>) is seeking applications to sponsor up to 10 early-career scientists - *graduate students, postdocs, to junior researchers* - to participate in a workshop held at Duke University, April 27-29, 2017. Travel expenses, lodging, and meals are funded for the successful applicants. The workshop theme and agenda are designed specifically to identify the status quo, challenges, and solutions in the domain of "coordinating and communicating evolving knowledge in phylogenetic systematics". Analyses and solution proposals will focus on building services that communicate advancement and conflict in phylogenetic knowledge via traditional nomenclature, phyloreferences, taxonomic concept labels and relationships, and other suitable and scalable solutions.

Workshop coordinators include members of the NSF-supported FuturePhy, OpenTree, and Phyloreferences projects, among others. Lead coordinators are Nico Cellinese, Robert Guralnick (University of Florida), and Nico Franz (Arizona State University). We plan to prioritize the agenda to identify and contrast challenges and opportunities for two focal taxonomic domains: birds (as an example of a highly visible, relatively well explored domain) and microbial groups (both pro- and eukaryotic; and including "dark taxa", where much new knowledge is being produced now). Early-career researchers that match these taxonomic foci are strongly encouraged to apply and bring relevant use cases into the workshop that will anchor the discussions. However, we will broadly consider applications by researchers versed in systematics, biodiversity and evolutionary informatics, knowledge representation and reasoning, philosophy of science, and social, historical, and cognitive sciences.

Applicant skills and interests might include: (1) surveying current methods and services in this domain; (2) identifying a road map of shared (as well as diverging) interests and prospects, with consideration of taxon-specific constraints; (3) identifying strengths and limitations for current solutions and services; (4) designing shared solutions where possible, and localized options where needed; and (5) synthesizing the insights, with recommendations for improving phylogenetic knowledge identification services in open-ended environments such as OpenTree. We plan to translate the workshop outcomes into a joint manuscript for journal submission.

Early-career scientists interested in this workshop should submit inquiries and applications (a CV and 1 page letter of interest) to contact@futurephy.org. The deadline for receiving applications is March 15, 2017. Applicants will be notified of outcomes within 10 days.
