1. FlyBase Community Advisory Group (FCAG)

The FlyBase Community Advisory Group (FCAG) was launched in 2014 and comprises over 530 FlyBase users from around the world. This group provides essential feedback on new features and changes to FlyBase through regular surveys.

FCAG members in 40 countries

[Image of map showing members in 40 countries]

Members of the group are sent up to 6 surveys a year on a variety of different subjects, e.g. curation priorities, report page layout.

Sending Surveys: How it works

1. FlyBase user joins FCAG.
2. FlyBase sends a survey to FCAG members.
3. FCAG member responds to the survey.
4. FlyBase analyzes survey results and implements FCAG member suggestions, if appropriate.

Our aim is to have a representative from every Drosophila lab. If your lab is not represented in FCAG please encourage a member of your group to join. Go to the community button at the left hand side of the FlyBase home page.

2. Fast-Track Your Paper (FTYP) tool

Fast-Track Your Paper (FTYP) is an online tool which enables community curation. In the past if the authors of a paper did not use FTYP, FlyBase curators would skin curate the paper to gain this information. However, we are not longer able to do so. Authors will ensure that the data in their paper gets into FlyBase by indicating the major genes studied in their publications and highlighting data types requiring deeper curation when using the FTYP tool.

FTYP tool: How it works

1. Each week FlyBase sends an email to corresponding author of newly published papers
2. Email contains a link to a form pre-populated with citation data
3. Author fills in the form with information on types of data and genes studied
4. Reminder email is sent to author after two weeks if form has not been filled in yet

Over 2300 Drosophila-related publications per year

Gene snapshots will be available in the FB2016_04 release, July 2016

3. Video Tutorials

FlyBase now regularly posts video tutorials to help users navigate FlyBase. The videos span a wide range of topics and target different audiences.

How to Access the Videos

The videos are posted on the YouTube channel, which you can access from our Help menu or from the YouTube button at the bottom of every FlyBase page. Links to videos are also present on tool pages where applicable.

Be Alerted to Newly Released Videos

You can subscribe to FlyBase TV to be alerted directly by email to newly released videos. Simply go to the FlyBase TV channel, and click on the Subscribe red button.

Suggest a Topic for a Video

Please contact FlyBase if you have an idea for a new video. The “Contact FlyBase” form can be found at the bottom of every FlyBase page.

Existing Video Tutorials

Basic Navigation
- How to find all data related to a gene.
- How to navigate an excel file of all alleles of a gene.

Specific topics
- How to cite FlyBase.
- Author Guidelines.

Tools
- RNA-Seq series
  Part I: Using GBrowse
  Part II: Using RNA-Seq Profile Search
- Part III: Searching for Similarly Expressed Genes

4. Gene Snapshots: Coming soon!

Gene Snapshots will be short, manually curated summaries designed to provide a quick overview of the function of a gene’s products. We contacted the Drosophila community for expert knowledge and are very grateful for the large number of responses.

Gene snapshot pipeline:

1. Collection and analysis of FlyBase data (e.g. publications, GO data...).
2. An automatic algorithm generates a ranked list of 10 authors who have published data on a specific protein coding gene.
3. Retrieve corresponding author emails from more than 7000 Drosophila papers.
4. Email an author for each gene asking for 2-3 sentences about the gene product and its function.
5. FlyBase curators produce a standardized summary.
6. Choose another expert from the list generated in step 1.

The new concise summaries will appear at the top of each D. melanogaster gene report, and will be downloadable to use as an aid in genome-wide analyses and screens.