

Issue 1. October 5<sup>th</sup> 2009.

Welcome to the first Jalview Update!

## ***BBSRC Grant***

The big news is that we were successful this year in obtaining a grant from the UK BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council) under their “Bioinformatics and Biological Resources (BBR)” call. This funds one Jalview Scientist/Developer from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 for up to 5 years. The grant also funds two Jalview workshops per year which will be held in collaboration with the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI). The workshops will alternate between a user-orientated workshop and one aimed at developers. We have a big wish-list for Jalview development and we’ll give more details here of what we are planning soon.

## ***Introducing Jim Procter***

Dr Jim Procter has taken responsibility for Jalview coordination and development from 1<sup>st</sup> October. Jim was on the BBSRC VAMSAS team that developed Jalview version 2. When funding for VAMSAS finished in 2007 Jim switched to a different project in the group, but has been continuing to answer queries about Jalview in his spare time, so is the biggest expert on the code and its ideology. Having Jim focus 100% of his time on Jalview will mean development can continue to meet the new challenges of modern data-rich biology and put us in a good position to coordinate further Jalview development.

## ***Thank You!***

We’d like to thank all Jalview users, and particularly those of you who have been kind enough to send us email to say how much you like the program! We collated some of your messages as part of our grant application submission and I know they helped in the funding selection. We’d also like to say a very big thank you to all of you who use Jalview in your work and remember to cite the Jalview papers. Citations are a strong indicator that helps us convince funding bodies that Jalview is worth supporting.

## ***About the Jalview Questionnaire and Further Funding***

Thanks to all 2,221 of you who took the time to fill in our Jalview funding questionnaire. The aim of that questionnaire was to find out what you thought about making *voluntary* donations to support Jalview. 51% of those that responded said they were happy to contribute, 49% were not. So, in case you were concerned (and some were) about our intentions, we were never suggesting to make Jalview fully commercial!!

Jalview has become very successful in part because it is freely available so making it fully commercial would be counter-productive. However, it does take money to keep a system like Jalview working, and voluntary donation is one mechanism by which this might be achieved. Our new BBSRC funding will support the core development of Jalview and basic support. For features over and above this, our preferred model is to get additional funding through joint grant applications. To this end, we are always happy to talk about how we can work together with users and developers to improve the Jalview system.

*Until the next time, Happy Jalviewing!*

The Jalview Team.