

Beijing Institute of Genomics (BIG) of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) was officially founded on November 28, 2003 as one of the youngest institutes of life sciences. BIG currently has a total number of 184 faculty and staff members, including 1 Academia Sinica academician, 1 CAS academician, 17 research fellows including 7 "100 Talents Program" scientists. At present BIG has 197 graduate students.

During the past five years, the faculty members of BIG have been funded by and taken part in many national research programs, namely 863 Program, 973 Program, National Natural Science Foundation, as well as CAS and Ministry of Science and Technology. Some of the major achievements include the participation of the International Human Genome Project and HapMap Project; the completion of the Chinese Superhybrid Rice Genome Project independently; the collaborations of the Silkworm Genome Project and the Chicken Genome Diversity Project. In addition, BIG was the first in China to finish the genome sequencing of SARS virus and to develop the diagnostic reagent kit for the SARS virus. The work has resulted in nearly 200 research articles published in either the world-renowned and/or major scientific journals.

BIG welcomed a new leadership team in 2008 to take on the challenges of genomic research into a new era. In order to be competitive among the scientific communities both nationally and internationally, BIG has been reequipped the sequencing facility with nine SoLid, five Solexa, and two 370 sequencers. The computing capacity is over 10 trillion CPS. The two platforms, namely Genomics/Bioinformatic and Cell Biology are to expand further. Many important research projects, such as cancer genomics, rice genomics, stem cell genomics, and evolutionary biology are being collaborated within the two platforms.

With the rapid development of genomics and related areas, our next five-year plan is both exciting and daunting. The influence of genomics to biomedicine, agriculture, pharmacology and environmental sciences will be enormous in the future. Without a doubt, BIG is poised to play a major role and become a center of excellence for genomics research as one of the leading institutions in the world.