"Telomere-to-Telomere Chromosome Assemblies: New Insights into Genome Biology & Structure"

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Karen Miga, PhD is an Assistant Research Scientist at the UCSC Genomics Institute. She works at the forefront of sequence technologies and computational data structures/repeat assembly strategies to generate telomere-to-telomere reference-quality assemblies of human chromosomes. She co-founded the Telomere-to-Telomere (T2T) Consortium, an open, community-based effort to generate the first complete assembly of a human genome. Additionally, Dr. Miga is the Director of the Data Production Center for the Human Pangeneome Reference Consortium (HPRC), which aims to aim to construct a more diverse pan-human genome reference (sampling from 700 diverse human haplotypes) that will serve as the foundation for genomic medicine and human biomedical research. Central to Dr. Miga’s research program is the emphasis on satellite DNA biology and the use of long-read and new genome technologies to construct high-quality genetics and epigenetic maps of human peri/centromeric regions. This work is expected to uncover a new source of genetic and epigenetic variation in the human population, which is useful to investigate novel associations between genotype and phenotype of inherited traits and disease.

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