Web tools to analyze and prioritize genes or mutations for diseases

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Aim

Recent advances in genome sequencing technologies have enabled a breakthrough in the investigation of the genetic basis of disease. However, the resolving power of these technologies has shifted the bottleneck of the discovery process from the production to the statistical data analysis phase.

Our team (BIER: Bioinformatics Platform for Rare Diseases; http://www.ciberer.es/bier) has developed several we tools aimed at different kind of statistical analysis: discovery of new variants, disease diagnosis and visualization of genomics results.

Methods

- BiER has designed pipelines for Genomics and Transcriptomics sequencing data analysis.
- These web applications makes an intensive use of new web technologies and standards like HTML5. R (free software environment for statistical computing) was used for analysis modules.
- Several training activities were carried out to facilitate the understanding and management of data.

Results

Scientific collaborations took place among 19 CIBERER research CIBERER.

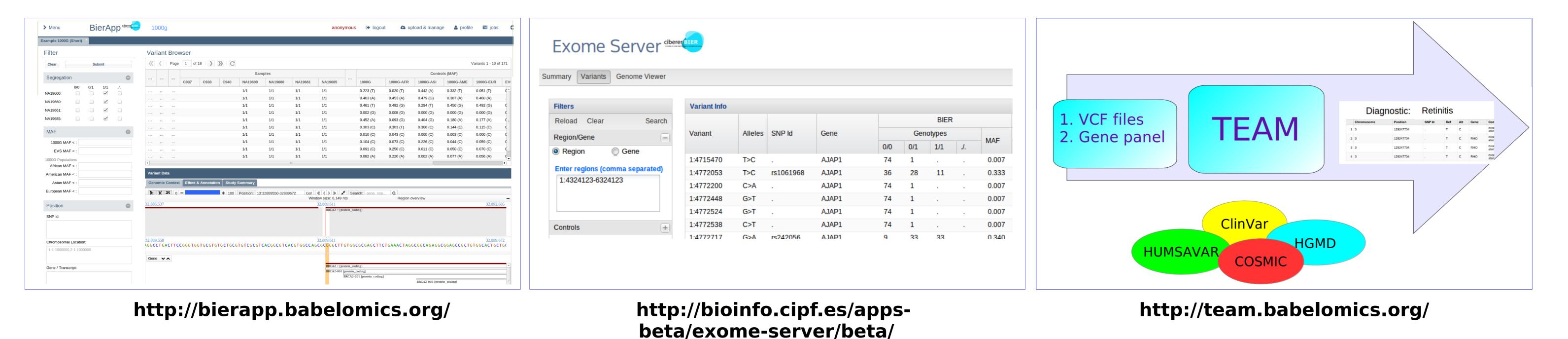
Recent publications include the discovery of two new mutations in the BCKDK gene, responsible of a neurobehavioral deficit in pediatric patients (1), new mutations in different genes causing inherited retinal dystrophies (2) and metabolic diseases (3).

- BiERapp (4). A web-based interactive framework to assist in the prioritization of disease candidate genes in whole-exome secuencing studies.
- ExomeServer. Created with the intention to provide the scientific and medical community, information about the variability in the Spanish population. It is useful for filtering polymorphisms and local variants.

TEAM (5). A web tool for the design and management of panels of genes for targeted enrichment and massive sequencing for clinical

These web tools were generated to analyze and improve the management of results: applications.

BABELOMICS (6). Gene expression, genome variation and functional profiling analysis suite (http://babelomics.bioinfo.cipf.es/).



Conclusions

Interaction between research groups and BIER platform has been an important factor in web design and adjustment tools for analyzing sequencing data and its interpretation.
The results obtained from the analyzes have provided a better understanding of the genomic data of these diseases, as well as the detection of biomarkers that can be used in the prevention, diagnosis and clinical therapy design.
The use of web tools improved the skills of researchers in the statistical analysis of genomic data.

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