CATR
Centre for Advanced Training and Research

Online Workshop On

Clinical Exome Sequencing, Variant Calling, ACMG Interpretation & Pharmacogenomics

Empower Your Journey in Clinical Genomics and Precision Medicine

Learn • Analyze • Interpret • Innovate

05-09 June 2026 | 7:15 PM IST

About the Workshop

Step into the world of clinical genomics and precision medicine with this comprehensive 5-day online workshop focused on Clinical Exome Sequencing (WES), Variant Calling, ACMG Interpretation, and Pharmacogenomics.

Participants will learn the complete workflow beginning from sequencing fundamentals and FASTQ data handling to alignment, variant calling, annotation, ACMG interpretation, and pharmacogenomic analysis.

Workshop Highlights

- Introduction to Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS)
- Whole Exome Sequencing (WES) workflow
- Linux and command-line basics
- Alignment using BWA-MEM
- GATK Best Practices workflow
- Variant annotation using ANNOVAR
- ACMG guideline-based interpretation
- Pharmacogenomics and precision medicine
- Hands-on practical sessions

Target Audience

Biotechnology and Life science field students | Researchers | Clinicians Bioinformatics Beginners| Healthcare Professional | Anyone interested in Genomics | Precision Medicine.

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Course Module

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Day 1 — Foundations of NGS and Sequencing Technologies

Theme: How sequencing data is generated

Session 1 : Introduction to Genomics

- DNA, genes, chromosomes
- Exons vs introns
- Central dogma
- Genetic variants
- SNP
- SNV
- Indels
- Structural variants
- Germline vs Somatic mutations

Session 2 : Next Generation Sequencing

- Sanger vs NGS
- Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)
- Whole Exome Sequencing (WES)
- RNA-seq
- Single-cell sequencing
- Illumina Sequencing
- Flow cell
- Cluster generation
- Sequencing by synthesis (SBS)
- Fluorescent chemistry
- Paired-end sequencing
- Read depth and coverage

Session 3: Library Preparation

- DNA fragmentation
- Adapter ligation
- PCR amplification
- Capture probes
- Exome enrichment

Session 4 : FASTQ Files & Quality Scores

- FASTQ structure
- Read headers
- Phred scores
- Sequencing quality

Practical Session

- Linux Basics
- Viewing FASTQ Files
- Demonstration
- Sequence lines
- Quality lines
- Paired-end reads

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Day 2 — Linux, Alignment and BAM Processing

Theme: How reads align to the reference genome

Session 1 : Linux for Bioinformatics

Session 2 : Conda and Environment Management

Session 3 : Alignment Concepts

Session 4 : BWA MEM and SAM/BAM Files

CIGAR Strings

Session 5 : Duplicate Reads and QC

- PCR duplicates
- Optical duplicates
- Why duplicate marking matters

Practical Session

- Alignment Pipeline
- Duplicate Marking
- BAM Inspection

Day 3 — GATK Best Practices and Variant Calling

Session 1 : GATK Best Practices Workflow

Pipeline overview:
FASTQ → BAM → BQSR → Variant Calling → Filtering

Session 2 : Base Quality Score Recalibration

(BQSR)

Session 3 : Germline vs Somatic Variant Calling

HaplotypeCaller
Mutect2

Session 4 : GATK Filtering Concepts

- Panel of Normals (PoN)
- Germline resource
- Strand bias
- Contamination
- False positives

Tool

- FilterMutectCalls

Session 5 : VCF Files and Normalization

- VCF structure
- PASS filtering
- INFO fields
- FORMAT fields
- Multiallelic variants

bcftools normalization
bcftools norm

Practical Session

- Base Recalibration
- Filter PASS variants
- Normalize VCF

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Day 4 — Variant Annotation and ACMG Interpretation

Theme: How variants gain biological and clinical meaning

Session 1 : Variant Annotation Concepts

What annotation adds:

- gene names
- functional effects
- frequencies
- clinical significance

Session 2 : Annotation Databases

Databases

- RefGene
- dbSNP
- gnomAD
- ClinVar
- COSMIC
- InterVar

Session 3 : ANNOVAR Workflow

Tools

convert2annovar.pl

table_annovar.pl

Session 4 : ACMG Guidelines

ACMG Classes

- Pathogenic
- Likely pathogenic
- VUS
- Likely benign
- Benign

Evidence Categories

- PVS1
- PM
- PP
- BS
- BP

ClinVar vs ACMG

- curated evidence
- conflicting interpretations

Session 5 : Somatic Interpretation

Topics

- Driver mutations
- Passenger mutations
- Actionable variants
- COSMIC database

Practical Session

Load ANNOVAR output in R

Generate plots

Interpret:

- pathogenic variants
- VUS burden
- ClinVar conflicts

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Day 5 — Clinical Interpretation, Pharmacogenomics and Reporting

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Theme: From variants to precision medicine

Session 1 : Clinical Interpretation of Variants

Topics

- Actionable mutations
- Clinical significance
- Tumor suppressors
- Oncogenes
- Diagnostic relevance

Session 2 : Cancer and Clinical Databases

Topics

- COSMIC
- ClinVar
- gnomAD
- dbSNP

Interpretation

- recurrent mutations
- rare variants
- cancer relevance

Session 3 : Introduction to Pharmacogenomics Topics

- Drug metabolism
- CYP450 enzymes
- TPMT
- NUDT15
- UGT1A1
- Clinical Importance
- adverse drug reactions
- toxicity prediction
- personalized medicine

Practical Session
Running StargazerLearning Outcomes

Participants will understand NGS workflows, variant calling, ACMG interpretation, pharmacogenomics, and clinical genomics reporting workflows.

Session 4 — Stargazer and Star Alleles

Topics

- Star allele nomenclature
- Diplotypes
- Metabolizer phenotypes

Session 5 — Clinical Reporting and Future Directions

Topics

- What goes into a clinical report
- Reporting limitations
- Validation requirements
- AI in genomics
- Precision medicine

Registration Fee

Indian Participants: **₹1,800**
Previous CATR Participants: **₹1,500**
International Participants: **USD 125**
Previous International Participants: **USD 100**

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