

ELMI Steering Committee Meeting

Davos, 27 May 2008

Participants

Tommy Nilsson, Coordinator	Göteborg University, Sweden
Rainer Pepperkok, Scientific Coordinator	EMBL Heidelberg, Germany
Maria Smedh, secretary	Göteborg University, Sweden
Gabriele Burger	Leica, Germany
Michael Hansen	University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Paula Sampaio	IBMC, Porto, Portugal
Kurt Anderson	Beatson Institute, Glasgow
Gail McConnell	University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
Tony Wilson	Univ of Oxford/RMS
Kimmo Tanhuanpaa	Univ of Helsinki, Finland
Stefan Terjung	EMBL Heidelberg, Germany
Andreas Pfuhl	Olympus Europe
Joanne Marrison	University of York, UK
Peter O'Toole	University of York, UK
Daniel Zicha	CRUK, London, UK
Martin Friedrich	Imaging & Microscopy, GIT Verlag
Sven Konzack	Olympus
Timo Zimmermann	Centre for Genomic regulation, Barcelona
Karin Aumayr	Inst of Molecular Pathology, Vienna
Ralf Engelmann	Carl Zeiss MicroImaging GmbH
Patrick Schwarb	FMI, Basel, Switzerland

Notes

§ 1 Future meetings

The Steering Committee was reminded about last year's decision that the 2009 ELMI meeting will be in Scotland. Kurt Anderson (KA) and Gail McConnell are the co-organizers for that meeting.

For 2010 Tommy Nilsson (TN) and Rainer Pepperkok (RP) suggested to bring the 10th meeting back to EMBL. No one objected to this suggestion. There has been a request from Sebastian Munck, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, to have the meeting in Belgium. The decision about whether the 2011 meeting will be in Belgium will be taken at the next meeting in Scotland.

TN made the comment that the ELMI meeting should contain a balanced mix of high-end microscopy developments and the application of microscopy. He asked the organizers to keep this in mind for future meetings. Once more there was a discussion about the size of the annual ELMI meeting and it was agreed that it should be kept at a "reasonable" level. Most important is that the company workshops work smoothly and that the meeting atmosphere is nice.

§ 2 Meeting economy

Recently, before the meeting, there had been an e-mail conversation between KA, Peter O'Toole (PO) and TN about the possible association to the Royal Microscopy Society (RMS). TN said that we do not want ELMI to be specifically connected to any specific association or organization since ELMI should be its own independent organization. KA argued that there is a certain cash flow in connection with each annual meeting and that we should decide how to deal with these financial issues. Therefore, he proposed that RMS could care for our money. PO added that it would be good to have some contingency, to be able to use money earned at one meeting to help organizing the next year's meeting and as a buffer, in case there is a deficiency. The surplus from the annual meetings could also be used for fellowships for students. Tony Wilson, secretary of RMS, assured the meeting that the RMS does not want to take over ELMI or change anything about our network. However, they are prepared to help organize meetings, to be a sponsor and to act as our "banker". The meeting agreed upon that the ELMI meetings should continue to be organized independently and locally by the local organization committee each year. If ELMI will have an account, we need to have someone to maintain that account, a treasurer, and it needs to be accessible for the different local committees each year.

The decision was made to have KA start as a treasurer and set up the account with RMS.

§ 3 EuroBioimaging infrastructure project (a.k.a. the ELMA project)

RP informed the meeting about the EuroBioimaging infrastructure project, instead of Jan Ellenberg who could not attend. The background is that two years ago ESFRI set up a road map for different European infrastructures and they have now asked EMBL to set up such a light microscopy infrastructure. Jan Ellenberg volunteered to coordinate this project and a "Letter-of-intent" has been sent to ESFRI. A similar Medical Imaging proposal has also been handed in to ESFRI, who suggested merging these two proposals. Now, after the letters-of-intent has been submitted, ESFRI needs to decide if the project is important enough in order to send out an invitation for a proper application. The fundings include 10 MEuro for the preparation and organization of the infrastructure and then there will be 50-100 MEuro/year for running the infrastructure. The preparation phase could be 2-5 years, but RP thinks that 2 years should be enough. EMBL is very likely to be the center of this infrastructure, which should consist of 5-6 large main facilities. Around these larger facilities there will be a network of the other ELMI facilities. The user community of ELMI fits well into this infrastructure. ESFRI will take the decision by September this year, whether they will ask us to send in the application or not.

§ 4 ELMI Steering Committee composition

TN will step down as the coordinator, especially since he most probably will move to Canada shortly. RP suggested selecting a new coordinator at the Glasgow meeting next year, since the EuroBioimaging infrastructure proposal might make the coordinator role more demanding than it is today. The candidates should be nominated over e-mail, in order for us to be ready to finalize the decision at the next Steering Committee meeting. TN suggested to keep RP as the Scientific coordinator

for the time being and no one objected to this. There was also a discussion, started by Patrick Schwarb, about how big the Steering Committee should be and how many company representatives should attend. As always, the decision was to be inclusive rather than exclusive.