

BiolmagingUK Network Aims, Deliverables and Outline Budget

Aim 1. Strategic Technology for UK biological and medical imaging.

Goal: Continue to define strategic priorities for imaging technology, data management and analysis, training, and career development. Meetings will follow the paradigm defined in the first successful BiolmagingUK Strategy Meeting, held in July 2012-- assembly of imaging scientists and funders, definition of priorities and on-line publication of summaries and reports. These meetings will be held in Yrs 1 and 3.

Deliverable: Community-led Reports, published in Yrs 1 and 3, defining strategic priorities for funding and activity, published on-line for use by community leaders and funding bodies.

Budget: £30,000 per meeting = £60,000. Meeting admin: RMS, £4,000 per meeting = £8,000 total.

Aim 2. Training

Goal: Extend existing resources for training in biological imaging, covering imaging technology, data processing, management and analysis. Develop a catalogue of training course available in the UK and contribute to existing public, on-line training resources so that all UK imaging facilities and scientists can access world-class, up-to-date training materials.

Activities:

- continue the collection of UK training courses in imaging; publish updated info on BiolmagingUK Wiki
- commission contributions to BiolmagingUK site or possible MyScope (<http://www.ammf.org.au/myscope/>) if they receive funding for further development and maintenance-- fund 3 jamborees, where content edited and written. Topics chosen by the Strategy Mtg.

Deliverables:

- Definitive, actively maintained catalogue of UK-based training courses in imaging.
- Up-to-date, publicly available materials, useful as a training reference for all UK scientists and imaging facilities.

Budget: £1250/yr for 3 yrs = £3,750

Aim 3. Careers

Goal: Develop quantified measures of current and continuing investment into imaging technologists and specialists, and directly link investment to scientific impact-- citations and other metrics. Move the discussion on critical imaging technology staff from anecdotal to concrete, evidence-based discussion, thus driving the definition of future solutions.

Activities:

- A. Surveys of all UK imaging facilities-- number of staff, annual salary costs, funding source, etc.
- B. Use the BiolmagingUK community to build a list of the 100 (maybe more?) high impact publications where scientific output strongly depended on contributions of imaging staff and/or technologists. Using email contacts and on-line surveys, determine:
 - salary and time investment by imaging staff
 - source of salary
 - publication impact-- citations, patents, new stories, altmetrics or other impacts

Deliverable: Report on Status and contributions of imaging technology staff in the UK, quantifying the impact these staff deliver, and to provide the clear justification for investment into specific career paths for imaging specialists and technologists. This impact will be reported in terms measured by universities for REF, and thus can be used in discussions with UK funders and universities.

Budget: 2 days/month in 30 months= 60 days of consulting/admin work in 2.5 yrs (60 days, @ £288/day): £17,280.

Aim 4: Outreach

Goal: Extend the range and domains of BioImagingUK's community. It is critical that the Network grow to include more scientists from medical imaging, digital pathology and materials sciences, among others. Besides invitations to the meetings and jamboree's in Aims 1 and 2, we will send representatives of BioImagingUK to meetings of these communities to explicitly form links and define lines of collaboration and/or common interest (e.g., strategic delivery of technology, training and technology careers, etc.).

Deliverable: Wider participation from medicine, pathology and materials science in BioImagingUK community activities, and vice versa.

Budget: 4 trips/yr @ £250/each (economy travel and one night hotel) = £3,000

Aim 5. BioImagingUK On-line services

Goal: Maintain web page, Wiki, etc.

Activities: Wiki server maintenance, Wiki backup and archive.

Deliverable: Continuing, dynamic, on-line presence for BioImagingUK activities

Budget: £2,500/yr for 3 yrs = £7,500

Total Requested Budget = £99,530