

Summary of BioImagingUK Meeting, UCL, London, April 12, 2013

UK Applicants for Euro-BioImaging Node Expression of Interest

BioImagingUK held an open meeting at the MRC LMB, London, on April 12, 2013, hosted by Andrew Vaughan and colleagues. The meeting goals and programme were available online (http://www.bioimaginguk.org/index.php/Meetings_Page). The major output of the meeting was a list of proposed applicants for Euro-BioImaging Nodes (see attached).

Overall, the proposed Node applicants cover a number of imaging domains and technologies and a number of the capabilities highlighted in the BioImagingUK Strategy Meeting Summary (http://www.bioimaginguk.org/images/0/04/BioImagingUK_Meeting_Summary_v5.pdf) are included. Single molecule imaging, EM, super-resolution techniques in animal and plant cells, high content screening in fungi, 3D and live imaging in plants, and image processing and analysis in medical imaging are all covered. While the process for defining UK Centres of Excellence and National Facilities has not yet been defined, it is clear these sites can be considered to be the first candidates for these resources. We don't yet have full coverage of everything the UK community needs, but this is a good start.

In general, there is a diverse, complementary set of technologies at the different proposed Nodes. One major point of overlap is super-resolution biological imaging, where Heriot Watt, Dundee, an Oxford all propose to focus on this capability. However, there are several complementary methods, each appropriate for different applications and samples. Heriot Watt and Dundee therefore present great complementarity and together provide a complete resource for super-resolution. There is also a good regional split between Dundee/Heriot Watt and Oxford, allowing scientists from different regions of the UK easy access to these technologies. The user demand registered in the Euro-BioImaging PCS and the survey suggest that this capacity will be used. Moreover, existing collaborations between Oxford and Dundee and a new collaboration between Heriot Watt and Dundee ensure that all external users, whether from the UK or the wider EU can be shared between the sites and given access to the most appropriate technology.

Finally, BioImagingUK is preparing an on-line resource that details the capabilities and specialities at each of the proposed Euro-BioImaging Nodes, regardless of their eventual Euro-BioImaging status, so that external scientists, funders and other sites can identify the strengths and expertise of each site. This will allow each site to advise their own internal and any external user the best location and technology to solve his/her experimental problem.