

Meeting of “Bioluminescence UK”

Univ of Manchester
Aug 24, 2009

Thank you!!!

- Peter March
- Univ of Manchester
- Peter O'Toole

Goals

1. A common understanding of ESFRI and Euro-BioImaging, and how individual UK groups and facilities specialising in advanced light microscopy can participate.
2. The articulation of a UK national imaging strategy, in draft form, and the initiation of efforts to organise the community to ensure access and communication across the various advanced light microscopy resources in the UK.
3. An agreed representative mechanism to the Euro-BioImaging Stakeholders meeting in September.
4. A proposal on whether and how the UK advanced light microscopy community should organise and communicate its joint efforts to the community of UK scientists and funding bodies.

Agenda

- 10:30 - 11:00 Arrival
- 11:00 - 11:15 Welcome and any admin issues
- 11:15 - 11:50 Overview of ESFRI and Euro-BiImaging-- JRS
- 11:50 - 12:30 Open Discussion: UK priorities for Euro-BiImaging-- what will we do, and what do we want out of it
- 12:30 - 1:15 Lunch break (Thank you Peter!!!!!!)
- 1:15 - 3:00 Defining a UK strategy for advanced light microscopy-- actions, roles, personnel, funding
- 3:00 – 3:30 Wrap up and departure.

ESFRI Presentation

Summary of FRA Euro-Biolmaging Mtg (I)

- Uncertainty around ESFRI and Euro-Biolmaging
- Exposes the individual national climates
- Commitment to use ESFRI process; small countries especially want to seize the potential
- Incomplete representation
 - No UK Medical Imaging
 - No ALM from France & Germany

Summary of FRA Euro-Biolmaging Mtg (II)

- General commitment to use the ESFRI process for national gain;
 - National/international technology centres
 - Coordination of resources
 - Alignment of funding strategies

Summary of FRA Euro-Biolmaging Mtg (III)

- Strength of UK position
 - Depth & breadth of science
 - World competitive
 - Imaging development
 - Facilities
 - Infrastructure funding; support for maintenance & personnel
 - Diverse, minimal balkanization
 - Limited coordination?
 - An active, vibrant community of the right size

Summary of FRA Euro-Biolumaging Mtg (IV)

- Euro-Biolumaging is
 - Chance to integrate at a national and EU level
 - Define resources and expertise that can be shared
 - An opportunity to build a UK imaging network
 - Microscopy & medical imaging
 - Shared facilities and access
 - Shared expertise, know-how, and tools
 - An opportunity to define strategy
 - Strategic statements, actions from community
 - Strategic statements, actions from funding bodies

Summary of FRA Euro-Biolumaging Mtg (IV)

From Alf Game, BBSRC:

“...a distributed European infrastructure is not just a network of sites sharing access to kit and - above all - setting one up is not best approached as an opportunity to put an additional layer of resource and activity over and above existing national/institutional science and investments. It is in large part about changing the latter. There is a wide range of implications associated with setting up and running one, some of which may involve changing the way the science is conceived, led, managed and funded.

...as a community life scientists tend to regard many of the key functions associated with facility based research, and the people who do them - technology development; facility and service management; data handling, archiving and distribution etc etc - as some sort of subsidiary function or overhead rather than an integral and equal part of the science and thus of the decision taking.

...we need to remember that it took the astronomers, for example, 100 years to get to the level of internationalisation and community coherence they have at the moment, and we are the start of a very long road.”

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Some possible actions...

1. Decision to move forward as an entity?
“Bioluminescence UK”?
2. Are we dependent or independent of Euro-Bioluminescence?
3. Who do we want at Euro-Bioluminescence Stakeholder Mtg? What do we want out of this mtg?
4. Mailing lists, web page(s), meeting(s), funding
5. Drafting of community strategy statement(s)?

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