



Minutes of the 3rd “German Bioimaging” Meeting

02.-03.07.2012 in Fulda

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Elisa May gave a presentation about the current funding initiatives in the area of imaging infrastructure: Euro-Bioimaging (EuBI), German-EuroBioimaging (GEBI), German Bioimaging (GerBI). Roland Nitschke presented the current status of the German Bioimaging website.

Everyone was invited to write down in two sentences his/her view of the key aims of GerBI. This input will be used to formulate the mission statement.

Brainstorming session: ideas and topics for the GerBI network were collected:

1. Which funding sources are still available to facilities not be included in the European or German roadmaps?
2. Interest of funders (here represented by the DFG):
better coordination and communication among sites applying for and receiving high-end microscopy equipment; define a system that allows to locate “quality facilities”, based on criteria developed by the community
3. The GerBI network should contribute to:
Share expertise and best practice procedures (GIP – “good imaging practice”) including
instrument charge, how to document an image, how to train users and educate staff etc.
There is no society for light microscopy in Germany yet.
4. Quality assessment of imaging facilities is not in place yet: there are no consensus minimum requirements, no systematic user feed-back, etc.
5. How to ensure that the contribution of imaging facilities to scientific projects is properly acknowledged?
6. Issues related to finances: it is observed that funds granted specifically for imaging services are used for different purposes. There are no consensus cost models in place. Institutional / regional specifics play a big role. Covering maintenance costs is a problem.
7. GerBI network should aim at influencing policy making on imaging infrastructure
8. Contracts and career perspectives for imaging facility staff
9. Need for an online information and discussion tool, possibly to be integrated into the Wiki-type website
10. Need to make the GerBI network attractive also for group leaders not only facility managers
11. Involvement of companies (participate at meetings, training of staff, maintenance, software issues)

Planning session: the issues evinced during the brainstorming were organized in tasks and these were assigned to workgroups (in red). Each workgroup has a speaker who refers to the GerBI office in Konstanz (in bold letters). In total 26 persons agreed on contributing to one or more workgroups. Deadlines for reports from the workgroups and for a further meeting were fixed.

1. Master Plan for how to set up and run a biological imaging facility. Includes: Operation and access rules, user management and scheduling systems, instrument / staff ratio, user numbers /staff ratio, how to acknowledge facility work properly, etc.

WORKGROUP 1: Roland Nitschke, Jürgen Neumann, Silke White, Hella Hartmann, Felix Bestvater, Anje Sporbert, Stefan Terjung

2. Financial and legal framework. Includes: Calculation of fees, cost models (maintanance, warranties); beware of institutional differences! Needs lobbying, communication, to speak with one voice

WORKGROUP 2: Hella Hartmann, Jan Peychl, Stefanie Weidtkamp-Peters, Bernd Märtens

3. Identify new strategies / funding schemes (e.g. DFG pays for fees directly). Clarify position of German facilities in the context of the german / european roadmaps. Also includes lobbying & communication.

WORKGROUP 3: Elisa May, Angelika Rück, Ines Kaiser, Reinhard Rachel (EM)

4. Training of facility staff: professional education and career perspectives for core facility staff

WORKGROUP 4: Stefan Terjung, Andreas Vonderheit, Werner Zuschratter, Anje Sporbert, Roland Nitschke, Michael Laue (EM)

5. Training of facility users, „drivers license“, make an inventory of existing activities, post them to website. On tasks 4 and 5 need to interact with EuBI training workpackage.

WORKGROUP 5: Christian Liebig, Hans Fried, Astrid Schauss, Steffen Dietzel, Silke White, Carmen Hauser

6. Image Analysis (this workgroup was finalized on Tuesday after Jan Peychl's presentation)

WORKGROUP 5: Jürgen Reymann, Dorit Merhof, Jean-Marc Verbavatz, Angelos Skodras, Jan Peychl (□ Pawel Tomancak)

7. Homepage and Databases (e.g. instrument cost, troubleshooting / integration of online resources, centralized search tool)

Online discussion tools: stackexchange, liquid feedback, google docs

THIS WILL BE HANDLED BY THE GerBI OFFICE WITH INPUT FROM ALL THE MEMBERS

TIMELINE:

Imaging and Microscopy and Laborjournal will be contacted by the GerBI office until July 31.

--> Draft structure of working plan to be sent to GerBI project manager until Sep. 15

--> All workgroup members will have meet together before October 31.

(if single workgroups want to meet before that date, please contact the GerBI office - until Sept. 1: Elisa May or Roland Nitschke - , for financial support)

Q&A Session with Dr. Achim Tieftrunk (DFG representative)

The DFG is setting up an information portal for scientific instrumentation. Facilities can register online.

The yearly investments in microscopes amount to 25 Mio €.

Rate of approval for instrument funds about 80%.

Discussion about the currently open second call for facilities and networks. There will not be a third call next year. The GerBI network will be asked to report on its achievements to the DFG in 3 years.

Useful links:

http://www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/infrastruktur/wgi/geraetezentren_core_facilities/index.html

<http://www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/infrastruktur/wgi/forschungsinfrastrukturen/index.html>

03.07.2012

Presentation by Jan Peychl, on behalf of Pawel Tomancak (MPI Dresden), who could not attend. Topic: "Image processing software as a shared research infrastructure".

Challenges to face are: biological image processing as part of bioinformatics, funding issues, recognition as part of the scientific work, where to publish?, career paths and long-term support for people specialized in this area. German E13 position is not sufficient to keep them at universities. Push for new schemes?

Presentation by Michael Laue, Vice-President of the German Society for Electron Microscopy (DGE)

Common issues EM-LM communities: Access to specialized instruments, support for image processing, funding for development, perspectives for young researchers. The two communities want to strengthen their interactions in the future. EM at universities is dying out. Very high maintenance costs, but well accepted "fee for service" concept. Most facilities do also research. External access is hampered by lack of funds. DGE funds meetings and lab courses, prizes for young researchers. Funds come from member fees and meeting overheads.

Presentation by Henrik Michaely, National Coordinator of German Medical Imaging

Highlights the differences between the biological and medical communities. Presents the medical imaging part of German Euro-Biolmaging (GEBI), open access has not been practiced so far in the medical community, but this may change in the future thanks to the GEBI initiative.

Presentation by Antje Keppler, Project Manager EuroBiolmaging.

Status Quo of Euro-Biolmaging. Discussion about the eligibility criteria for becoming EuBI node. It is felt that the number of requested LOIs is too high. Discussion about the role of collaborations vs. service for the operation of EuBI nodes. Mechanisms that define whether and how these two modes can coexist are to be defined yet.

Wrapping up and Closure

These minutes include the following documents:

1. 3rd GerBI meeting_List of Pcts.pdf
2. 3rd GerBI meeting presentation Elisa May
3. GEBI for Biology H. Michaely 2012
4. German Biolmaging _ Euro-Biolmaging 030712 A. Keppler
5. EuroBiolmaging 20120703 Presentation Laue