

## **MASC business minutes 2005**

The meeting took place on Saturday June 18, 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Meeting participants:

MASC members: Heiko Schoof (MPIZ Cologne, Germany), Sean May (NASC, UK), Tom Mitchell Olds (MPICE Jena, Germany), Keith Lindsey (Durham University, UK), Randy Scholl (ABRC, Ohio State University, Columbus), Motoaki Seki (Riken, Japan), Gerd Juergens (ZMBP Tuebingen, Germany), Bernd Weisshaar (University of Bielefeld, Germany), Mary Lou Guerinot (Dartmouth College, NH), Philip Benfey (Chair, Duke University, NC), Takeshi Jahizumi for Kazuo Shinozaki (Riken, Japan), Jaakko Kangasjaervi (University of Helsinki, Finland), Thomas Altmann (University of Potsdam, Germany), Masatomo Kobatashi for Kazuo Shinozaki (Riken, Japan), Michael Sussman (University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI), Ian Small (Co-chair, URGV, EVRY, France), Pierre Hilson (PSB, VIB, Belgium), Bill Crosby (University of Windsor, Canada), Eva Huala (TAIR), Ruth Bastow for Andrew Millar (GARNet, UK), Chris Town (TIGR)

Observers: Jerry Cohen (NSF, University of Minnesota), Rebecca Ernst (MIPS, GSF Neuherberg, Germany), Parag Chitnis (NSF), Diane Jotuku Okamuro (NSF), Catherine Kistner (DFG, Germany), Machi Dilworth (NSF)

Ad 3)

MASC agreed on having the 17<sup>th</sup> Arabidopsis Conference June 28 – July 2 in Madison and the 18<sup>th</sup> Arabidopsis Conference in Beijing in mid to late June in 2007 (contact is Xing Wang Deng).

Ad 4) MASC activities

### **A. Data integration**

The Bioinformatics subcommittee namely Chris Town and Heiko Schoof organized a follow up workshop on “Data Intergration within the *Arabidopsis* Community” during the Arabidopsis Conference to the one that took place at TIGR in April 2005. For detailed information see the attached document and also the Bioinformatics chapter in the MASC report. To move forward with data integration two major action points were agreed on:

- The Bioinformatics subcommittee will be augmented with experts in the field of data integration, data standards and database interoperability
- The subcommittee will request funding for a pilote working activity in favor of data integration in the *Arabidopsis* Community from NSF and/or DFG.

## **B. New subcommittee structure**

To meet the future challenges of the next five years of the *Arabidopsis* Functional Genomics Project the subcommittee structure was changed. The subcommittees are now as follows:

Bioinformatics ( augmented with new members), current chair is Chris Town (TIGR)

Proteome, initiator<sup>1</sup> is Wolfram Weckwerth (MPIMP, Golm, Germany)

Metabolome, suggested initiator is Oliver Fiehn (UC Davis, California, USA)

Phenome, including ontology, plant ontology, visible phenotypes. Sean May and Eva Huala are the initiators.

Genetic Resources, including forward and reverse genetics, natural variation and comparative genomics. Tom Mitchell-Olds is the initiator.

ORFeome, including c-DNA and clone based proteomics, current chair is Pierre Hilson.

<sup>1</sup> I did not call the initiators "chairs", because each new subcommittee might want to vote for a chair and a co-chair.

Multiparallel Tools and Forward and Reverse Genetics Stocks subcommittees are omitted.

Initiators are asked to recruit subcommittee members from experts in the field including those from the omitted subcommittees. Coordinator has to ensure these activities, provide help and information.

MASC decided that the subcommittees will have a three year turnover for the chairs.

## **C. MASC report**

Participants agreed on being more responsive upon coordinator's requests for the annual MASC report. It was decided that the deadlines should be set earlier.

For some countries coordinator has been given names of PIs to replace the ones who were repeatedly not responsive in the past.

Measuring gene function knowledge should in the future be automated and accompanied by GO category allocation (TAIR, other databases and coordinator).

Ad 5) Additional recommendations for future funding

MASC identified the following fields, that need to be developed:

- Metabolite standards
- Cell specific expression
- Quality control

Recommendation for an evaluation and discussion:

Funding for resource development versus individual science/hypothesis driven projects.