

2010 MASC Meeting

Date/time: Wednesday, 9th June, 12.30-14.00; Pacifico, Yokohama, Japan

Action items:

- Keith Lindsey (UK) retired as the MASC Chair and the current Co-Chair Kazuo Shinozaki (Japan) becomes the new MASC Chair (2010 – 2011). Mark Estelle (USA), nominee in absence, was voted to become the new MASC Co-Chair (2010-2011). New subcommittee Chairs were announced (Nicholas Provart for the Bioinformatics subcommittee, Kazuki Saito for the Metabolomics subcommittee and Brian Dilkes for the Natural Variation and Comparative Genomics subcommittee). The Phenomics SC is actively seeking a new Chair to replace E. Huala and S. May.
- ICAR 2011 (American Continent) will be in Madison, Wisconsin (USA), 22-25th June. It is organized by Jane Glazebrook and Mark Estelle with the help of the NAASC Coordinator (Joanna Friesner)
- ICAR 2012 (Europe) will be in Vienna, 3-7th July at the Hofburg Palace, organized by Marie-Theres Hauser, Magnus Nordborg and Wolfram Weckwerth.
- ICAR 2013 (Australasia) will be in Australia, Cairns, current proposed dates are 8-12th July. To be organized by Barry Pogson
- A MASC 2020 Vision document outlining the scientific goals for the next decade is to be produced by ICAR 2011. A MASC progress report will also be prepared and distributed at the next ICAR (Madison, USA in 2011).

Discussion Points:

Theme for the next 10 years: With the end of the Functional Genomics project a new theme needs to be identified for the coming decade. MASC should reassess its scope, role, and the committee structure.

- The committee identified Systems Biology and greater interaction with other plant and crop communities as two important areas for the next decade.
- The committee agreed that a Crop subcommittee of MASC would be a useful addition and that involvement of cereal researchers and other plant scientists in the committee would be beneficial. MASC members noted that this committee could help promote translation research.
- The vision document will initially be drafted by assessing the recommendations from community documents that have been produced over recent years including the EU 2020 vision for Plant Science, the 2010 Vision for Biology and an International Model for the Future of Plant Science. Currently in Japan, Hiro Fukuda and Kazuo Shinozaki are preparing a document on the future vision of plant science and biotechnology for the Green Innovation, which will also be used to inform the vision document.

Bioinformatics for Arabidopsis: Nicholas Provart presented the outcomes of the informatics workshops (Nottingham, UK 15-16th April and Washington

DC, USA 10-11th May 2010), which envisage an International Arabidopsis Informatics Consortium (IAIC) to fulfil the informatics needs of the community.

A summary of the workshop report/recommendations will be published in The Plant Cell for wider community discussion and will also be available through the MASC pages in the near future.

Workshop attendees concluded that the IAIC would consist of a distributed system of data, tools and resources, accessed via a single point (Arabidopsis Information Portal, AIP) and funded by a variety of sources, under shared international management and a scientific advisory board.

The AIP would ensure interoperability, define standards and provide training. The AIP would be one of four core modules, which would include genome annotation, genome curation and stocks and resources databases. In addition to the core there would also be non-core modules in a number of areas. The workshop also suggested that a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and a Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) should be established.

The current aim is to have an international consortium in place by 2011. A preliminary IAIC meeting was proposed for the next ICAR in Madison, June 2011. Nick Provart, Chair of the Bioinformatics Subcommittee will be responsible for organizing this meeting together with Blake Meyers.

- The committee discussed which body would have technical expertise and be responsible to ensure data quality and it was decided that SAB and the AIP would fulfil this role. The committee also considered the issues of raw data storage. It was also decided that, in this new model for bioinformatics, there would be integration of other organisms through the non core modules, but that Arabidopsis would be maintained as a core.
- It was decided that an application for a Research Coordinated Network (RCN) program will be submitted to NSF to enable the initial stages of the formation of the IAIC.

Discussion on the usefulness of the tracking thermometers to the community and funders. The committee decided that new ways to track progress should be identified and that their nature will depend on the focus of the project of the next decade.

MASC Meeting Attendees Present:

Thomas	Altmann	IPK Gatersleben- Germany rep.
Ruth	Bastow	GARNet- UK rep. and BBSRC
Jim	Beynon	GARNet- New GARNet/MASC Coord. Grant PI
Maura	Cardarelli	National Research Council, Rome- For Giovanna Serino, Italy rep.
Parag	Chitnis	National Science Foundation- Observer
Geert	De Jaeger	- For Pierre Hilson, Belgium rep.
Machi	Dilworth	National Science Foundation- Observer
Jane	Glazebrook	NAASC rep, for ICAR 2011 team
Erich	Grotewold	ABRC
Rodrigo	Gutierrez	Catholic University, Chile- Systems Biology Subcommittee Co-chair
Masatomo	Kobayashi	RIKEN BRC- ICAR 2010 team
Klaus	Harter	University of Tübingen- Germany rep.
Josh	Heazlewood	JBEI/Lawrence Berkeley Lab- Proteomics Subcommittee
Eva	Huala	TAIR- ex officio and Phenomics Subcommittee Co-chair
Jose Antonio	Jarillo	- For Javier Paz-Ares, Spain rep.
Catherine	Kistner	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) - Observer
Irene	Lavagi	University of Warwick –UK-- MASC Coordinator/GARNet UK
Keith	Lindsey	Durham University- MASC Chair
Minami	Matsui	RIKEN PSC- Phenomics Subcommittee and 2010 ICAR team
Marjori	Matzke	GMI, Vienna, Austria – For ICAR 2012 team
Sean	May	NASC/European Stock Centre- UK rep, ex officio, and Phenomics Subcommittee Co-chair
Andrew	Millar	University of Edinburgh- Systems Biology Subcommittee Co-chair
Hong-Gil	Nam	Pohang University of Science and Technology, Korea - Observer
Kiyotaka	Okada	NIBB, Okazaki, Japan – ICAR 2010 lead
Barry	Pogson	Australian National University, Canberra – Australia rep and ICAR 2013 lead
Nicholas	Provar	University of Toronto – Canada, Bioinformatics Subcommittee Chair
Kazuki	Saito	RIKEN PSC/Chiba University, Japan – Metabolomics SC Chair
Motoaki	Seki	RIKEN PSC- ORFome subcommittee ICAR 2010 team
Randy	Scholl	ABRC- ex officio
Kazuo	Shinozaki	RIKEN PSC- Japan rep., incoming MASC chair and ICAR 2010 lead
Tetsuro	Toyoda	RIKEN BASE, Japan - ICAR 2010 team
Elisabeth	Vierling	As National Science Foundation- Observer