

MASC Business Meeting – June 29, 2002  
Seville, Spain

## Minutes

1) Representatives and observers were welcomed by Michael Sussman, chair, and Thomas Altmann, co-chair. Representatives introduced themselves.

Michael Sussman updated the committee on progress toward the goals discussed at the 2001 MASC business meeting.

a) A full-time MASC coordinator has been hired with funds from the US NSF. She is Rebecca Joy, a recent PhD graduate from the laboratory of Kathy Barton. Rebecca has been working as coordinator since January, and is stationed in Madison, Wisconsin. Rebecca was introduced to committee.

b) A MASC web site has been established at the TAIR website.

c) A planning document and report of world-wide Arabidopsis functional genomics research has been produced by the MASC and published with funds from the US NSF, and will be distributed during the Arabidopsis conference in Seville and can be found on the web at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?bio0202>.

2) Chris Town from The Institute for Genomics Research (TIGR) ([cdtown@tigr.org](mailto:cdtown@tigr.org)) made a brief presentation on the status of genome sequencing and ongoing efforts being made to complete the sequence and resolve annotation and overlap issues.

Margarita Garcia-Hernandez ([garcia@acoma.stanford.edu](mailto:garcia@acoma.stanford.edu)) from The Arabidopsis Information Resource (TAIR) made a brief presentation on the database at TAIR and their plans for bringing in and presenting more data in the near future.

3) The MASC Website was introduced by Rebecca Joy ([rejoy@biotech.wisc.edu](mailto:rejoy@biotech.wisc.edu)). The URL is [http://www.arabidopsis.org/info/2010\\_projects/](http://www.arabidopsis.org/info/2010_projects/), and can be accessed through the main TAIR page at <http://www.arabidopsis.org>. The goal of producing this website is to provide information to the Arabidopsis community about the functional genomics efforts ongoing around the world, and the resources being made available by these efforts. Summaries of the functional genomics work occurring in the countries represented on the MASC in 2001-2002 have been placed on the site, as well as information about the committee itself. Information about projects funded by the NSF 2010 Project and the DFG AFGN project can also be found, placed there by the TAIR staff.

Continuing efforts for the website will be the addition of information to country summaries and of new country summaries as they are received by Rebecca. Information, especially information concerning biological and informatic resources being made available to the community, will also be arranged in other formats to facilitate its use.

4) At last year's meeting, the topic of regional steering committees was briefly discussed but not acted on. This year discussion took place about the establishment of such committees. There was a feeling among the committee members that more needs to be done to coordinate the functional genomics community.

It was agreed that a more efficient way to ensure communication amongst international efforts, and a way more in keeping with the mission of the MASC, was to establish subcommittees not based on geography but based on research topic.

a) The subcommittees will be charged with maintaining open lines of communication among the labs and programs working toward the goals in their area and in turn communicating progress toward these goals to the MASC at large (a delineation of goals can be found in the 2002 MASC Document, <http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?bio0202>). Members of subcommittees will be asked to work toward being a true representative of their countries or regions, working to provide information about all the efforts ongoing therein, and reminded of the ideal of transparency so that over time, communication will not only be more complete, but easier to achieve.

b) Five areas were identified for subcommittee oversight:

1. Reverse Genetic Stocks
2. cDNAs and Clone-based Functional Proteomics (ORFeomics)
3. Functional Proteomics, Metabolomics and Phenotype Analysis
4. Multiparallel Analytical Tools, including whole-genome markers, microarrays, promoter analysis
5. Bioinformatics, including genome annotation and pioneer proteins

c) Subcommittees will be established; MASC representatives present at the meeting volunteered to be on subcommittees that would make the best use of their expertise, and the names of other members of the functional genomics community were suggested for each subcommittee. These colleagues will be contacted to request their participation (see lists below). The subcommittees themselves will be free to add to their membership as deemed appropriate.

5) Representatives from Germany offered to make arrangements for the 2004 Arabidopsis Conference (Arabidopsis XV) to be held in Germany. In the past few years, the pattern has been to hold the Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, USA two out of three years, but it was generally agreed that with the increasingly International nature of the Arabidopsis community, it would be a good idea to try to arrange for alternation between Madison meetings, arranged by the North American Arabidopsis Steering Committee (NAASC), and other willing host countries.

German representatives will look into making arrangements for 2004 in Germany; if this is not possible, they will host in 2005 and leave the 2004 meeting in Madison.

6) It was suggested that the chair of the committee should be a representative of the country hosting the next Conference. Because Germany has offered to host in 2004, and the 2003 Conference will be in Madison, it was decided that the chairmanship and co-chairmanship would remain the same for the coming year. Therefore, Michael Sussman and Thomas Altmann will serve as chair and co-chair for 2002-2003. At the business meeting in Madison in 2003, Thomas Altmann will become chair and a new co-chair will be elected.

7) Michael Sussman and Thomas Altmann will compose a letter to the Arabidopsis community (distributed to the community via email list at TAIR). This will be an effort to provide more exposure and recognition of the MASC; to explain the purpose of the MASC as well as the new subcommittees; and to introduce the Arabidopsis community to the MASC website and the 2002 MASC document as sources of information for the entire community.

The meeting was adjourned.

Suggested members of the subcommittees:

1. Reverse Genetic Stocks

Joe Ecker\*  
Steve Henikoff\*  
Ian Small  
Michael Sussman  
Paola Vittorioso  
Bernd Weisshaar\*

2. cDNAs and Clone-based Functional Proteomics (ORFeomics)

Joe Ecker\*  
Pierre Hilson  
Kazuo Shinozaki\*  
Ian Small  
Chris Town

3. Functional Proteomics, Metabolomics and Phenotype Analysis

Jerry Cohen  
Oliver Fiehn\*  
Mary Lou Guerinot  
Heribert Hirt  
Keith Lindsey  
Lutz Nover  
Göran Sandberg\*

4. Multiparallel Analytical Tools, including whole-genome markers, microarrays, promoter analysis

Gerco Angenent\*  
Michael Beale\*  
Paul duPree\*  
Martin Kuiper\*  
Sean May\*  
Michael Sussman

5. Bioinformatics, including genome annotation and pioneer proteins

Sean May\*  
Representative from Genoplante\*  
Representative from Ghent\*  
Representative from MIPS\*  
Representative from TAIR\*  
Representative from TIGR\*

\*Indicates not present at meeting; will be approached to serve.