

**Funding Representatives Round Table Discussion  
Chauncey Conference Center, Friday, September 7, 2007**

**wwPDB AC:** Stephen K. Burley (RCSB PDB; SGX Pharmaceuticals, chair, wwPDBAC) Neil Issacs (MSD-EBI; University of Glasgow), Robert Kaptein (MSD-EBI; Utrecht University), Gerard Kleywegt (MSD-EBI; Uppsala University), Wayne Hendrickson (RCSB PDB; Columbia University), Soichi Wakatsuki (PDBj, High Energy Accelerator Research), Kei Yura (PDBj, Japan Atomic Energy Agency), Edward Baker (IUCr, University of Auckland), Angela Gronenborn (BMRB; University of Pittsburgh), Gaetano Montelione (BMRB; Rutgers), Marin Van Heel (EM; Imperial College London), R. Andrew Byrd (ICMRBS; National Cancer Institute at Frederick)

**wwPDB Representatives:** Helen M. Berman (RCSB PDB), Phil Bourne (RCSB PDB), Kim Henrick (MSD-EBI), Haruki Nakamura (PDBj), John Markley (BMRB)

**Funding Representatives:** Ravi Basavappa (NIGMS), Chris Greer (NSF), John Norvell (NIGMS), Roland Hirsch (DOE); Graham Cameron (European Molecular Biology Laboratory), Amanda Collis (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council), Deborah Colson (Wellcome Trust); Keiichi Nagai (Research Organization of Information and Systems)

**Summary of presentations:** Helen Berman, representing the wwPDB, gave an overview of PDB usage and some of the key issues that were outlined in the White Paper distributed to the group prior to the meeting. At present approximately 7500 depositions per year are deposited to the 4 centers and users worldwide downloaded more than 6 million files. A conservative estimate of the value of the entire archive (in terms of replacement costs) is in excess of \$4 billion. More than 15 different funding agencies worldwide fund the wwPDB centers; the total funding is estimated to be \$9 million per year. The funding cycles are different as are the various expectations for the work product. Given the obvious value of the PDB to research and education, a more coherent and stable funding structure is required.

Wayne Hendrickson (HHMI and Columbia University) gave a view of the PDB from academia emphasizing the value of the resource to structural biology, computational biology and biology in general. He illustrated his points with work from his own research group. Simon Kearsley (Merck) described how the PDB is used daily as part of the drug discovery process at his and other pharmaceutical companies.

**Round Table Discussion:** Stephen Burley began the discussion among the various funding representatives and the wwPDB by pointing out that the strategic drivers for life science research emphasize data sharing and pointed out the strategic challenges call for stable funding on a global scale. The US agency representatives said that funding for the PDB is indeed stable in that it is part of the ongoing budget. There is a very strong need to marshal transformation of EU funding from many small grants to a single award. It was thus disappointing that there was no EU representative participating in this discussion. Keiichi Nagai introduced a new funding strategy of the Japanese government for life science databases, including PDBj. The need to have funding for wwPDB activities, such as the meetings of the Advisory Board and exchange visits, was discussed and duly noted by the representatives from BBSRC and Wellcome Trust.