

# CCP-EM Working Group 1

## Harwell, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015, 5.15pm

### Minutes

#### Summary of Actions

Please alert Martyn Winn or Tom Burnley to anyone who should be included in WG1, and is not yet.	All
Please consider if you would like nominate someone for Chair of WG1, or whether you would like to stand yourself.	All
Please consider if you would like nominate someone for Deputy Chair of WG1, or whether you would like to stand yourself.	All

#### 1. Current status of CCP-EM (Martyn)

The current MRC Partnership Grant runs until February 2016, which includes a 6 month extension due to delays in recruiting. The grant funds two positions in the core team located in the Research Complex at Harwell, together with a budget for meetings and training courses. In the remaining time, we intend to hold more training courses, make a beta release of the CCP-EM software framework, and extend the training materials available on the web site.

A proposal for a renewal of the Partnership Grant was submitted to MRC at the beginning of May. The proposal will be considered by the Molecular & Cellular Medicine Board in October. The proposal is for a 5 year extension, with the intention of making CCP-EM a long-term part of the national infrastructure for EM. In addition to expanding on the current software and training activities, there will be new themes in electron tomography and on support for eBIC.

As CCP-EM builds up momentum, it is actively engaging with various potential partners. There are on-going discussions with several international software developers about potential joint projects. We also want to work closely with industrial partners. Representatives of several pharmaceutical companies have attended recent training course and meetings, and there is clearly increasing interest in the role that EM can play in the development of drugs and biologics. We wish to develop a licensing model, similar to that used by CCP4, by which for-profit organisations pay a modest annual fee for a self-contained software suite. Such support is invaluable to CCP4 to maintain their full range of activities.

#### 2. Role of Working Group 1 (general discussion)

The grant states: "Working Group 1 (WG1) provides oversight for the CCP-EM project, and helps to set priorities." More technical discussions are the remit of Working Group 2.

The meeting was happy with this as a working definition. It can be modified later if necessary.

### 3. Membership of Working Group 1

The grant states: “Membership is open to UK-based scientists at a PI level (either academic or industrial) and who have an active interest in EM or ET.”

The meeting was happy with this as a working definition. **Action All:** Please alert Martyn Winn or Tom Burnley to anyone who should be included, and is not yet.

### 4. Chair of CCP-EM

At the moment, CCP-EM has no formal Chair. All other Collaborative Computational Projects (around 15 funded by EPSRC, BBSRC and MRC) have a Chair, who represents the project to the outside world. While Martyn Winn, as PI of the grant, has taken on this role to-date, it would be more appropriate to have a member of the community as Chair. The precise duties and length of tenure can be negotiated. The day-to-day work would continue to be the responsibility of the core team at RCaH and the grant investigators.

The meeting agreed to following process: A 3-month discussion period (to 1<sup>st</sup> September), with a search for potential candidates. Candidates should be nominated and seconded by members of WG1, and names given to Martyn by 1<sup>st</sup> September. A vote by email will then be set up, with votes required by the end of the year. The new chair will hopefully start in the new year, and hence close to the start of the grant renewal. **Action All:** Please consider if you would like nominate someone, or whether you would like to stand for Chair.

### 5. Other roles

Should we have other formal roles? For example, the British Biophysical Society has a meeting organiser.

The meeting felt it was premature to create specific roles. However, a Deputy Chair would be useful, as support for the Chair and as a potential successor. A search for candidates and a vote for the Deputy Chair will take place alongside that for the Chair. **Action All:** Please consider if you would like nominate someone, or whether you would like to stand for Deputy Chair.

### 6. Relationship of CCP-EM to the National Facility (eBIC).

The meeting agreed that, given the co-location on the Harwell site, CCP-EM should have a close involvement with eBIC. Computational support to users of eBIC will be split between Diamond staff (Alun Ashton’s group) and CCP-EM, although the precise division of labour still needs to be discussed. Some software pipelines for quick assessment of images have been created by Juha Huiskonen.

### 7. Frequency and location of future WG1 meetings

It is intended to hold the Spring Symposium as an annual event, and it would be convenient to hold WG1 meetings as part of this. In between meetings, discussions can be held via email.

### 8. AOB

The Spring Symposium was limited to 100 attendees (but was also webcast). We should have a larger meeting next time. The Pickavance lecture theatre can seat 200, but the main limitation is local accommodation. We could perhaps look for other venues (CCP4 have lots of experience searching for Study Weekend venues).

There was a suggestion that we have an additional start-up meeting if the grant renewal is successful. If the timing is convenient, this could be combined with an official opening of eBIC.

There was a discussion of ideas for training. Could CCP-EM organise an EMBO-like course? The course at Birkbeck is heavily over-subscribed, so it would obviously be popular. The time and financial commitments need to be considered, but we will look into it.

Martyn Winn 1/6/15