



EMERALD



Enhancing microarray data quality

The European Union FP6 Coordination Action (CA) EMERALD aims to establish and disseminate quality metrics (QM), microarray standards and best laboratory practices throughout the European microarray community. This will allow microarray data production to take full advantage of QA/QC, thereby significantly enhancing the quality of microarray data and setting a precedent for other array-based technologies. Data quality and meta data (documentation) are key to all microarray data generation and analysis, to ensure that maximum information can be extracted from the data. The need to reanalyse and reproduce data spawned a 'grassroots movement', now the MGED Society, that established guidelines for experiment description (MIAME) and a structured data exchange model (MAGE-ML). MGED initiatives have been predominantly focused on data context, and its scope has only recently been extended to include data content. Quality and integrity of microarray data compendia (e.g. in ArrayExpress) are major determinants for information and extraction model building. High quality data will constitute one of the pillars of systems biology. This CA is designed to structure and amalgamate ongoing efforts across the European community, in close association with MGED and the ERCC.

New on the web page

Discussion forum

Through our webpage (<http://www.microarray-quality.org/>) a new discussion forum, related to the aims of the project, is now open. Categories are related to quality metrics, ontology development, external standards, best laboratory practices and new technologies. The forum can be found at this address: <http://www.microarray-quality.org/phpBB3/index.php>

Recent updates on workshops

Advances in Microarray Technology, 19-20 May, 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

EMERALD will organize a symposium in collaboration with the Advances in Microarray Technology conference, to discuss implications for new technology and data quality.

Presentations will highlight efforts on the implementation of quality metrics, ontologies and standards to new high throughput array technologies. The symposium will take place together with other pre-conference sessions at Stockholm International Fairs & Congress Centre, at Monday May 18. More information about the meeting can be found at this page:

<http://www.selectbiosciences.com/conferences/AMT2009/>

Detailed information and registration to our symposium can be done through this page:

<http://www.selectbiosciences.com/conferences/EMERALD/index.aspx>

Confirmed speakers in our session are:

Ulf Landegren, University of Uppsala, Sweden

Audrey Kauffmann, European Bioinformatics Institute, UK

Jochen Schwenk, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

James Malone, European Bioinformatics Institute, UK

Alvis Brazma European Bioinformatics Institute, UK

Still open

EMERALD QC web survey

The goal of this survey is to gain insight into procedures, platforms, and needs of the microarray users community. The focus is both on commercial GeneChip arrays and all sources of cDNA and oligonucleotide microarrays. The survey is geared to gather information anonymously from academic, pharmaceutical, and commercial laboratories, which use microarray technologies routinely. The survey is now open and can be found on our web page: www.microarray.quality.org

or directly at: <http://kvass.itea.ntnu.no/eval/login.do?externalid=2021-14551abbr>

The results of the survey will be made freely available to the microarray community, through our web page, following analysis of the data. We appreciate your participation in this study.