

MASC Metabolomics- 2007 Subcommittee Report

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The Metabolomics Subcommittee's primary activity of the past year has been focused on fully integrating into the Metabolomics Standards Initiative (MSI) (<http://msi-workgroups.sourceforge.net/>). The MSI effort lead by Dr. Oliver Fiehn (University of California, Davis) has established minimum standards for the reporting of metabolomics experiments. This has been achieved by a number of MSI-subcommittees with foci on issues associated with: 1) Biological Sample Context; 2) Chemical Analysis; 3) Data analysis, 4) Ontology, and 5) Data exchange.

Each sub-committee drafted documents that outlined the minimum standards. Reactions to these drafts were sought, first from a small group of metabolomics practitioners. Subsequently, reactions to these drafts were sought from attendees at two major metabolomics conferences (the 4th International Congress on Plant Metabolomics, held in Reading, England in April, 2006; and the Metabolomics Society Annual Scientific Meeting, held in Boston, USA in August, 2006). After integrating comment received from these reactions, manuscripts that describe the standards have been prepared, which are currently in the midst of the publication process.