

International Arabidopsis Informatics Consortium (IAIC)
Guidelines for Nominations to the IAIC Scientific Advisory Board

The International Arabidopsis Informatics Consortium (IAIC)

The goal of this new international Arabidopsis bioinformatics initiative is to manage the increasing amounts and types of data and allow the leveraging of resources, knowledge, and collaborations. Following a strong tradition of international cooperation in the Arabidopsis community, the International Arabidopsis Informatics Consortium (IAIC) will be made up of a distributed system of data, tools and resources that would be funded by a variety of sources under an international management and scientific advisory board. The IAIC needs to be dynamic and represent the evolving needs and capacities of the community while reflecting the funding interests of the respective countries. The core of the IAIC initially will consist of four parts: 1) the Arabidopsis Information Portal (AIP); 2) the “gold-standard” genome annotation; 3) genome/sequence curation; and 4) Stocks and Resources Database(s). The AIP is the underlying infrastructure of the IAIC and will interact with and link to resources across the globe including Arabidopsis datasets generated in individual laboratories, information from other species, and other biological datasets. Once the IAIC core is established and accessible by the community, additional important ‘non-core’ modules can be linked to the AIP. This federated approach will allow for data, resources and tools generated worldwide to become part of the IAIC, allow the workload, human expertise, innovation and costs to be shared across many sites that are internationally located, and produce additional resilience and flexibility by providing opportunities to bring together creativity and energy from many places. Experts from the Arabidopsis community and beyond will help shape the IAIC through Working Groups focused on topics such as Architecture/Engineering/Infrastructure; Modules/Use Cases, Standards and Ontologies, etc.

Management structure of the IAIC

The management of the IAIC is split into three levels.

1. The IAIC Steering Committee (SC) will, in the future, consist of the PIs leading the modules of the IAIC and would report to and interact with the SAB. The preliminary SC, which is already formed, consists of international community members that secured initial funding to establish the IAIC. They are guiding the project in its first few years until additional funding is secured and will also report to and interact with the SAB, upon its formation.
2. **Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), consisting of scientists from countries involved in the IAIC.** The SAB would oversee the development of the IAIC and interact with the funding agencies, the SC, MASC and the community. **We request nominations to the SAB.**
3. Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) that would review the progress of the IAIC, and would be developed through future funding of the core resource, the Arabidopsis Informatics Portal (AIP).

The **Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)** will actively oversee the IAIC and its activities and will be of critical importance to ensure the IAIC’s long-term success. It will be essential for SAB members to collectively represent a breadth and depth of backgrounds including: experimental researchers; those with appropriate expertise in technical implementation; and those that have long-term experience with Arabidopsis community needs and a demonstrated commitment to furthering community progress.

Commitment to the SAB is expected to last approximately 5 years. It is expected to be formed by spring, 2012 and have its first physical meeting during the 2012 International Conference on Arabidopsis Research in Vienna. The selection process is detailed below in the ‘procedure/timeline’ section.

The roles of the SAB will be to:

- 1) direct and shape future activities of the IAIC and the Arabidopsis Informatics Portal (AIP);

- 2) help to encourage compliance with the standards set out by the Steering Committee and the future AIP;
- 3) liaise with funding agencies in the respective countries involved in the IAIC;
- 4) act as a point of contact for PIs/Groups wishing to contribute to the IAIC or the AIP; and
- 5) liaise with the community to ensure that the IAIC and the AIP continues to anticipate and serve the needs of the community.

Additional guidelines for nominations:

1. Types of people that will make up the SAB:
 - a. Expected to be formed with an initial group of seven international scientists, and by a minimum of one scientist from each of the countries involved in supporting the IAIC. Roughly 3 members will be from North America.
 - b. Expected to consist of 3-4 biologists and 3-4 computer science/ cyberinfrastructure/ database experts. Could include an expert working with a model organism other than Arabidopsis.
2. Expectations of SAB members:
 - c. Meet at least twice a year- once virtually and once at the International Conferences on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR). Funding is secured for ICAR 2012 and ICAR 2013. Funding will be sought beyond 2013.
 - d. The SAB will have direct interactions with the scientists and PIs overseeing work within IAIC and are expected to be constructively critical of these scientists and the project.
 - e. **During the term of service on the SAB, members are not permitted to participate as alternative IAIC participants** (e.g. as PI, co-PI, or senior personnel on any AIP-, core-, non-core-, IAIC-resource- related project or proposal.)
3. Initial Duties of the SAB:
 - f. Work closely with the currently-formed IAIC Steering Committee and Interim Director (Blake Meyers) to clearly understand the status of the emerging IAIC and goals of the project. Become well informed of all aspects of the project.
 - g. Begin liaising with funding agencies to determine possible mechanisms for first setting up the core components and later, non-core modules. This might require the establishment of specific calls for proposals, while in other cases existing funding schemes may already be in place.
 - h. Develop a suggested list of 'non-core' modules and appoint the IAIC director (PI Meyers will serve as the interim director until this time.) There are likely to be many examples of projects that currently exist that could easily be adapted to become part of the IAIC. The SAB will help identify and liaise with such projects and provide information regarding the funding mechanisms available to adapt or establish these modules to become a part of the IAIC.
4. Compensation for SAB members during 2012 and 2013
 - i. U.S. Members: Up to \$3,000 for expenses to attend the 2012 and 2012 Arabidopsis Conferences and \$1,000 for each of two years as an honorarium (2012 and 2013).
 - j. Non-U.S. Members: \$4,000 honoraria for each of two years (2012 and 2013) to help cover costs of attending the 2012 and 2013 Arabidopsis Conferences and provide honoraria.

Procedure/timeline for SAB nomination and selection:

- **By 12/1/2011: Email nominee's full name, institution, country, contact email address and area(s) of qualification or expertise for the IAIC to Dr. Joanna Friesner (arabidopsisinformatics@gmail.com).**
- 12/2-12/14: IAIC SC will review nominee list for breadth and depth.
- By 12/19/2011: Nominees will be contacted and their willingness to serve on the SAB determined.
- 12/20/2011: Confirmed nominees will be communicated to the MASC for review and input.
- By 1/9/2012: MASC reviews and input returned to Dr. Joanna Friesner (address above).
- Mid-January, 2012: IAIC SC meets to discuss nominees and review MASC input; selects SAB.