

Global BioImaging Memorandum of Understanding

Preamble

Imaging technologies are driving a profound transformation in modern biology and medicine, becoming increasingly more powerful and enabling new discoveries that will contribute to addressing the grand societal challenges. In order to facilitate the uptake of these powerful technologies by the global research community, and address the challenges and opportunities associated with their use, imaging infrastructures and communities are being organised across the globe at a national or at a continental level.

Global Bioimaging (GBI) is an international network which brings these communities together under the coordination of the international organisation EMBL¹ to network, exchange experiences and build capacity internationally. This document acknowledges the desire of all the Global BioImaging partners to strengthen their mutually beneficial alliance regarding the operation of imaging infrastructures to support research. It is signed by the legitimate² representative of each of the national/continental imaging infrastructure community.

Considering that:

- a) Access to and use of advanced imaging technology platforms are central to the efforts of the global research community to deliver scientific excellence that addresses the grand societal challenges;
- b) The scientific, technical and data challenges that need to be overcome to successfully run imaging research infrastructures are universal and not restricted by geographical boundaries;
- c) To address these challenges, sharing solutions that have worked and have not worked has been proven to be beneficial to local, national and regional communities;
- d) International cooperation strengthens/emphasizes the key role that imaging technologies and research infrastructures play in the advancement of life sciences and beyond - and ultimately attracts more investment at the local, regional and international level;

¹ European Molecular Biology Laboratory

² A legitimate representative of a national/continental imaging infrastructure community has been endorsed by such community to represent it. By signing this Memorandum of Understanding, the representative declares – under her/his own responsibility – to have such a role.

The Signatories support the following:

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to establish a framework for strategic collaboration among the Signatories that is not legally binding and aims at fulfilling the objectives described in this document.

This MoU is not intended, and nothing contained herein shall be deemed, to create any partnership, agency or joint venture amongst the Parties or any of the Parties, nor to establish a legal entity constituted amongst any or all of the Parties.

2. Objectives

The aims of Global BiImaging are, in particular, to:

- Encourage and facilitate discussion and problem-solving among its members on issues of common interest, which are relevant to research and development involving imaging technologies.
- Provide best practice in the areas of user access and experience, user and facility staff training, operation, management and stakeholder reporting that are relevant to the partner research infrastructures and communities.
- Facilitate pathways for international users to access the facilities and research infrastructures which are part of Global BiImaging, as well as their training opportunities.
- Facilitate pathways to skill development and recognition of international facility staff, including access to staff training activities advertised or organised by Global BiImaging.
- Provide mutual promotion of the involved imaging infrastructures and communities in relevant forums using a variety of media including web, social media and printed materials.
- Simplify interactions with high-level policy makers, such as the Group of Senior Officials on Global Research Infrastructures,³ on global research infrastructures and other relevant organizations (e.g. scientific societies) and enable an effective response to specific requests for expert advice in imaging.
- Facilitate coordinated representation to the global community including the general public, national governments, etc.

³ <https://www.gsogri.org/>

3. Membership of Global BioImaging

The founding members of Global BioImaging are Microscopy Australia (Australia), National Imaging Facility (Australia), Canada BioImaging (Canada), Euro-BioImaging ERIC (Europe),⁴ India BioImaging Consortium (India), Advanced Bioimaging Support (Japan), National Laboratory for Advanced Microscopy (Mexico), BioImaging North America (Canada, the United States of America and Mexico), Singapore Microscopy Infrastructure Network (Singapore), South Africa BioImaging (South Africa).

Global BioImaging is open to new members, which represent the national imaging community in the countries or sovranational regions that are not covered by the founding members. The accession of new members will require approval by the Management Board, followed by the new member delivering a signed copy of this MoU to the Coordinator .

4. The Global BioImaging Management Board

In order to take strategic decisions on the activities of the network the Signatories wish to establish the **Global BioImaging Management Board**, which is coordinated by EMBL (the Coordinator). It comprises the Coordinator and up to three representatives of each of the GBI's members (the Signatories). Additional representatives, e.g. the Chair of a specific GBI working group, can be invited by the Management Board.

The Management Board on behalf of the members shall elect a chair and a vice-chair of the Management Board on a 1-year rotating basis. The vice-chair shall become the next chair.

For the avoidance of doubt, the decisions and recommendations made by the Global BioImaging Management Board are not binding for the participating Signatories; nor do they have any role in the formal governance of the participating imaging communities and infrastructures. If deemed necessary the Management Board may develop its own rules of procedure.

5. Global BioImaging Commitment on diversity and inclusion

Global BioImaging's collective success depends on the robust exchange of ideas – an exchange that is best when the rich diversity of different perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences is valued and allowed to flourish. Hence, Global BioImaging partners are committed to creating and maintaining a culture in which diversity and equality are valued and promoted.

6. Questions and Consultation

⁴ The founding members of Euro-BioImaging ERIC are Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, France, Israel, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Norway, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the EMBL. New members may join Euro-BioImaging ERIC over time. The up-to-date membership composition can be found at www.eurobioimaging.eu .

In the event that questions arise concerning the interpretation of the provisions of the MoU, or problems should be caused by matters not prescribed herein, the Signatories will consult with each other and conclude a mutually acceptable solution.

The signature below means that the Party is part of the
Global BiImaging network.

Date/Place

Signature

*[Please include: Name of Global BiImaging partner, logo, affiliation of and signature by
mandated representative]*