

Launch of EmTraG, a new initiative to improve the coordination of metabolomics training across Europe

On 21-22 July 2016, an ELIXIR-UK funded workshop was organised by Mark Viant and Warwick Dunn at the Birmingham Metabolomics Training Centre, University of Birmingham, UK. The aim of the workshop was to develop a strategy to improve the coordination of metabolomics training activities across Europe. It was attended by 17 scientists from 5 countries, who represented their University, Phenome Center or infrastructure (national or European) and are currently active in metabolomics training¹. The availability of training courses in metabolomics science has increased rapidly in the last few years in Europe. During the workshop the attendees clarified the metabolomics training courses currently available in Europe and formulated a strategy to improve future training.



¹ Attendees from: Birmingham Metabolomics Training Centre, Dutch Techcentre for Life Sciences, ELIXIR-FR, ELIXIR-NL, ELIXIR-UK, EMBL-EBI, French Metabolomics and Fluxomics Infrastructure (MetaboHUB), Glasgow Polyomics, Imperial International Phenome Training Centre, INRA, Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry, Netherlands Metabolomics Centre Foundation, RFMF (French-speaking Metabolomics and Fluxomics Network) and the University of Copenhagen.

Here we announce the launch of the **European Metabolomics Training Coordination Group (EmTraG)** to implement the training strategy, with the mission statement - *To further develop and harmonise metabolomics training across Europe in order to improve its scientific coverage, geographical reach, quality and impact, thereby empowering the next generation of analytical, computational and applied metabolomics scientists.*

EmTraG will seek close harmonisation with ELIXIR (and the ELIXIR Training Platform) at a European level and the Metabolomics Society at an international level. We intend to implement the training strategies developed in ELIXIR, including for example trialing new descriptors and quantitative metrics for training events, also approaches to collate and construct calendars of training events, e.g. through TeSS. The intention is that www.EmTraG.eu will serve as the principal European web portal for training associated with metabolomics science.

As an early action of EmTraG, we invite other groups who currently provide significant amounts of metabolomics training in Europe to contact us and register their interest in joining this new group. See the EmTraG website www.EmTraG.eu for further details.