



Evaluation Data Report

PDGC Control Working Group

Meeting One: September 12-15, 2011

Pamela Bishop
Program Evaluation Coordinator
National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis
November, 2011

Table of Contents

Evaluation Design	1
Evaluation Questions.....	1
Evaluation Procedures	1
Evaluation Data.....	2
Respondent Satisfaction.....	2
Views of Group Progress.....	4
Working Group Format and Content.....	4
Most Useful Aspects of the Meeting	6
Impact on Future Research Plans	6
Suggestions for Future Meetings	7
Additional Comments about working group	7
Appendix.....	8

List of figures

Figure 1. Satisfaction with content and format of the working group.....	2
Figure 2. Satisfaction with working group accommodations	3
Figure 3. Do you feel the working group made adequate progress, for its first meeting, toward finding a common language across disciplines in the research area?	4
Figure 4. How do you feel about the format of the working group?.....	4
Figure 5. Do you feel the participating in the working group helped you understand the research happening in other disciplines in the group's topic area?.....	5
Figure 6. Learning about issues related to the working group's research problem	5
Figure 7. Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the working group will influence your future research?	6
Figure 8. Did you develop unanticipated plans for collaborative research with other working group participants?	6
Figure 9. Do you feel the expectations for the next working group are clear (in the sense that you are leaving this meeting with a good idea of what your contribution will be at the next meeting)?.....	7

PDGC Working Group, Meeting One Evaluation Data Report

Evaluation Design

Evaluation Questions

The evaluation of the working group was both formative and summative in nature, in that the data collected from participants was intended to both gain feedback from participants about the quality of the current working group and also to inform future meetings. Several questions constituted the foundation for the evaluation:

1. Were participants satisfied with the working group overall?
2. Did the meeting meet participant expectations?
3. Do participants feel the working group made adequate progress toward its stated goals?
4. Do participants feel they gained knowledge about the main issues related to the research problem?
5. Do participants feel they gained a better understanding of the research across disciplines related to the working group's research problem?
6. What impact do participants feel the working group will have on their future research?
7. Were participants satisfied with the accommodations offered by NIMBioS?
8. What changes in accommodations, group format, and/or content would participants like to see at future meetings?

Evaluation Procedures

An electronic survey aligned to the evaluation questions was designed by the NIMBioS Evaluation Coordinator with input from the NIMBioS Director and Deputy Director. The final instrument was hosted online via the University of Tennessee's online survey host mrlInterview. Links to the survey were sent to 12 working group participants on September 16, 2011. Reminder emails were sent to non-responding participants on September 23 and 28, 2011. By October 5, 2011, seven participants had given their feedback, for a response rate of 58%.

Evaluation Data

Respondent Satisfaction

Figure 1. Satisfaction with content and format of the working group

Scale: -2 = "Strongly disagree" to 2 = "Strongly agree"

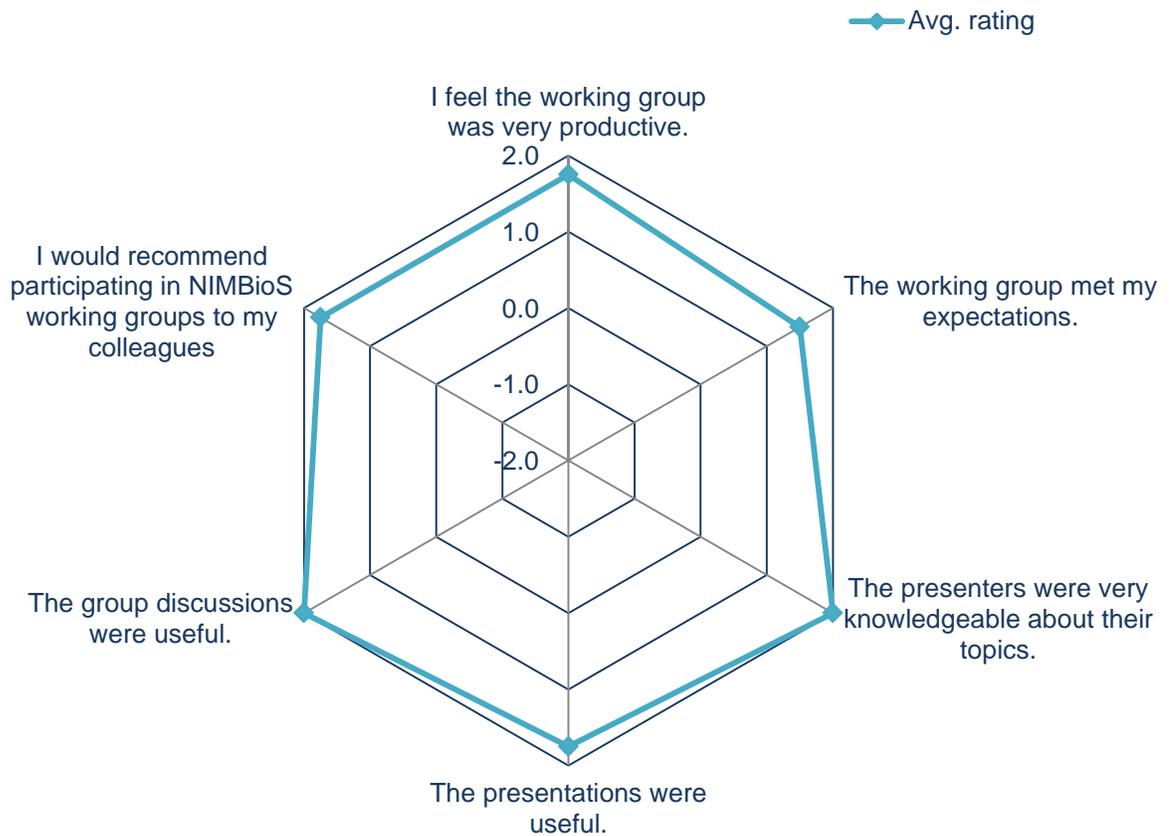
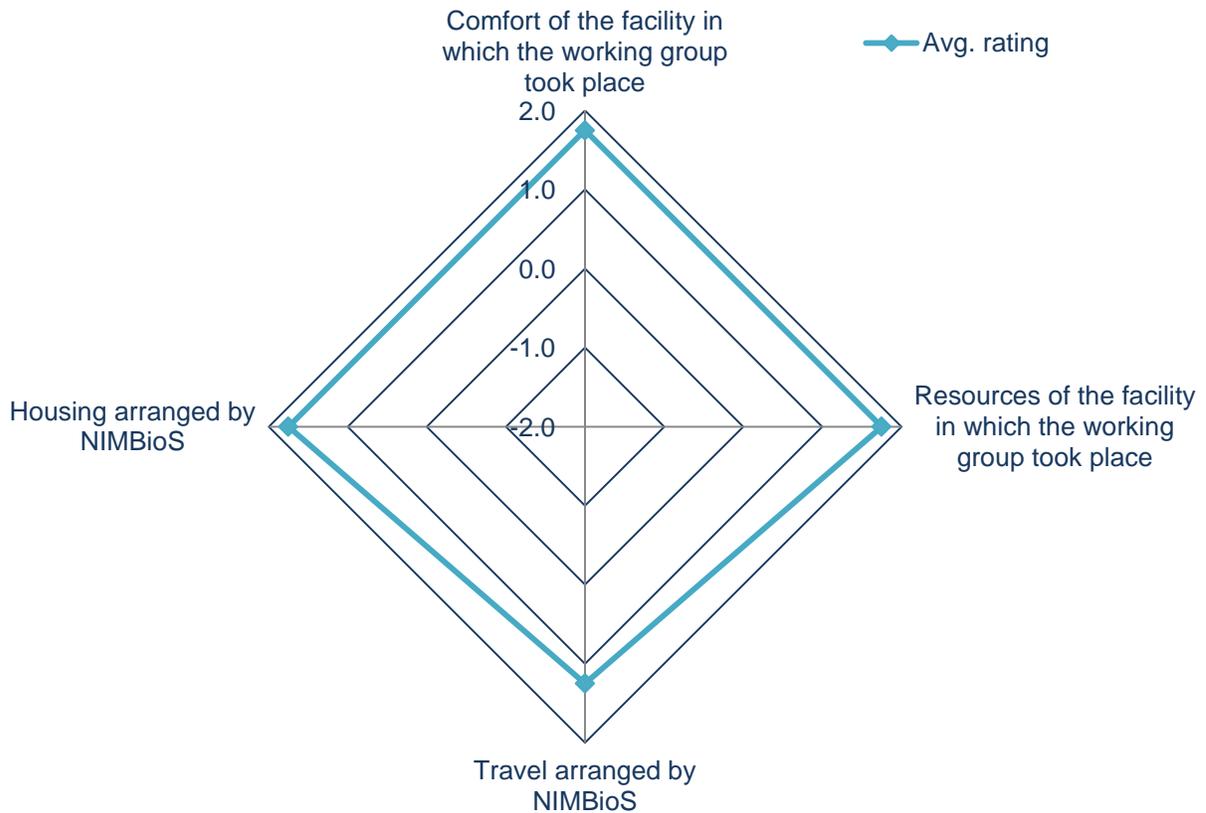


Figure 2. Satisfaction with working group accommodations

Scale: -2 = "Very dissatisfied" to 2 = "Very satisfied"



Suggestions for NIMBioS to improve the resources and/or accommodations available to working group participants:

By having us eating at NIMBioS, one is not moving enough each day.

Everything was amazingly organised. I don't know; maybe ask an American this question. We have low expectations in Australia.

I found the internet at the hotel rather slow (many pages timed out before loading). I found the wiggio very clunky. Much better tools exist for the kinds of collaboration we were performing, including free & open source tools. In particular our group felt Dropbox would be best for sharing files (presentations, literature, notes). Other useful tools I'd suggest: Literature: Mendeley groups. Dropbox alternatives: Amazon S3+jungledisk, tonido, sparkleshare, livemesh. Code: git/github, Notes: wordpress.

Views of Group Progress

Figure 3. Do you feel the working group made adequate progress, for its first meeting, toward finding a common language across disciplines in the research area?



Comments about finding a common language:

No comments

Working Group Format and Content

Figure 4. How do you feel about the format of the working group?



Suggestions for improving group format:

No comments

Figure 5. Do you feel the participating in the working group helped you understand the research happening in other disciplines in the group's topic area?



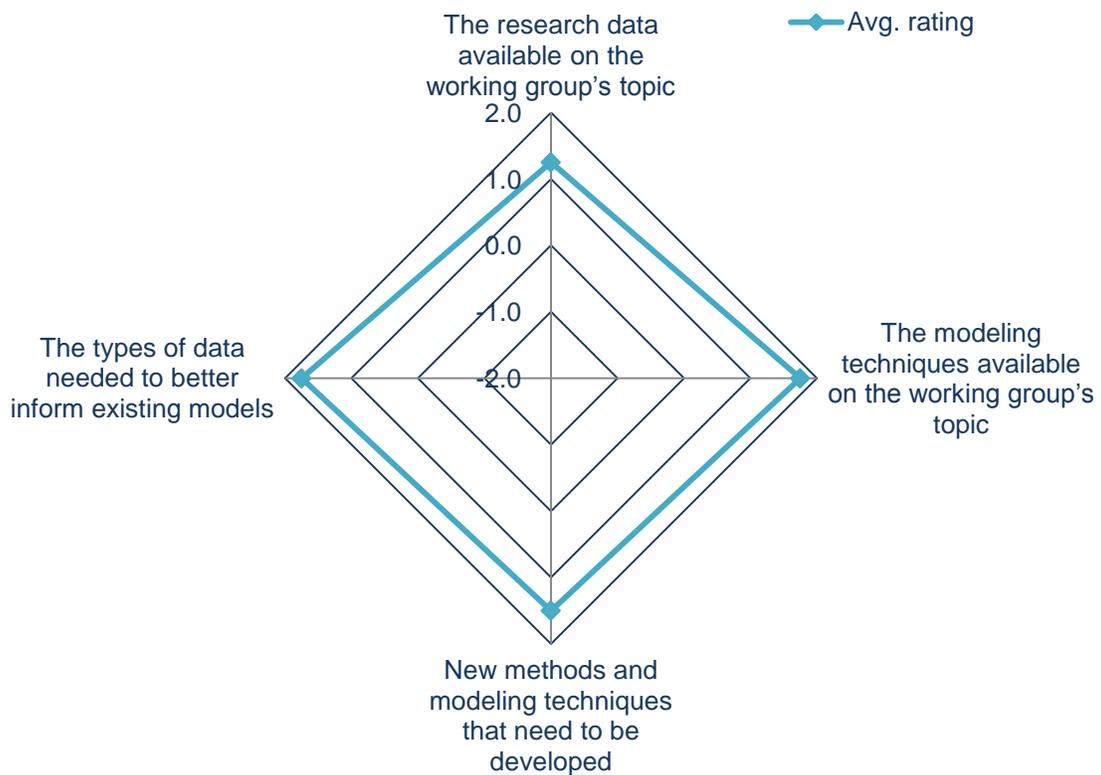
Comments about understanding research in other disciplines:

Particularly research in control systems engineering, and the distinctions between the control strategies we use and those that are applied in engineering applications.

Figure 6. Learning about issues related to the working group's research problem

Scale: -2 = "Strongly disagree" to 2 = "Strongly agree"

As a result of participating in this working group, I have a better understanding of:



Most Useful Aspects of the Meeting

Getting together such a wide array of people. I could feel the synergies.

meeting people in persons

Small break-out groups with the ready mixing between them. (I have also sent more personalized detailed feedback to the working group organizers).

Team that was put together.

Impact on Future Research Plans

Figure 7. Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the working group will influence your future research?

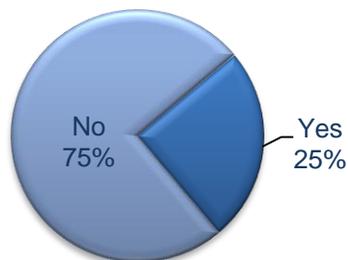


Comments about influence on future research:

I will be able to draw on tools we are using that have been outside my previous exposure that will assist me in my own research.

The methods I've learned from both the engineers and the economists will prove useful.

Figure 8. Did you develop unanticipated plans for collaborative research with other working group participants?



Comments about plans for collaborative research:

I think the plans so far have been as anticipated.

Figure 9. Do you feel the expectations for the next working group are clear (in the sense that you are leaving this meeting with a good idea of what your contribution will be at the next meeting)?



Comments about understanding what is expected of working group members:

Paul helped to make them very clear.

Suggestions for Future Meetings

I would have moved to doing work sooner. Started doing analyses instead of merely sketching projects. This is perhaps an unavoidable outcome of a foundation workshop where many of the questions are interesting - of course you want to get in and start on them immediately.

Walking more.

Additional Comments about working group

Thank you NIMBioS.

Appendix

PDGC Working Group Evaluation Survey

PDGC Working Group Survey

Thank you for taking a moment to complete this survey. Your responses will be used to improve the working groups hosted by the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis. Information supplied on the survey will be confidential, and results will be reported only in the aggregate.

Please check the appropriate box to indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this working group: (Very satisfied, Satisfied, Neutral, Dissatisfied, Very dissatisfied)

I feel the working group was very productive.

The working group met my expectations.

The presenters were very knowledgeable about their topics.

The presentations were useful.

The group discussions were useful

I would recommend participating in NIMBioS working groups to my colleagues.

Please check the appropriate box to indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

As a result of participating in this working group, I have a better understanding of:

(Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly disagree)

the research data available on the working group's topic

the modeling techniques available on the working group's topic

the types of data needed to better inform existing models

new methods and modeling techniques that need to be developed

Do you feel the working group made adequate progress, for its first meeting, toward finding a common language across disciplines in the research area?

Yes

No

Comments:

Do you feel the participating in the working group helped you understand the research happening in other disciplines in the group's topic area?

Yes

No

Comments:

Do you feel the expectations for the next working group are clear (in the sense that you are leaving this meeting with a good idea of what your contribution will be at the next meeting)?

Yes

No

Comments:

Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the working group will initiate or influence your future research?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Did you develop unanticipated plans for collaborative research with other working group participants?

Yes

No

Please explain:

What do you feel was the most useful aspect of the working group?

What would you have changed about the working group?

How do you feel about the format of the working group?

This was a very effective format for achieving our goals

This was not a very effective format for achieving our goals ->

The working group format would have been more effective if:

Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the working group accommodations:

(Very satisfied, Satisfied, Neutral, Dissatisfied, Very dissatisfied)

Travel arranged by NIMBioS

Housing arranged by NIMBioS

Comfort of the facility in which the working group took place

Resources of the facility in which the working group took place

Please indicate any changes NIMBioS can make to improve the resources and/or accommodations available to working group participants:

Please provide any additional comments about your overall experience with the working group: