



Evaluation Summary Report

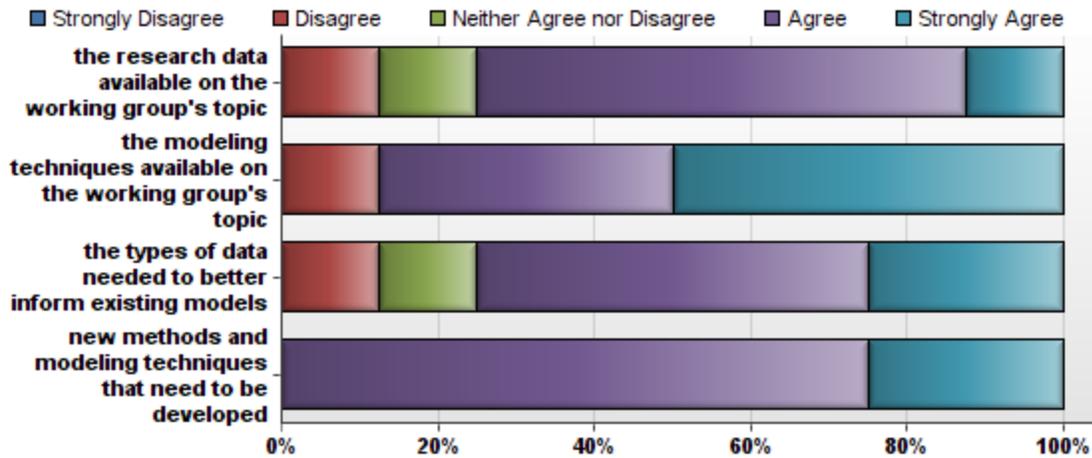
Working Group: Spatial Cell Simulations

December 1-3, 2015

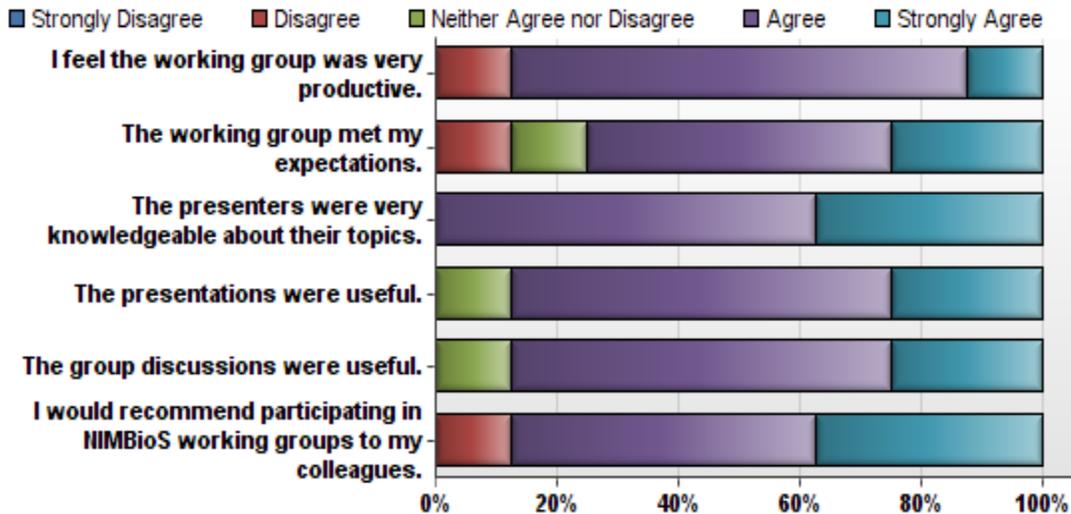
Pamela Bishop
Associate Director for STEM Evaluation
National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis
January, 2016

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

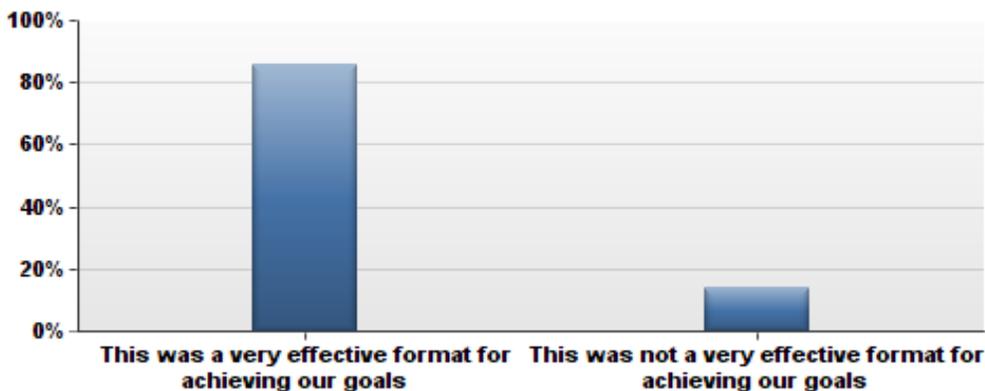
As a result of participating in this working group, I have a better understanding of:



2. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this working group:



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



4. 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:

No comments.

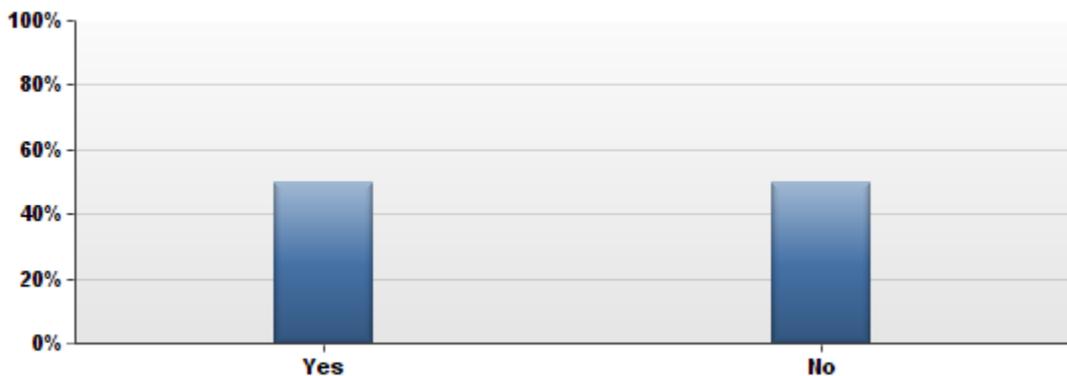
5. Do you feel the participating in the working group helped you understand the research happening in other disciplines in the group's topic area?



Please explain:

The working group needs more biologists. The one biologist was extremely valuable, but we need more. One of the organizers was extremely inflexible and constantly seeks to reframe the discussion on his terms. If he would back down, this group could much more easily come to consensus and move forward.

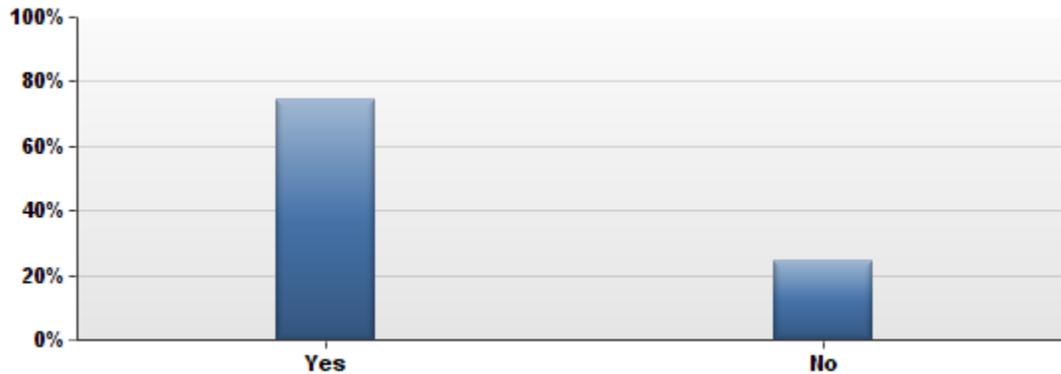
6. Did you develop unanticipated plans for collaborative research with other working group participants?



Please explain:

No comments.

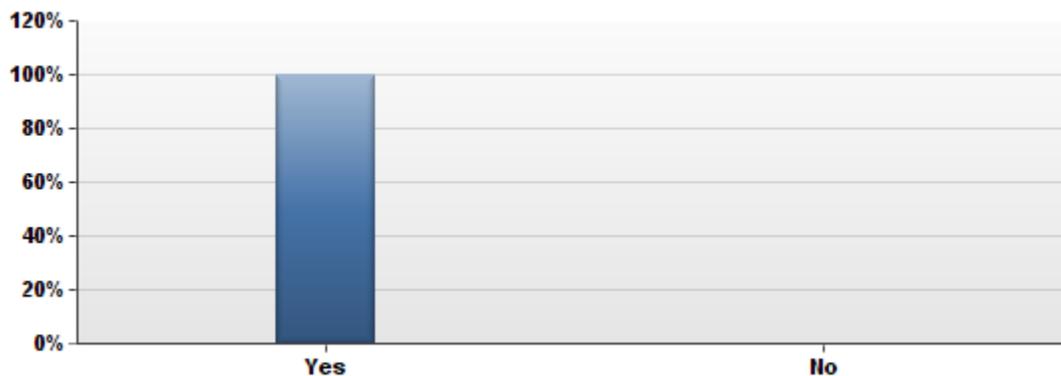
7. Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the working group will influence your future research?



Comments:

The group made some progress, but it was a big struggle and overall not very pleasant. If I come back, it will be because I want to get some research work started with the biologist.

8. 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:

We identified some missing components of spatial models, and a lack of uniform validation approaches/models that I plan on working on.

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

Heterogeneous scientific background of the participants.

Discussions with the biologist.

The discussions that aimed at achieving a consensus about how to move forward.

The structure, i.e., the first part to get an overview about the research work of each other, and the second part to come up with a plan what to do together, on short term (the next meeting), and already envisioning on long term.

Establishing challenge problems for the field and discussing what the group will accomplish in the next meetings, and in the interim.

10. What, if anything, would you change about the working group?

Less interruptions and "herding" by some of the group leaders.

I'd remove Robert Murphy. I have no problem with him on a personal level, but his leadership style is much too inflexible and dictatorial to effectively lead a group of researchers. Sam Isaacson knows what to do but he seems reluctant to challenge Robert.

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

Thank you for supporting this kind of meetings / projects! These smaller group meetings are really the way to achieve progress.