



Evaluation Data Report

Within-host Modeling of *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* (MAP)

Infections Working Group

Meeting One: June 26-28, 2012

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Within-host Modeling of MAP Infections 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 seven working group participants on June 29, 2012 (organizers were not asked to evaluate the meeting). Reminder emails were sent to non-responding participants on July 6 and 11, 2012. A total of five participants filled out the survey, for a response rate of 71%.

Evaluation Data

Respondent Satisfaction

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

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

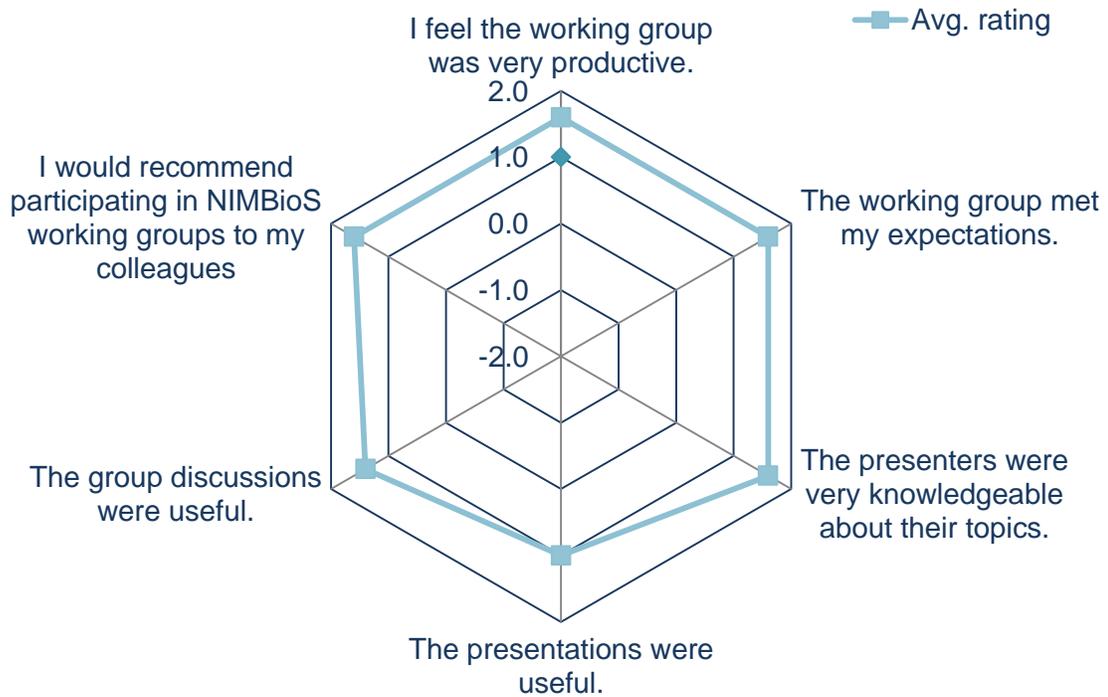
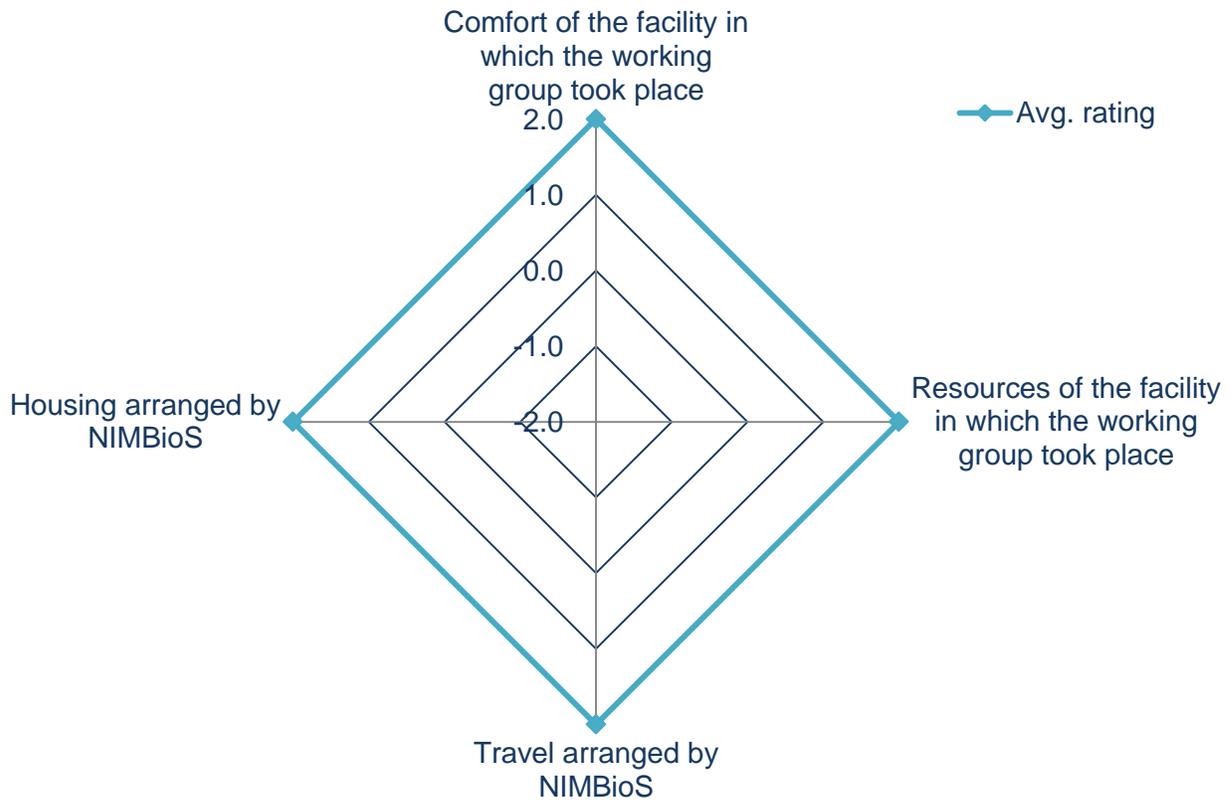


Figure 2. Satisfaction with working group accommodations

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



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

No comments

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? (n = 5)



Comments about finding a common language:

Yes, I think we managed quite well to focus our common questions into two “papers-to-be” after hearing about very diverse experimental research and models.

The existing observations were clearly summarized, and the different modeling approaches were very clear.

Working Group Format and Content

Figure 4. How do you feel about the format of the working group? (n = 5)



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? (n = 5)



Comments about understanding research in other disciplines:

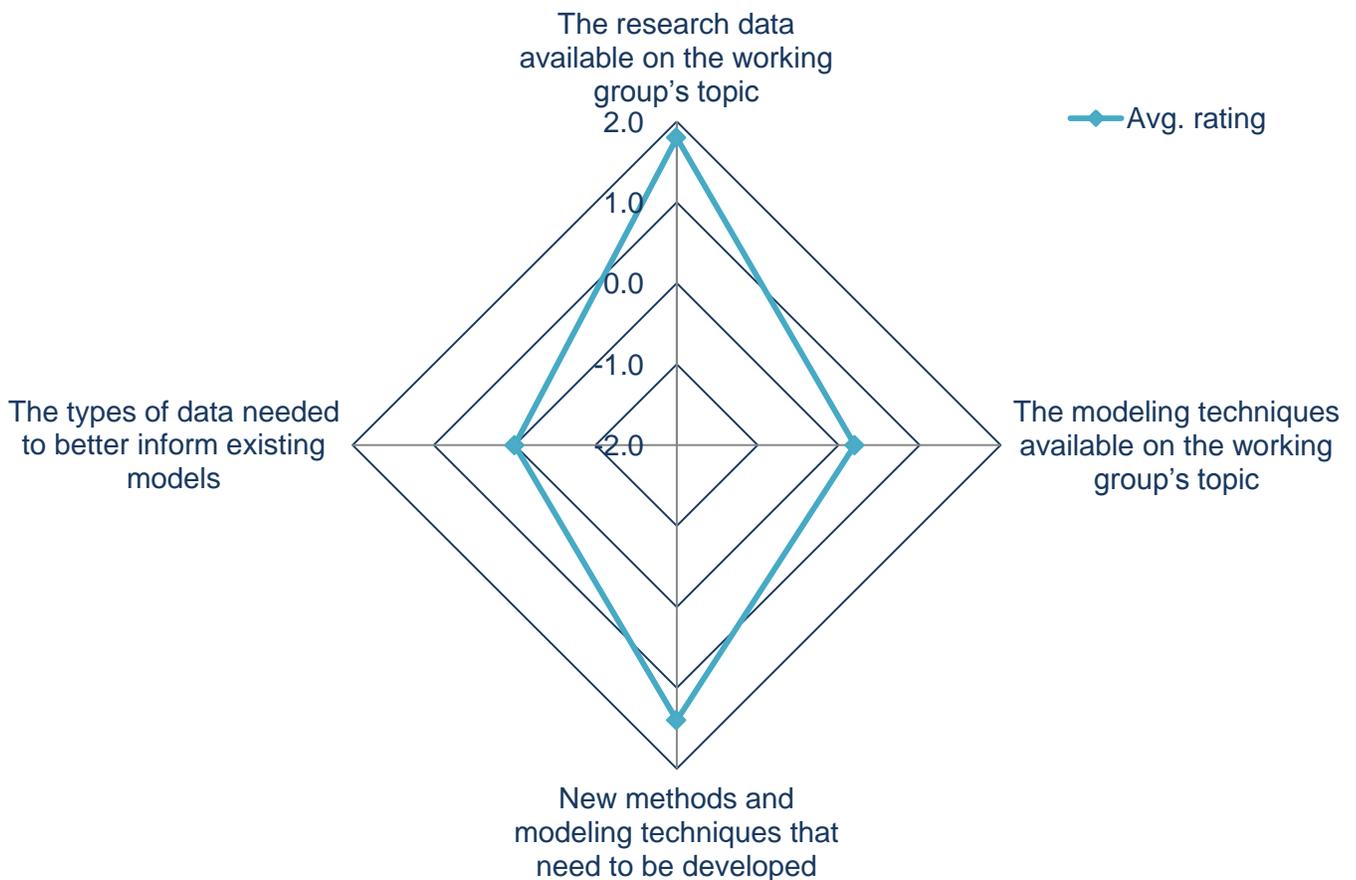
I'm a modeler, and I have learned a lot of different viewpoints on the infection. Because of the active discussions, I also got more of a feeling about the certainties and uncertainties with regard to existing knowledge and hypotheses. Very useful indeed!

There was a detailed discussion of other diseases with similar behaviors. Also, important information was shared between clinicians, experimentalists, and computational biologists, which was useful even beyond the specific subject studied.

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

Meeting other people and getting to know their work.

The discussion with the clinicians and the clear exposition of the data.

Sharing data and discussions of the biology of the disease.

An understanding of available biological data to choose appropriate model.

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? (n = 5)



Comments about influence on future research:

I've now more insight into the really significant questions in the field that could be answered by modeling.

In the previous workshop, we initiated research that led to a manuscript being written now (in collaboration with Ynte Schukken and Becky Mitchel). The current meeting has led to the writing of a common grant.

Figure 8. Did you develop plans for collaborative research with working group participants with whom you have not previously collaborated? (n=5)



Comments about plans for collaborative research:

I had no collaboration with anyone except my direct colleague.

We are planning a grant with three participants from the workshop.

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)? (n = 5)



Comments about understanding what is expected of working group members:

I have specific tasks to do.

Suggestions for Future Meetings

The modeling approaches were quite similar, but more collaboration between modelers would be welcome.

More open about data sharing and balance between mathematics and biology.

Additional Comments about working group

No comments.

Appendix

Within-host Modeling of *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* Infections Working Group Evaluation Survey

Within-host Modeling of MAP Infections 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: