



Evaluation Data Report

Suction Feeding Biomechanics Working Group

Meeting One: September 26-27, 2011

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Suction Feeding Biomechanics 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 the 15 working group participants on September 27, 2011. Reminder emails were sent to non-responding participants on October 3 and 6, 2011. By October 13, 2011, 10 participants had given their feedback, for a response rate of 67%.

Evaluation Data

Respondent Satisfaction

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

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

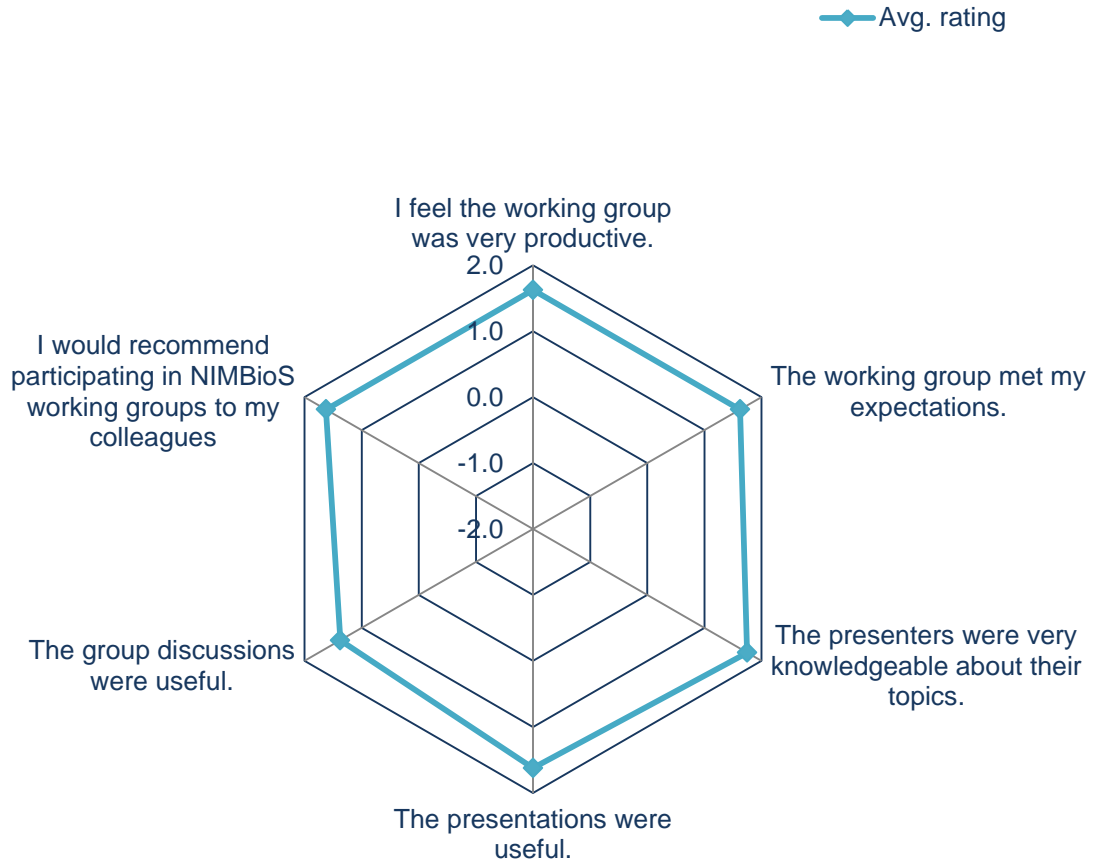
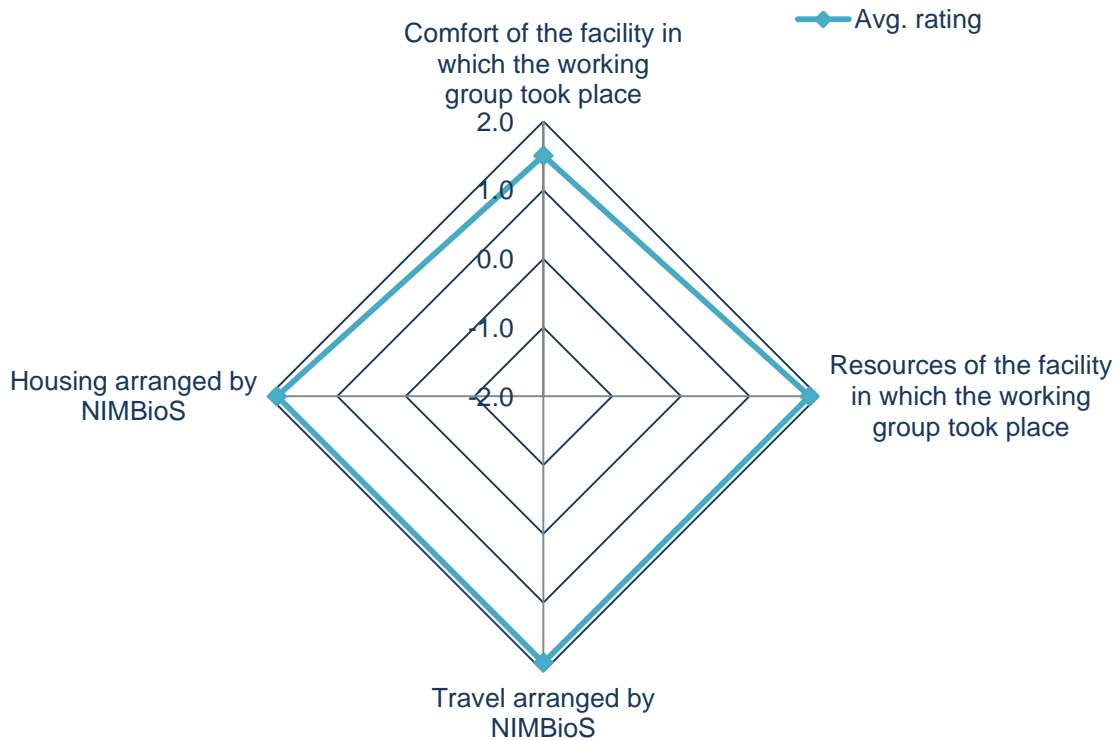


Figure 2. Satisfaction with working group accommodations

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



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

Get rid of Wiggio. Google Docs vastly better because people can simultaneously edit a single doc, or it can be uploaded and downloaded like a Word doc in Wiggio.

It would be great if there were better transportation options to and from the airport and NIMBioS. Why doesn't UT or the city of Knoxville run a shuttle to and from campus to the airport? It would seem to me there are enough students, visiting researchers, and NIMBioS participants that this would be a service that was utilized enough to make it worthwhile.

None.

Wiggio doesn't appear to be very useful. The group is moving towards using Google's online tools.

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:

I do, but the group was somewhat fragmented at the end.

Working Group Format and Content

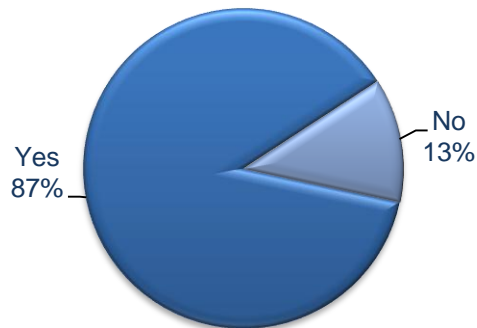
Figure 4. How do you feel about the format of the working group?



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?



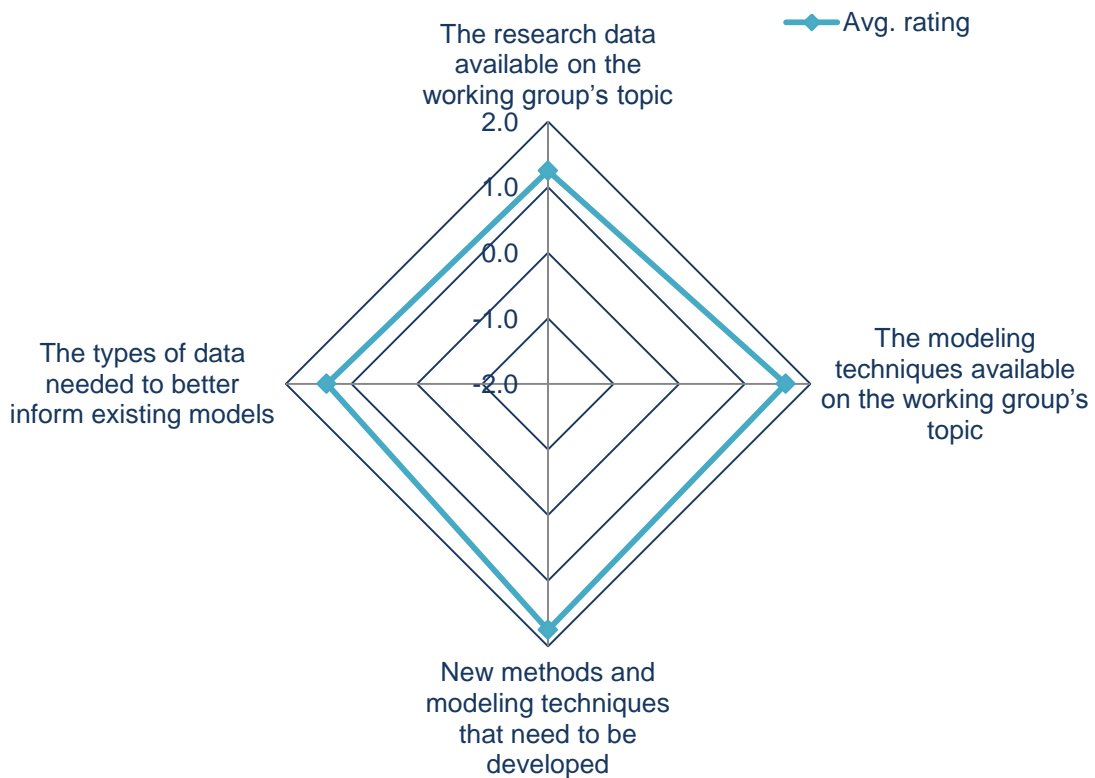
Comments about understanding research in other disciplines:

None.

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

Breaking our future directions

Discussing different viewpoints on mathematical modeling techniques.

I think seeing/discussing how everyone else is approaching the problem to see what the current state of the art ideas are was useful.

Meeting all of the people that I haven't met prior to this meeting and determining what the next logical steps are in this field. It was also fantastic to have so many knowledgeable people discuss pertinent topics together. I was incredibly happy with everything!

Meeting the other participants

Networking and getting to know other people better that are working in similar research areas.

The most stimulating discussions I have had in a very long time!

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?

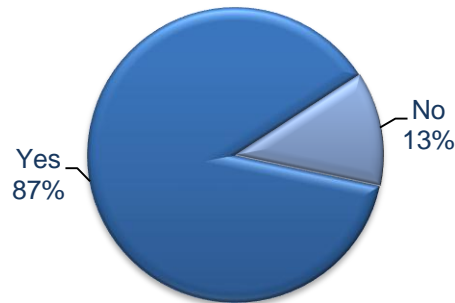


Comments about influence on future research:

I feel that I can take my work in a different and more useful direction.

I had ideas before the meeting regarding suction feeder - prey interactions. There were many 'prey side' people at the meeting that helped me refine these ideas.

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



Comments about plans for collaborative research:

I came up with two areas that my work can specifically (and easily) address.

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:

But not entirely. Because the groups were fragmented, it meant that people were placed into specific groups without knowing exactly what would come out of it. I feel like I am in a group that is less applicable to my strengths. However, there is plenty of encouragement to work with the other small breakout groups, and I will do this.

I have two projects that I need to complete before we meet again - an IB CFD study and an ODE-optimization project. I have a good understanding of how I will approach each.

Suggestions for Future Meetings

It could have been a bit longer, but it was still great.

Nothing. Just the right amount of time.

Additional Comments about working group

It was absolutely wonderful and I can't wait until the next meeting. Indeed, we have discussed having smaller working meetings as well.

So far, so good!

Appendix

Suction Feeding Working Group Evaluation Survey

Suction Feeding 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: