

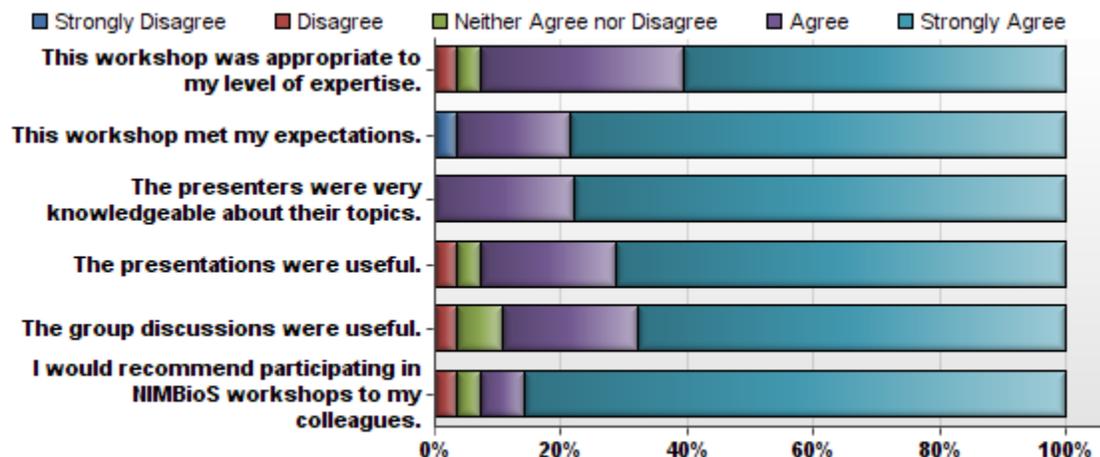


Evaluation Summary Report
Workshop: *Many-cell System Modeling*

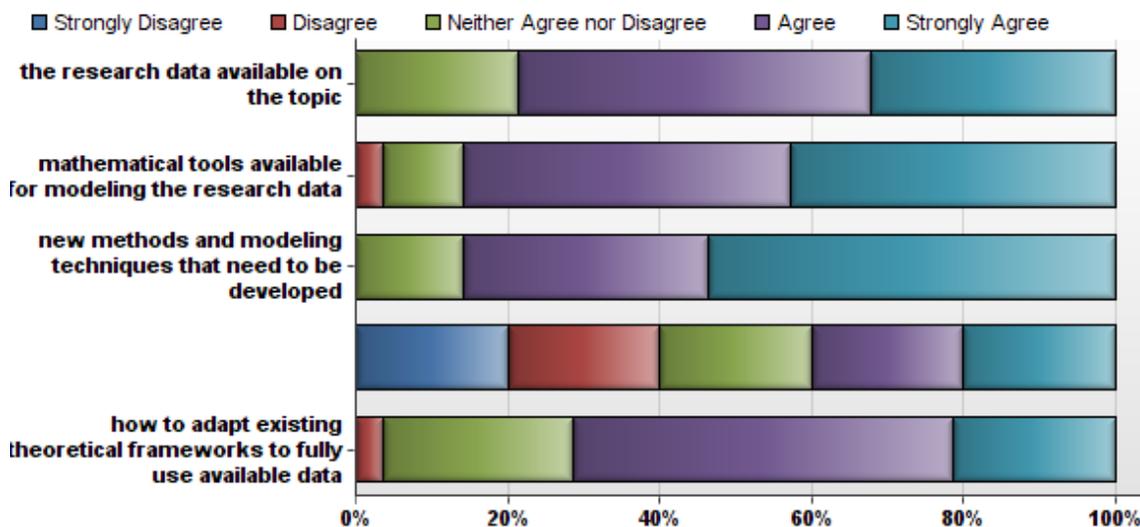
July 7-9, 2015

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Please check the appropriate box to indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this workshop:



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



What do you feel was the most useful aspect of the workshop?

I thought that the small group discussions on modeling topics were great.

Heated Point/Counter-Point discussions really brought all previous discussions into play... a very useful tool!

Learning about different views.

I think the presentations were very useful

The breakup sessions were very useful in this workshop, it allowed the participants to know each other better, increasing the chances of future collaborations and reinforcing communication of the community.

Discussion, brainstorming sessions, lightning and short talks

The opportunity for one-on-one discussions was most helpful; there were many people whose work was not known to me that I feel will be excellent resources for expanding my research.

Meeting the people in real life

Keynote speakers did a great job in consolidating current knowledge in the field. Also breakout session were useful to understand limitations and future challenges.

Identifying serious colleagues for collaboration.

Defining the critical needs and challenges of a developing area, namely, multi-cell modeling

Working in groups and the following discussions.

The structured discussions.

The breakout sessions (structured discussion in smaller groups).

Extensive discussions and additional exercises in groups. This was definitely different from other NIMBioS workshops I attended.

All of it. I was blown away by how much I enjoyed this meeting. The keynote talks were informative, the small group work and discussions were fun and informative, and the people at the workshop were great as well.... thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working with each of them. Best meeting I've ever been to, by far, and bar none.

Plenaries, lightning talks, free time to chat with participants

Meeting other researchers and discussing ideas.

Group discussions

The breakout discussion sessions

Discussions between researchers with different expertise to clarify what the most important future steps are.

Short talk's to set the scene, with lots of time to chat with other participants

Learning about some of the frameworks for sharing data and publishing code.

In terms of organization: the open discussion really helped to leave the often rigid presentation format, and allowed for far more information transfer In terms of facilities: the NIMBioS organization, including that they provided a venue, catering, accommodation, and travel all at once helped us participants to really focus on the science, and not get caught up in organizational details.

What would you change about the workshop?

I would put the lightning talks on day one before the poster session.

Keep group activities to the morning. Everyone is fatigue by the end of the day.

Less structured discussion groups. Let the participants choose discussion topics.

Less breakout sessions or for shorter period of time

Probably I would change a little the poster session, by increasing the incentive of poster presentation and attendance. But other than that, the workshop was great.

I would make it less intense. I think everyone including the organizers were out of energy after first day and a half...

More breaks - unstructured time.

Breakout session could be more connected between each other and we should focus on a toy project from the beginning.

Updating current understanding of biological focuses, followed by presenting current modeling methods for synthesis.

Nothing - it was very well organized.

Some of the speakers of the short talks made no effort to link their talk to the workshop. Therefore, they were not that relevant.

I felt that the balance between experiments and modeling was off. I wish more pure experimentalists would present work, people who generate data but not yet using multi-cell models to look at their data.

Recruiting more experimentalists, perhaps more computational types that do not focus on cancer (which might be difficult in the field discussed), increase the amount of time available to a full week, more detailed discussion of current methodologies

Fewer group activities (sometimes felt to me like make-work), more unstructured time for conversations and collaborations.

Lunch :)

Daily workshop programmer could be 1-2 hours shorter

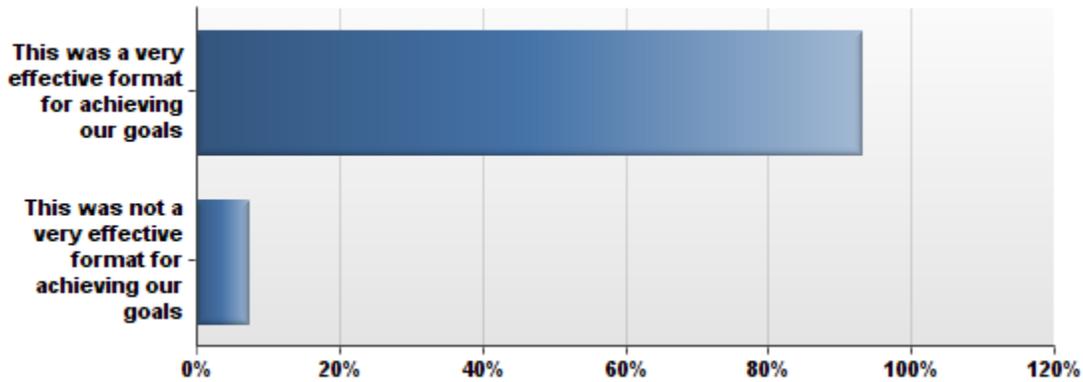
It was a little too long. 2 1/2 days would have been perfect

Form smaller focused groups earlier during the workshop.

Increase the proportion of biologists as participants

It was great! However, some of the discussion topics were not well defined, so it was hard to discuss.

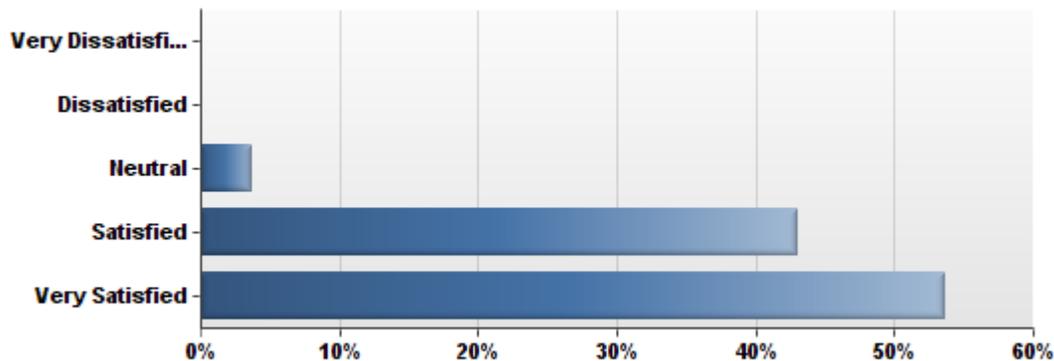
How do you feel about the format of the workshop?



The workshop format would have been more effective if:

Identifying biological problems/questions that can be addressed by current modeling tools or by to-be developed tools.

How satisfied were you with the opportunities provided during workshop presentations and discussions to ask questions and/or make comments?



Please indicate any suggestions you have for facilitating communication among participants during the workshop:

A NIMBioS bar in the evening (instead of the hospitality room, which was not used to my knowledge)

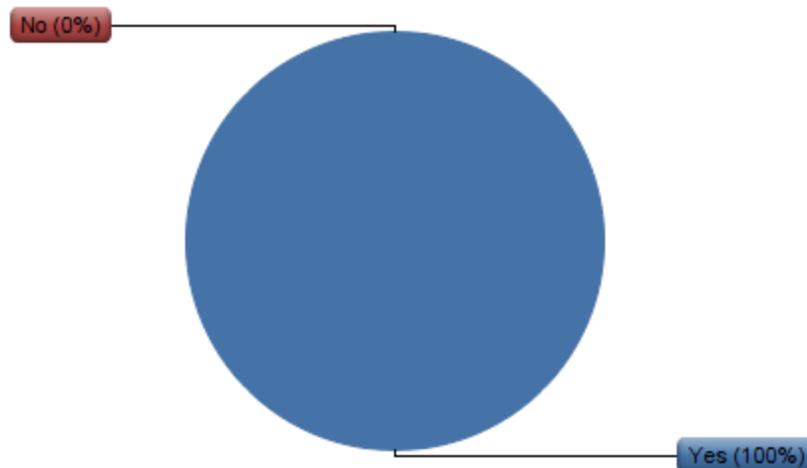
There could be more time for discussion after each talk.

Lack of time flexibility

Hard to suggest anything else... the debates and break-out sessions were fantastic for getting everyone talking. Perhaps randomizing the group structures for each session, as eventually people interacting in each session seemed to be the same ones with similar interests and points of view. Would have been nice to mix it up a bit more. Having said that, I could easily have moved myself into the other groups, I wasn't forced into anything :-)

Perhaps the only thing would be to moderate some discussions more, to give more quiet individuals an opportunity to articulate themselves, and to avoid that others just take over the discussion merely because they are more comfortable in open discussions

Do you feel participating in the workshop helped you better understand the research going on in disciplines other than your own on the workshop's topic?



Comments about understanding research in other discipline areas:

I learned a great deal about model-data integration.

Many-Cells systems modeling is being applied to different applications, this workshop invited researches that works in different areas and applications, including experimentalists whose contribution was very valuable.

Workshop gathered people with very diverse backgrounds so it was a great learning experience

Cancer is too hard

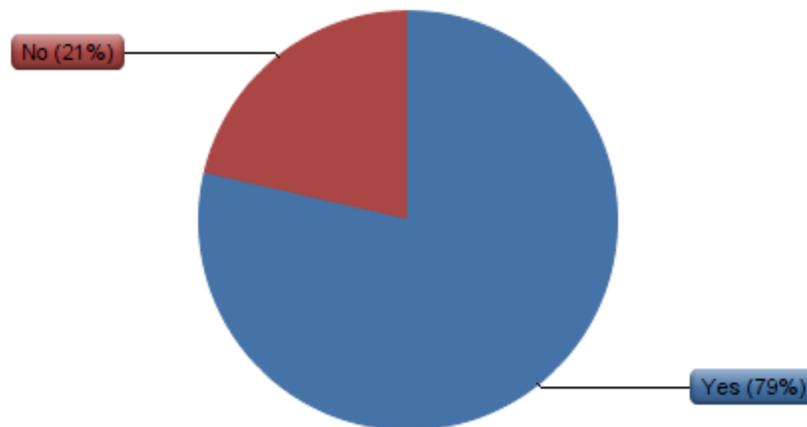
The keynote speakers did a great job in consolidating existing knowledge in the field.

Good overview of wide range of multi-cell approaches being used to model biological problems

It's nice to see how systems other than cancer with the same many cell issues treat those issues.

As a modeler, the workshop allowed me to gain insight in multiple new application areas.

Do you feel the workshop made adequate progress toward finding a common language across disciplines for research on the workshop's topic?



Comments about finding a common language:

There were a lot of breakout session in this particular workshop in which people formed small groups to discuss specific topics. I think those sessions were greatly helpful in finding commonalities among the participants, that came from different areas of research.

The group discussions were especially helpful for this.

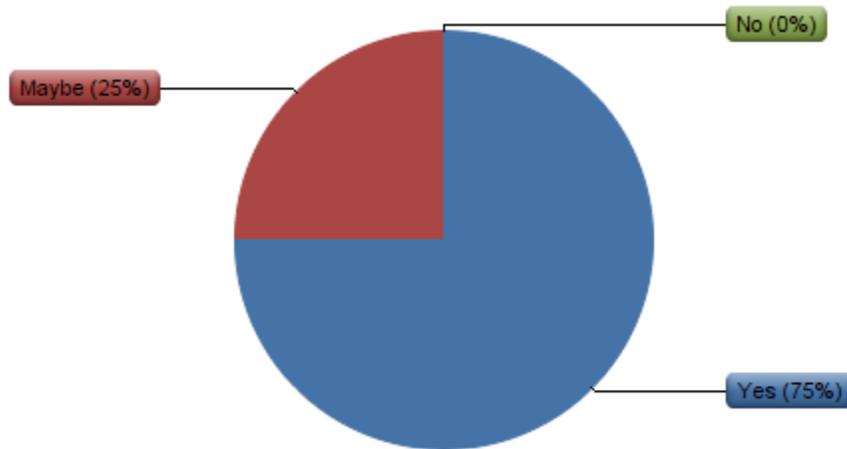
Part of all breakout session was discussion about how to communicate across disciplines better.

We made a start, but greater participation by experimental biologists would have been helpful in searching for and finding that common language

We discuss ways of doing this but it will take time to see if these will get implemented. I also feel that the workshop could have benefited from more experimentalists to facilitate this discussion.

Unclear (to me) whether this was main aim of workshop. Also, there weren't enough biologists and/or enough time to find a common language that said, the need for a common language was widely discussed

Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the workshop will influence your future research?



Comments about influence on future research:

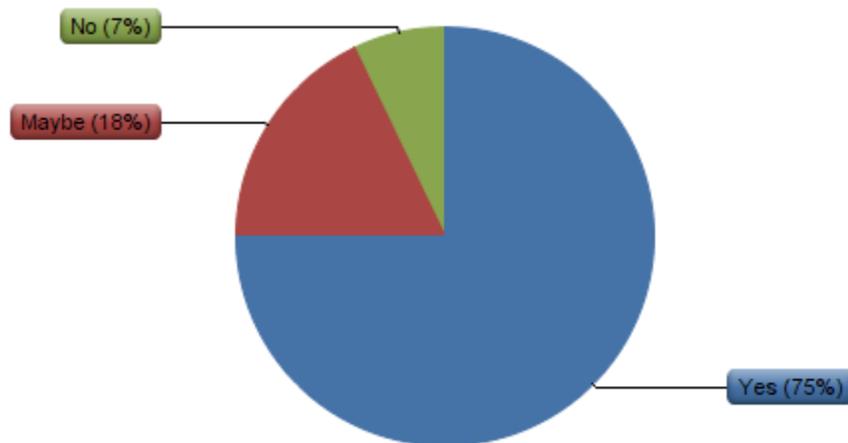
This was an initial workshop and while there was a great deal of enthusiasm for the follow up work I know that day-to-day academic chores have string tendencies to curbing any enthusiasm ;)

Formed several collaborations as a direct result of the workshop. Also helped broaden support for an emerging data standard, both with participants and others who watched the live stream of events.

Understanding common goals and sharing data and methods are key.

Yes, I have improved my understanding of where the field is moving and I have better knowledge of how I can structure my future research to best make contributions to the field

Did you develop plans for collaborative research with other workshop participants with whom you had not previously collaborated?



Comments about plans for collaborative research:

Yep! Working together on data standards, shared / common tools, and benchmark datasets.

Please use this space for any additional comments:

NIMBioS might give consideration to the quality of their coffee and the absence of espresso: either it is an advantage to motivate participants to get out and walk to one of several nearby Starbucks locations, so that they get out and stretch their legs; or it is a disadvantage in that they wander off, get in lines longer than expected, and return late to the next session. I am not sure. Personally, I would prefer higher quality coffee on site, even if not "espresso".

The staff of NIMBioS was very friendly and responsive to the needs of the group and my own personal requests.

Overall, a great workshop.

Thank you for your support in awarding us the opportunity and throughout the organizational steps. I really appreciated Chris giving the group an impromptu talk on working groups the last day.

I hope that some of the ideas for working groups that were discussed at this workshop materialize.

Thanks, that was a great workshop!!

I'd like to thank both NIMBioS and the organizers of the workshop. It was a great experience.

The organizers deserve commendations for the work they did on this workshop. It was a fantastic experience that left me wanting more. I'm certainly developing plans with other

participants to apply for funding to set up a working group, and hopefully some long-term collaborations will come out of the experience. Well worth my time. Thanks to NIMBioS for sponsoring the event - remarkably generous support that was greatly appreciated!

A well-organized, interesting and enjoyable meeting the organizers did a great job - it was clear that they had invested a lot of time and effort in planning the meeting. Lots of great ideas being discussed in a positive way

Thank you, NIMBioS!