

Follow-up to October 16-17, 1986 Meeting of the  
Advisory Committee to the Director, NIH

Shannon Building, Room 124  
2 p.m., November 6, 1986

Members

Dr. Wyngaarden, Chairman  
Dr. Moskowitz, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Levinson, Executive Secretary  
Dr. Alexander, NICHD  
Dr. Kirschstein, NIGMS  
Dr. Lindberg, NLM  
Dr. Palade, Yale University School of Medicine  
Dr. Pickett, DRR

Agenda

- Examine recommendations put forward at October 16-17 meeting and summarized in background material distributed prior to November 6 meeting
- Arrange in order of priority
- Discuss types of action that the Committee might take including:
  - Increased funding for ongoing projects such as:
    - database development and networking
    - studies related to mapping and sequencing
  - RFAs for new initiatives in:
    - targeted gene mapping
    - sequencing pilot project
    - large-scale chromosome sorting
    - DNA separation techniques
    - instrumentation development
    - information handling
  - RFPs (note David Baltimore's warning against the contract mechanism)
  - Instruction to study sections and/or Advisory Councils
  - Collaboration with other organizations: NSF, DOE, DOC, HHMI, NAS, EMBL, etc...
  - Programs to enhance public and congressional awareness
    - Use Centennial as forum
    - Enlist organizations such as the Hereditary Disease Foundation

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Dr. Moskowitz, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Levinson, Executive Secretary  
Dr. Alexander, NICHD  
Dr. Kirschstein, NIGMS  
Dr. Masys, NLM  
Dr. Pickett, DRR

Absent

Dr. Palade, Yale University

The first meeting of a working group established to examine recommendations put forward at the October 16-17 meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Director, NIH, was held on Thursday, November 6, 1986. Discussion focused on mechanisms to coordinate, integrate, and link the various databases and information resources currently funded by NIH. A proposal that garnered unanimous approval was the establishment of a trans-NIH coordinating group composed of the project officers of each of the resources, including the NCI supercomputer, GenBank, Bionet, PROPHET, the Protein Information Resource, the Probe Repository, and MEDLINE.

The immediate goal is to foster communication between the managers and users of NIH information resources that support molecular biologists in studies of the human genome. Cooperation among institutes might promote progress in this field through elimination of overlapping functions, increased attention to meeting the information analysis and retrieval needs of the bench scientists, and greater visibility of the resources. The efforts of this coordinating group to create a model system would constitute the first of three phases in a larger plan to link similar databases on an international level.

The second phase would incorporate resources supported by U.S. organizations outside of NIH including NSF, USDA, DOE, and DOC. Finally, cooperation would be sought from EMBL, Japanese scientists, and others as the third phase. This subject will be raised next Tuesday, November 11, when Drs. Raub, Kirschstein, Cassatt, and Ms. Levinson will meet with Drs. Wada and Shikata of Japan.

Future working group meetings will review proposals concerned with support for basic studies in chromosome mapping and DNA sequencing.