



# Evaluation Data Report

## Cross-Topology Registration Working Group

### Meeting Two: January 8-10, 2011

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March, 2010

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# Cross-Topology Registration Working Group Evaluation Data Report

## Evaluation Design

### *Evaluation Questions*

The evaluation of the meeting 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 meeting and also to inform future meetings. The evaluation framework was guided by Kirkpatrick's Four Levels of Evaluation model for training and learning programs (Kirkpatrick, 1994<sup>1</sup>). Several questions constituted the foundation for the evaluation:

1. Were participants satisfied with the Working Group overall?
2. How do participants feel about the format of the meetings?
3. How do participants feel about the content of the meetings?
4. Do participants feel they have a good understanding about the work being done by other subgroups within the group?
5. Do participants feel they gained a better understanding of the how the work of the various subgroups will tie together to reach the Working Group's goals?
6. How do participants communicate between meetings?
7. Do participants feel they have a good idea of what their continuing contribution will be within the group?

### *Evaluation Procedures*

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 January 13, 2011. Reminder emails were sent to non-responding participants on January 18 and 21, 2011. By January 28, 2011, five participants had given their feedback, for a response rate of 71%.

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<sup>1</sup> From Kirkpatrick, D.L. (1994). *Evaluating Training Programs: The Four Levels*. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler.

## Evaluation Data

### Respondent Satisfaction

**Table 1. Respondent satisfaction with the working group**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I feel the Working Group was very productive.	80%	20%	-	-	-
The Working Group met my expectations.	80%	20%	-	-	-
The presenters were very knowledgeable about their topics.	60%	40%	-	-	-
The presentations were useful.	40%	60%	-	-	-
The group discussions were useful.	60%	40%	-	-	-

### Group Progress

**Figure 1. Respondent views of group progress**



#### ***Respondent comments about progress toward goals:***

*This was a well-focused meeting that brought the group back to the major topics that we all have been working on for many years.*

*The meeting was very focused on advancing and discussing products that matched the intended goals of the group.*

## Group Function

**Table 2. Respondent understanding of group function**

<i>As a result of participating in this meeting, I have a better understanding of:</i>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The work being accomplished by the other subgroups within the Working Group	80%	20%	-	-	-
How the work of the various subgroups will tie together for the working group's publication(s) and/or product(s)	40%	60%	-	-	-

## Impact of the Working Group on Respondents' Research Agendas

### **Respondent comments:**

*Existing collaborations with two of the group members have been strengthened and advanced. In addition, I have supplied data to two other group members to use to try out some ideas and interacted with them by e-mail over the period between meetings.*

*It has helped clarify many aspects of my data analysis and provided some new ideas for research. I have also actively collaborated with 2-3 of the group participants.*

*I've agreed to take the lead in writing a paper.*

*Contact with other group members has tremendously enriched my methodological arsenal, as well as allowed me a greater understanding of the problems behind the methods I use or wish to use.*

*The Working Group has influenced my research on at least two fronts: (1) there are problems and data sets to which I should be able to apply variants of methods and techniques of shape analysis that I have investigated in different contexts in the past; (2) I have learned of several fundamental questions in phenogenomics that will require longer term multidisciplinary efforts.*

## Most Useful Aspects of the Meeting

### **Respondent comments:**

*Having `set the scene' at the first meeting with more formal presentations, the second meeting comprised more and more varied discussion -- switching between complete group and small subgroups -- and addressed a broader range of issues related to registration, including discussion on how to analyze a new set of data from one of the group members. this not only felt more relaxed, but also was more fruitful in terms of scope to achieve tangible outcomes as well as a better understanding of the issues involved.*

*Both the whole group and the smaller group discussions that I participated in were very interesting and educational. I learned a lot at this meeting.*

*Smaller size ; more informal presentations ; more time for discussion.*

*The discussion format was a mixture of whole-group discussion, individual presentations, and small group work on specific technical topics of the group or of a researcher in particular. This width of formats was key for the superb rapport and productivity of the group.*

*Small group discussions to identify approaches to specific problems.*

## Understanding of Expectations

**Figure 2. Respondent understanding of what is expected of them before the next meeting**

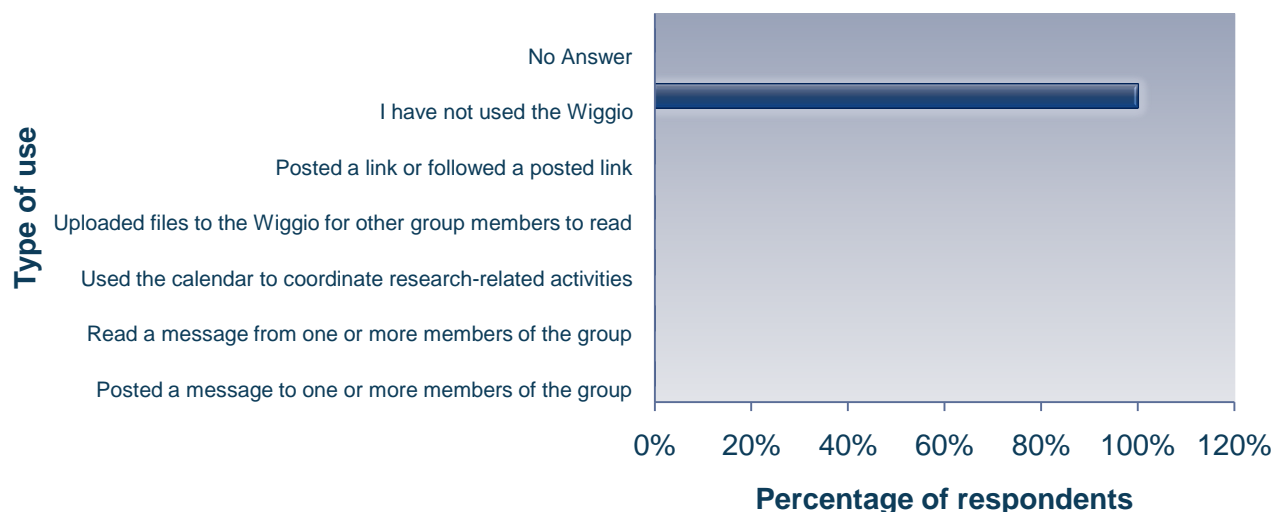


### **Comments about understanding what is expected of working group members:**

*There are clear plans for one paper, ideas about another, and an interim meeting planned.*

## Communications

Figure 3. Wiggio use



### Comments about the Wiggio:

*e-mail works just fine*

*Did not know it existed.*

*Never heard of it.*

*Probably just did not remember of this possibility.*

### Suggestions for improving communication between meetings:

*I don't think that this can be improved 'top down'.*

*I think they are doing a good job. I am optimistic that we left this meeting with some momentum to carry us over to the next.*

*I think communication between meeting is adequate.*

### Suggestions for Future Meetings

*For me having even more opportunity for small break-out group discussions would be useful.*

*It would be nice to meet at a time when some of the NIMBios students and faculty were around. We really saw nobody at all. Having been a regular visitor to NESCent and NCEAS for many years, this is always an aspect of meetings that I look forward to. I realize this is because of the timing here, at the end of winter break, but it was disappointing.*



*The climatic conditions of the assigned room were a problem for most of us. Too dry and warm.*

*Overall, I think the meeting was well structured and productive and do not see the need to change anything significantly. Perhaps a bit more small group discussions.*

## **Additional Comments about Working Group**

*Highly motivated group with great work ethics and a broad range of expertise where, in addition, just about everybody is willing to listen and try to develop common grounds*

*As a junior scientist, this group has provided me with an invaluable opportunity to explore the mathematical underpinnings of the methodological ideas behind my work, as well as contributed to expand the universe of fields from which to borrow to solve problems posed by study design and data analysis.*

*The second meeting was very productive. The organizers did a great job of improving the dynamics of the discussions.*