



Scientific Innovation Through Integration

# EMSL User Executive Committee Meeting

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Recommendations

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*EMSL is located at PNNL*



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# User Meetings/Workshops



## ■ EUC Comments & Recommendations:

- ◆ The UEC supports EMSL's focus on specific areas for User meetings and workshops rather than organizing a generalized User Meeting
- ◆ Focused meetings may provide opportunities for users to visit EMSL more often and to participate in team building as envisaged by the new vision of EMSL2.0
- ◆ The UEC would like EMSL to have broad representations at these workshops to avoid having too many internal participants. The Pore-scale workshop may be a good model to follow for focused workshops
- ◆ While the UEC supports focused workshops, the entire user community should be welcome to attend them and informed about these activities to promote interdisciplinary collaborations and networking
- ◆ The UEC also recommends that more lead time be given for notifications of User Meetings and workshops – potential conflicts with other user time requirements such as student final exams, etc., should be taken into account when setting dates for meetings/workshops

# Research Campaign/ User Engagements



## ■ EUC Recommendations:

- ◆ The UEC encourages EMSL to engage and involve users in the decision making process regarding themes for research campaigns, which would provide a stronger incentive for the self-formation of teams
- ◆ Capability Leads should direct users to representatives from the UEC to address issues/concerns
- ◆ If cuts must be made to budgets, we strongly recommend strategic, vertical cuts

# User Engagement / Recurring Issues



- Most EMSL users do not use the UEC as a conduit to voice concerns or questions regarding EMSL's instrument access and proposal reviews
- The UEC will keep trying to contact users to encourage more active participation with the UEC
- The UEC is also concerned about how best to report "true inefficiencies" in the most constructive way for the EMSL management team to address these effectively, especially in the current climate of budgetary cutbacks and shifting priorities

## ■ EUC Comments & Recommendations:

- ◆ The concept is fantastic. It would be great for EMSL to release a usable version (at least in its basic mode to access/transfer data) rather than wait for perfection.
- ◆ The web interface for the platform is important, but a mechanism to access data (in lieu of email access) is needed as soon as possible
- ◆ Specific attention should be paid to data formatting and making sure data are transportable to software platforms that are commonly used by a broad community of users

# Joint Session with SEC



## ■ EUC Comments & Recommendations:

- ◆ As recommended in 2010, the UEC strongly believes that a joint session with EMSL's SEC meeting could be very productive
- ◆ The SEC is involved in providing input on scientific directions – it is important that their input be coordinated with user needs
- ◆ It may be particularly important for the UEC to work with the SEC when advising EMSL on team building, and regarding the EMSL 2.0 vision on research

# EMSL and Social Media



## ■ EUC Comments & Recommendations:

- ◆ UEC recognizes EMSL's needs to increase its visibility among the national user facilities.
- ◆ UEC encourages EMSL outreach to keep working with social media – as these are good ways to reach young scientists (& to get them experienced early on with using EMSL research resources)
- ◆ Employ “cold call” marketing tactics to reach university leaders such as Deans, VPs of Research, Department Chairs, with information about EMSL

## ■ EUC Comments & Recommendations:

- ◆ The UEC is extremely impressed by the effectiveness with which EMSL conducted the purchase and installation of new instrumentation under ARRA and coupled instrument purchases with strategic hires
- ◆ For example, in applied catalysis, EMSL's TEM ARRA investment is a huge improvement and will transform EMSL into a one-of-a-kind worldwide microscopy center
- ◆ Strategic plans for the NMR resources are in place and of high quality
- ◆ EMSL is also to be commended for:
  - Building both the instrumentation and expertise (e.g., Atom Probe, microfluidics)
  - Making NWChem open source with plans for maintaining and upgrading its capabilities and functionalities



# EMSL 2.0: UEC recommendations



## ■ EUC Recommendations:

- ◆ The UEC encourages EMSL to engage and involve users in the decision making process regarding themes for research campaigns, which should provide a stronger incentive for the self-formation of teams
- ◆ EMSL should look across research fields as delineated in existing user proposals and see where scientific intersections are present—this may be an effective way to identify “natural” teams
  - One important aspect of this approach is that these research projects or instrument developments already have resource allocations or have been funded
- ◆ It will be important for EMSL to develop specifics for the team science approach in terms of team size, composition, management, research focus, role of EMSL team members, etc., if EMSL is to take a leading role in solving national energy and environmental problems

# UEC Overall Recommendations



- The single PI model is vital and an important component in EMSL's user model – and should be incorporated with the team model in the new EMSL 2.0 vision
- In the face of budget cuts, it is important to maintain the balance between single PI and teams proposals
- Involvement of users and the UEC in the formation of teams could be particularly useful in implementing the new vision of EMSL 2.0
- One advantage of team building is the cultivation of users who are more vested in EMSL, who can enhance the visibility of EMSL, recognize the value of EMSL, and help to promote EMSL
- Care should be undertaken when selecting members of EMSL's advisory groups or STAP proposal reviews (e.g., how can EMSL leverage “big names” to get more political traction)

For more information about the EMSL User Advisory Committee (members and charter), see <http://www.emsl.pnl.gov/about/advisory.jsp>

