

PRIME will consider and suggest priorities for mouse functional genomics research across Europe over the next 10 to 15 years.

These recommendations will be discussed with policy makers and funders of research in the European Commission and Member States, with the aim of determining the most effective ways of supporting this research and associated infrastructures. This will pave the way towards the instigation of the European Research Area (ERA).



CONVERGENCE in research policy:

Mouse functional genomics: Towards a Global Collaborative Effort

Leading scientists from Europe, Canada, Australia, Japan and the USA, at the AAAS February 2006 meeting, examined how to generate synergies between existing and planned research programs in mouse functional genomics that will advance the field of mouse models for human diseases research and engage the scientific community throughout the world.

Further to this symposium the European representatives are continuing to meet and develop priorities under PRIME and in conjunction with the European Commission

Ethics

Increase awareness of the scientific aspects of proposed new legislation to national policy makers, the European Commission and law makers.

Integration with key animal welfare projects such as COST, and joining key animal welfare meetings such as FELASA, LASA, and the EMBO working group on the welfare of research animals.

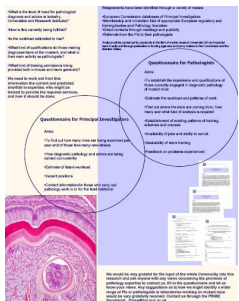
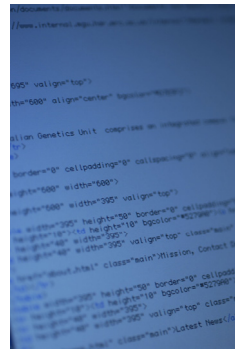
COMMUNALITY of research currency

Resources

A key factor in supporting the research is the successful storing and retrieval of data generated in the research and the physical maintenance of resources, such as mouse lines, ES cells, etc. This is being addressed in PRIME by an Expert Group on Improved Resources, which aims to enhance access to and promote sharing of information and physical resources for mouse functional genomics research

The priorities identified and worked on by the committee were:

- Database resources – Identification of datasets that are, or will become important over the next 10-15 years.
- Ontologies and standards – Identification of ontologies and standards used in the various datasets
- Communication standards – Identification of which databases could be integrated and explore methods for doing this
- Biological resources – Determination if physical biological resources that are or will need to be maintained
- Sustainability - Consider ways to sustain these physical and information resources beyond the life of current project funding



Training

A key factor in maintaining the competitiveness of European research is training researchers with the necessary skills. In EUMORPHIA we have identified the need to train people to be skilled mouse pathologists - the analysis of mouse models of human disease requires detailed molecular and histopathological investigation.

PRIME has developed questionnaires to specifically investigate the existing provision and future availability of histopathology expertise to the mouse functional genomics community.

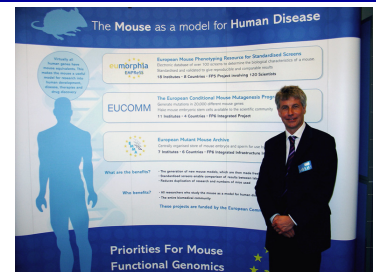
There are two different questionnaires for us to build a complete picture - one for Pathologists and one for Principal Investigators.

The data obtained will be analysed and passed (anonymised) to the European Commission and other National Funding and Professional bodies

COMMUNICATION

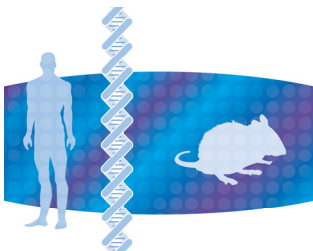
Communication to the Policy makers:
 European Parliament Roadshow

A reception at the European Parliament in Brussels to demonstrate why mouse is important to research and provide an example of how the money is being used in research, the importance in the future and the impact on research into human diseases.



Communication to the Public:
 Mice in Medical Research brochure

PRIME is currently developing a small public information brochure on the importance of mice in research on human diseases. Working with lead scientists, this brochure will contain information on key disease areas and demonstrate why mice are so important. This brochure will also be accompanied by information flyers on individual EU funded projects involved in mouse functional genomics.



Communication to the Mouse Community:
 EuroMouse

The EuroMouse conference was held near Venice in October 2005. There were over 100 scientists present representing over 70 institutes across 17 countries within the European Union. In addition there was representation from industry, plus from the USA and Australia.

EuroMouse brought together 15 European Union funded projects for the first time in one place.

Further information on all these topics can be found at
www.prime-eu.org