



26 November 2010

Dear colleagues,

INSTRUCT is nearing the end of the preparatory phase and implementation will begin in April 2011. I would like to update you on the progress we are making.

During the last two years we have:

- Secured support from the core countries and EMBL, with committed funding from the MRC UK (see separate announcement).
- Created an appropriate legal and governance framework for INSTRUCT.
- Consulted hundreds of European structural biologists to:
  - determine which centres are required to provide the best possible integrated structural biology infrastructure.
  - better understand how INSTRUCT can strengthen European scientists' career development, eg through training courses, studentships, internships, rotations and seed funding.
  - consider how INSTRUCT can promote rapid development of new structural biology equipment and techniques.
- Defined a set of deliverables for the first two years of INSTRUCT operations.

With five months to go, currently we are working on the following to deliver for 1 April:

- An International Consortium Agreement between the core countries and EMBL in the next few weeks.
- Stakeholder engagement: to identify the needs and expectations of all our stakeholders and how we can best engage them to create a dynamic and thriving community
- Strategic Plan: to finalize the INSTRUCT Strategic Plan, which will provide information for funders on the operational and business plans for INSTRUCT in the first five year period, a public version of which will be available very soon.
- Digital: we are building a public website and two private extranets (one for INSTRUCT Centres, one for scientists to submit their proposals for access) with the goal of creating an integrative environment for structural biologists on the web. The access to the Centres system will include, but not be limited to:
  - the proposal submission and review process including expert advice and support, moderator management, peer review, access approval and handover to INSTRUCT Centres
  - a 'control panel' whereby Centres, INSTRUCT management, and individual institutions will be able to view metrics on applications and research
  - a system which should help simplify reporting requirements.
- Brand: to quickly build INSTRUCT's reputation and understanding of our offer to key stakeholders, including the development of our logo, visual identity and messaging

There is an INSTRUCT Centres team meeting on 16-17 December where I hope that many of these plans will be reviewed and approved. I will keep you updated.

If you would like to contribute to the digital strategy, or any other aspect of the programme, please contact Claudia Alen Amaro, [claudia@strubi.ox.ac.uk](mailto:claudia@strubi.ox.ac.uk).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Alen Amaro'.

INSTRUCT Coordinator