



NEWS

NUFO Incorporation in Progress

In the months ahead, NUFO will undergo a transition from its long-standing *ad hoc* status to formal incorporation as a non-profit organization. The new structure will help to clarify the relationship between NUFO, scientific users, and facilities, while also broadening options for fundraising and operations. Incorporation is also a necessary step in order to address potential legal liabilities.

NUFO's future structure will preserve the organization's historic relationship with its member facilities. We expect the incorporation process to be completed in the next six months and will provide updates on our evolution as various decision points and milestones are reached. If you have any questions about this process, or any other suggestions for NUFO, please contact this year's Chair, Stephen Wasserman (swasserman@lilly.com).

[Annual Meeting: Bridging Science Across National User Facilities](#)

The 2014 Annual Meeting was hosted by the Environmental Molecular Science Laboratory at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory on April 30-May 2. This meeting attracted a cross-section of more than 70 individuals ranging from facility directors, user representatives, user administrators, communicators, financial representative, and governmental affairs liaisons. The meeting focused on benefits, issues, and challenges involved with multi-facility collaborations.

Following plenary talks on various types of potential opportunities for collaboration and success stories for multi-facility and/or multi-national scientific efforts, participants separated into five role-specific breakout sessions. These groups were challenged to address sets of tailored questions identifying issues/impediments to cross-facility/laboratory collaborations and brainstorm potential solutions. In addition, standing working groups met to address on-going projects and plan future directions.

The meeting ended with a brief review of the 2013-2014 NUFO activities by outgoing NUFO Chair Yves Idzerda, a look ahead by incoming Chair Stephen Wasserman, and a summary of recommendations from the breakout sessions. Primary recommendations included the following:

- Create a single Website with multi-facility information
- Develop a plan to finance cross-facility efforts and track costs at each facility
- Work toward the ultimate goal for experiment data management: one-stop shop for data collection, analysis, and management across facilities
- Find out what approaches might work best for multi-facility calls
- Work to achieve training reciprocity and user agreements across laboratories/facilities
- Work toward the ultimate goal of one master system for user-related information
- Identify issues with the most impact (as well as the barriers)
- Start small: develop a pilot project (approach PIs who would use multiple facilities and develop a small proposal)