Protein Data Bank Japan (PDBj) Advisory Committee (PDBj-AC)
Report of 15th March 2017 Meeting

PDBj, Institute for Protein Research (IPR), Osaka University, Osaka, Japan

Chair: Prof. Haruki Nakamura (IPR)
PDBj member: Prof. Toshimichi Fujiwara (IPR)

Committee members (present): Prof. Genji Kurisu (IPR), Prof. Tsuyoshi Inoue (Faculty of Engineering, Osaka University), Prof. Daisuke Kohda (Medical Institute of Bioregulation, Kyushu University), Prof. Kei Yura (Graduate School of Humanities and Science, Ochanomizu University), Dr. Masaki Yamamoto (SPring-8, RIKEN)
Committee members (absent): Prof. Toshiya Senda (Photon Factory, KEK)

The advisory committee of PDBj (PDBj-AC) met with PDBj leadership and staff, at the Institute for Protein Research (IPR), Osaka University on 15th March 2017.

1. Current PDBj program
• The PDBj has been funded as the Database Integration Coordination Program from JST (Japan Science and Technology Agency) – NBDC (National Bioscience Database Center) for three years from April 2014 – March 2017.
• The JST-NBDC budget in the FY 2016 (from April 2016 to March 2017) is 50 MY (direct) and 15 MY (indirect), and other additional costs are paid from the University budget for IPR as the Joint Usage and Research Center for Proteins
• The Data-in activity of PDBj was reported with the statistics in the Asian countries: Japan, China, India, Korea and others.
• Joint NMR VTF and NEF Workshop held on 26-27 August 2016 at Osaka University, Nii Shonan meeting held on 5-8 September 2016, and the 13th wwPDB AC meeting held on 7 October 2016 at BMRB, Wisconsin-Madison, were reported.
• Development, deployment and operation of the OneDep system were reported.
• Current situation of PDBj-BMRB was reported.
• Outreaches of the PDBj including Newsletter Vol. 18 were reported.

2. Change of the member of the PDBj-AC

• In the fiscal year 2017, the number of the members of PDBj-AC will increase, and a new committee member, Dr. Midori Kamimura, from Teijin Pharma Ltd. will be additionally invited as an industry researcher. This plan was approved by all the committee members.

3. Discussion for the future of PDBj

• The JST-NBDC budget in the FY 2016 (from April 2016 to March 2017) will also be 50 MY (direct) and 15 MY (indirect), and other additional costs will be paid from the University budget for IPR as the Joint Usage and Research Center for Proteins.

• A contract was renewed about the Collaboration for Life Science Databases among PDBj, DDBJ, and DBCLS (Database Center for Life Science) and the common portal will start in the next fiscal year.

• The PDBj with the new expecting PI, Prof. Genji Kurisu, has submitted the funding application in January 2017 to JST-NBDC for the next five years program of the Database Integration Coordination Program (DICP) by JST-NBDC. An interview to Genji was made at the beginning of this March, and the result will soon come. The members of PDBj-AC concern the budget situation of the PDBj, and they will continuously support the PDBj activities.

• Prof. Tsuyoshi Inoue and Dr. Masaki Yamamoto will attend the wwPDB AC meeting, which will be held at RCSB-PDB, Rutgers University on 13th October 2017, in addition to Profs. Genji Kurisu and Haruki Nakamura.

• Several discussions were made about the PDBj activities and their contribution to the wwPDB.

a) To keep enough FTE for annotators, processing more deposited data.

b) To introduce the batch-deposition system at PDBj for group depositions

c) To contribute the common Data-out activities, for example: developing libraries to parse and write PDBx/mmCIF format files, developing a simple tool to edit PDBx/mmCIF format files, and so on. There was a comment that bioinformatics users rarely use PDBx/mmCIF, but still most of them use the conventional PDB format files. More and more promotions for PDBx/mmCIF with service tools.

• Other discussions were made about the financial stability of PDBj and wwPDB, in particular how to obtain supports from industries:

a) When industries use service tools, which are developed by the wwPDB members, it may be possible to ask them to pay some.

b) Most industries download all the PDB structural data and construct databases inside the companies, so as not to access any member of the wwPDB web site. The main reason may be that they do want to keep their queries very secure. If so, the wwPDB may provide a highly secured Data-out system with some payments for only customers, who do not want anybody to know their queries or download data. It may be possible to use a Cloud computing/web system managed by IT companies such as Amazon.