

HUPO INITIATIVES

Mission Statement

The Mission of HUPO Initiatives is to accelerate the successful application of proteomics to the solution of important biomedical problems.

Goals of HUPO Initiatives

1. To build a sense of community effort among leading and emerging laboratories in proteomics, enhanced by services, reagents, guidelines, protocols, standards, and databases created or coordinated by HUPO initiatives.
2. To evaluate the quality and usefulness of technology platforms, specimen collection protocols, reagents, standards, and databases and propose means of enhancing these attributes.
3. To provide guidelines and protocols to the scientific community for the use of proteomics to study biological systems.
4. To advance our knowledge of the proteomes of different organisms.
5. For humans, to advance our knowledge of the proteomes of various organs and biofluids in health and disease.

Responsibilities of Investigators Participating in HUPO Initiatives

The leaders and participating investigators of each initiative must create a clear program of research, with deliverables and milestones.

The investigators need to agree on an analytical strategy, leading to presentations and publications with appropriate authorship. Each investigator must commit to prepare and share datasets with colleagues across the Initiative, according to the analytical plan and commit to full public data access upon publication of manuscripts

The individual initiatives need to be linked together to assess the specificity of findings for any one organ or disease proteome.

Governing Structure of the Initiatives

The Initiatives are one of the most significant activities of HUPO. Thus, oversight of the Initiatives is a key responsibility of the Executive Committee of HUPO. For the future, the EC and its Initiatives Subcommittee (current chair, John Bergeron) must communicate substantively and expeditiously about initiatives, both to guide new/emerging initiatives and to oversee existing initiatives.

The individual initiatives must have highly collegial, well-committed co-chairs for each initiative. These co-chairs must interact effectively with each other, with the participating investigators, and with the HUPO EC Initiatives Oversight Subcommittee.

Review Process for HUPO Initiatives

a) Existing Initiatives

Each initiative should have regular workshops and progress should be reported at the annual HUPO conference and at the annual HUPO initiatives meeting.

Each initiative should be monitored against its deliverables, milestones, and timelines.

No initiative will be perpetual; each must be renewed periodically against its research plan approved by the EC/IC, including modifications and enhancements adopted from time to time. The EC/IC could and perhaps should draw upon experts outside those committees.

Rotation of co-chairs should be expected, on a schedule that reflects guidance from the Initiatives Subcommittee. As the performance of the initiative leadership is monitored, changes should be instituted as interest or effectiveness wanes and as other investigators emerge as potential leaders.

There must be an effective process for interaction across the Initiatives at the level of the initiatives co-chairs, not just the EC/IC.

b) New/Emerging Initiatives

Endorsement by HUPO of a new Initiative requires an international collaboration---not a project dominated by one laboratory or even one nation.

The initiative organizers will propose or negotiate with the EC/IC who would be appropriate co-chairs, reflecting prominence in the subfield and geography.

The endorsement requires a compelling research plan with deliverables, milestones, and potential timelines.

The EC/IC itself needs to develop criteria for specific reviews and for determining whether a proposed initiative should be combined with another proposed or existing initiative

c) Inter-Initiative Output and Review

The co-chairs of appropriate initiatives should be charged to interact to identify timely cross-analyses and perform them or ask others to do so.

For initiatives generating biomarker candidates, there must be a plan to link organ-proteomes with plasma proteome findings in the same clinical conditions and with similar technology platforms on specimens obtained at the same time for organ and plasma, or other biofluids. The EC/IC, based on its regular monitoring of initiatives, should identify cross-initiatives analyses that would add value and would expedite confirmation and validation of biomarker candidates.

Funding for HUPO Initiatives

The initiatives are not funded by HUPO, but rather HUPO seeks to facilitate funding for initiatives. This can be accomplished through interactions with funding agencies or corporations.