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Professor Emeritus

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wwPDB Leadership Group  
John L. Markley, BMRB  
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Dear Colleagues

I write to you with an update in my capacity as Chair of the Small-Angle Scattering validation task force (SASvtf). In my letter of 2 February to the current membership of that committee, I noted that one of the six key recommendations from our 2013 report was that “criteria need to be agreed upon for the assessment of the quality of deposited data and the accuracy of SAS-derived models, and the extent to which a given model fits the SAS data.” That report further built on the publication guidelines for biomolecular SAS published in *Acta D* in 2012 that was the result of a community effort led by the IUCr Commission for SAS (CSAS). A priority piece of work for the SASvtf now is to update the criteria given advances since these earlier publications and to provide advice to the wwPDB on “specific, implementable recommendations for both data and model validation.”

To accomplish this next phase, the SASvtf needs greater breadth of SAS expertise. The committee currently includes only myself and Dmitri Svergun and John Tainer as SAS specialists. Additionally, as there is significant overlap between the work of the SASvtf and the IUCr Commission on SAS (CSAS) in data and model validation, it is desirable that the two efforts do not put out conflicting recommendations.

I therefore propose to expand the current membership of the SASvtf, first to broaden the expertise and second to ensure some overlap with the IUCr CSAS membership and international engagement. The most important criterion however was to choose active researchers publishing the highest quality biomolecular SAS work. Unless I hear alternative suggestions for consideration, I plan to invite the following individuals to join the SASvtf.

Masaaki Sugiyama (Kyoto) – is Japan’s national committee recommendation for the IUCr for CSAS membership, endorsed by the current CSAS for appointment August 2017.  
<https://www.labome.org/expert/japan/kyoto/sugiyama/masaaki-sugiyama-1208789.html>

Patrice Vachette (Institute Pasteur, Saclay Paris) – a long standing and respected expert in SAXS, both laboratory and synchrotron based work.  
<https://research.pasteur.fr/en/emember/patrice-vachette/>

Frank Gabel (Institut de Biologie Structurale, Genoble) – currently the leading expert in SANS/contrast variation and SANS/SAXS/NMR hybrid structural work.



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<http://www.ibs.fr/research/research-groups/extremophiles-and-large-molecular-assemblies-group/small-angle-scattering-649/>

Lois Pollack (Cornell) – leader in RNA and RNA-protein studies, time-resolved SAXS who was also highly recommended by Dmitri Svergun.

<http://www.aep.cornell.edu/people/profile.cfm?netid=lp26>

Dina Schneidman (Hebrew University) – currently publishing work with a rigor and completeness that it provides a model for the committee who was also highly recommended by Andrej Sali. [http://www.huji.ac.il/dataj/controller/ihoker/MOP-STAFF\\_LINK?sno=70741876&Save\\_t=](http://www.huji.ac.il/dataj/controller/ihoker/MOP-STAFF_LINK?sno=70741876&Save_t=)

I appreciate the opportunity to work with this important committee to continue to support high quality SAS and its utilisation in biomolecular structural analysis. Widely agreed and utilized data and model validation criteria are essential for SAS to make its appropriate contribution to the growing field of integrative/hybrid structural biology.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Trewhella, PhD

cc SASvtf members