

Advisor Comments

David Allison

1. There is a very positive social and collaborative scientific atmosphere within the MMPC that is inviting and supports our mission.
2. Database: Dr. Allison cautioned that while the desire to make data public so that it could conceivably be put to additional uses is productive, feasible and altruistic, we need to grapple with any idea that all collections of data are in and of themselves inherently highly valuable. In other words, he wants us to make sure that the production of the database, while a laudable goal, doesn't interfere destructively with our core mission. He was supportive of the many ways in which the database supports our core mission, especially any ways we can use it to standardize and normalize our workflow and communication of data to clients.
3. He worried that the MMPC may be in danger of pursuing too many projects outside its core mission and thereby spreading our people too thin. This is a valid concern and we should make sure all planned working group activities are well within our means (money, staff time and effort). He urged us to use 'uniqueness' as a core criterion...what are those activities that MMPC is uniquely qualified to conduct, and which add considerable value to the greater research community?