

Overview of developments in the ELSI2.0 Collaboratory

15 September 2014

Over the past 6 months ELSI2.0 has continued to gather momentum as an international forum for collaboration by researchers interested in the ethical, legal and social implications of research in the life sciences. Activities are overseen by a steering committee composed of eminent scholars from around the globe, who convene monthly via web- or tele- conferencing. In order to progress the visions of the collaboratory more swiftly, additional working groups have been established within the last few months, and are described below.

Working Group	Objectives	Progress as of September 15 2014
Infrastructure Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Surveying members and other stakeholders to establish requirements and desirables for an online workspace, and identify existing tools ◆ analysing outcomes and feeding back to respondents ◆ define design specifications ◆ commission and develop e-workspace ◆ identify sources of funding for workspace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Survey completed by 167 respondents. WG meeting convened to discuss results ◆ Suitable web-platform identified, and usage plan agreed ◆ Support secured from Brother for the communities' use and development of Omnijoin web conferencing facility ◆ Dedicated development time secured for September/October. Plan to develop prototype site for testing by survey respondents during October 2014. Anticipated launch date during Q4 2014 ◆ First funding application including resource for workspace rejected, but draft produced for re-use in future bids
Outreach: extended involvement of the global community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Identification and publication of workshops planned for 2014/2015 to facilitate calendar management ◆ Development of a strategy for knowledge translation/generation from specific meetings ◆ Planning for ELSI Conferences, the next one being Oxford 2015 (23-25 June), including identifying opportunities for engagement out with the current community, a particular focus being young Asian scholars but also reaching to other regions as much as possible ◆ Fortify links between ELSI2.0 and other initiatives including Global Alliance ◆ Identify hosts for future ELSI2.0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Strategy in development for every "ELSI 2.0" meeting to have a set of objectives and expected outcomes tied to one or more of the ELSI 2.0 annual objectives. ◆ Plan to integrate calendar function to workspace to facilitate meeting co-ordination ◆ Preliminary discussions held towards the co-ordination of existing initiatives including ELSI2.0, Global Alliance, H3 Africa, NIH CEERS, PHG Foundation, BIOSHARE, and the COST Action 'Chip-ME' ◆ Continued support from P3G in the publication and dissemination of events and outputs

	meetings, in particular in Asian territories, to be held in conjunction with other meetings where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dates finalised and registration open for Oxford 2015 Conference ◆ Toulouse 2015 and Osaka 2016 meetings in planning
Strengthen the network for students and early career researchers to enable capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Identification of young researchers to involve in establishing the network ◆ Establish the needs of students and early researchers ◆ Encourage institutions to commit to taking students and early researchers ◆ Set up a system for recording exchanges and visits, advertising interests and opportunities, and match-making ◆ Identify funding sources for support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Need to engage with young scholars highlighted by survey, for which only 10% respondents were in the 21-30 age group, with a further 27% aged 31-40 ◆ Young students and scholars in Japan and other Asian countries identified ◆ Funding sources identified ◆ First ELSI2.0 exchange of young researchers underway between Oxford and Osaka Universities, leveraging funding from Professor Kato's University Award for international collaboration ◆ Joint supervision of a PhD student underway between McGill and Toulouse Universities, co-ordinated by ELSI2.0 members ◆ Advertisement of opportunities to visit/ complete placements at member institutions highlighted as an objective of the e-workspace
Develop a sustainable funding model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Apply the funding model developed by Don Chalmers ◆ Articulate the role and scope of the accelerator ◆ Apply to identified sources of funding ◆ Pilot accelerator methodologies and funding model ◆ Conduct a trial of the e-workspace for coordinating funding activities ◆ Publicise successful grants on the workspace once operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ First ELSI2.0 focussed grant submitted unsuccessfully, but grant outline will form the basis for a future application, and strategy developed for co-ordinated development of research proposals ◆ Several funding opportunities identified and responsibilities assigned ◆ Requirements for publication of successful grants and co-ordination of grant activities integrated to workspace design

P3G continues to be invaluable to our network, providing administrative services relating to the organisation of steering group meetings, production and circulation of minutes, maintenance of our mail-list, website management and member communication.