

## **PPC9- Practical Protein Crystallization Course, Uppsala 13-17 November 2006**

The PPC9 - Practical protein crystallization course (<http://xray.bmc.uu.se/terese/course/course.html>) was held at Uppsala University, which is founded in 1477 and is thus the oldest University in Nordic Countries. Terese Bergfors has organized such courses since 1996 and this was the 9<sup>th</sup> course. Applicants only from Scandinavian countries were accepted and due to practical laboratory sessions the number of participants was limited to 20 persons. No prior experience of crystallization was required, but the course contained some interesting material also for more experienced crystallographers.

The daily program started with lectures at 9 am and after lunch it continued with practical session, which lasted until 17 pm. The lectures, given by several experts in the crystallization field, covered bioinformatics, handling of the sample and different crystallization techniques, including high throughput screening methods. Some biophysical tools for crystallization purposes were also introduced. In laboratory sessions we had hands-on exercises of different crystallization techniques, e.g. vapor diffusion, microbatch, dialysis and containerless crystallization. Optimization with additives, filtration, seeding, use of dyes and dynamic light scattering (DLS) were also covered in the exercises. The lectures in combination with well planned and organized laboratory practicals gave a lot of useful information for those working in the field of macromolecular crystallization.

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