

Course in protein crystallisation 4-6 November 2009

Course in protein crystallization was 4-6 November in Helsinki. It was organized by Adrian Goldman and Pirkko Heikinheimo. Students were from all around world farthest from Brazil. It was very nice that first snow and few minus degrees came to dark wet Helsinki during course.

Every day there were few lectures at mornings and tutorials after lunch. My main interest in this course was Terese Bergfors from Uppsala. She is guru in protein crystallisation. She gave three lectures and guided one tutorial. Her way to teach is very rousing and lectures are very easy to follow.

Course gave much for all from beginners to more advanced in field of protein crystallisation. There were chance to practice also with own protein. All students chose three practicals from four different ones. Beginners ran native gel and set up crystallisation plate manually. Second practical handled setting up crystallisation plate with robot and ThermoFluor analysis which was new interesting technique for many. It gives knowledge of protein thermostability in different buffer and additive conditions, if you are lucky and your protein behaves nicely, which is not case many times. Third practical handled seeding with different ways also with robot. Main point was that try, you do not have anything to loose. Even oils can work as a seed and cross seeding is very recommended. Fourth practical handled new meso method for membrane protein crystallisation. It was very interesting how lipid phasediagrams behave and form different type lattices, it is fully other world after soluble protein crystallisation.

Course was well organised and everybody enjoyed to learn new techniques in inspiring and helpful atmosphere.

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