

**BioPAX Work Group**  
**May 4, 2005 Conference Call Minutes**

**Participants:** Gary Bader, Michael Cary, Kam Dahlquist, Geeta Joshi-Tope, Chris Lemer, James Long, Elgar Pichler, Jonathan Rees, Mustafa Syed, Jeremy Zucker

**Action Items:**

- Gary and Mike – post sample Level 2 data when ready
- Mike and Jeremy – generate OWLDocs (using Protégé plug-in) for Level 2, post on website
- Gary – facilitate communication between PSI-MI group and Peter Karp’s group regarding evidence code ontologies
- Jeremy – review latest WIT/PUMA2 output from Mustafa and provide him with feedback
- Joanne and Jonathan – send report on BioPAX-Boston meeting to discuss list
- Gary and Mike – submit abstract for BPC SIG
- All – review new wiki (<http://biopax.sourceforge.net/wiki/>), contribute at will
- Mike, Joanne, Jonathan, Gary – work on DOE2 extension request, submit it

**Summary:**

1. Development status update
  - a. Level 1 – a new version (ver 1.4) was released last week
    - i. Specific changes in new version:
      1. DIRECTION slot (in catalysis class) was made optional
      2. Added ID-VERSION slot to xref class
  - b. Level 2
    - i. Beta version (ver 0.9) of the OWL file has been posted on the website home page
      1. Documentation is nearly finished, the latest version has been checked into CVS, accessible here:  
[http://cvs.sourceforge.net/viewcvs.py/\\*checkout\\*/biopax/biopax/release2/biopax-level2-documentation.pdf?rev=1.2](http://cvs.sourceforge.net/viewcvs.py/*checkout*/biopax/biopax/release2/biopax-level2-documentation.pdf?rev=1.2)
    - ii. Release candidate
      1. Gary and Mike proposed labeling the current beta version (ver 0.9) as the “release candidate,” once the documentation is finished
        - a. The Sander lab has been testing the 0.9 version with in-house software and pathway data
          - i. They will post some of this as sample Level 2 data in the future
        - b. The group consensus was to continue to call ver 0.9 “beta” after all docs are posted, and to only label it as a release candidate after a number of other groups have had a chance to test it.

2. Aside: Jeremy mentioned that Protégé has a document generation plug-in for OWL files
  - a. Elgar has used it, said it works well
  - b. Mike will look into it, we might want to use it to generate supplementary documentation for Level 2
3. The target date for having a release candidate remains Mid-June
- iii. Release (ver 1.0)
  1. Target date remains ISMB 2005 (late June)
- c. Controlled vocabularies
  - i. During the January meeting, the group consensus was that we should recommend specific controlled vocabularies for those slots that have the openControlledVocabulary class as their range.
  - ii. One such slot is EVIDENCE-CODE, in the evidence class.
  - iii. During the January meeting, we concluded that both the BioCyc evidence code ontology and the PSI-MI evidence code CV contain terms that users would find useful in evidence annotation.
  - iv. Luisa Montecchi-Palazzi, from Henning Hermjakob's group at the EBI, has begun working on integrating the BioCyc evidence code CV with the PSI-MI evidence code CV
  - v. She told Gary that she has some questions about certain BioCyc terms, so Gary will facilitate communication between her and Peter's group
2. LibBioPAX / conversion status
  - a. KEGG data
    - i. Lemer group progress
      1. Christian Lemer's group has been working on a KEGG → BioPAX converter
      2. They've been building the converter incrementally, and have finalized conversion of the various building blocks of pathways (e.g. compounds, reactions, etc.)
      3. Next step: Convert pathways
      4. They estimate that in about 2 weeks they'll have the first OWL files ready (each file will contain a complete KEGG pathway)
    - ii. BioWarehouse progress
      1. Jeremy has been working on a converter to convert BioWarehouse data into BioPAX
      2. Since the BioWarehouse contains KEGG data, this converter could also supply KEGG data in BioPAX format
      3. He's using the Protégé OWL API and Jython
      4. He discussed the possibility of loading BIND into the BioWarehouse with Peter. If that happens, his converter could also supply that data in BioPAX format as well
  - b. WIT/PUMA2
    - i. The WIT/PUMA2 converter is almost done, there are just a few bugs left to be worked out.

1. For example, the RDF IDs sometimes contain invalid characters.
  - ii. Jeremy has been checking over the files and will send a report back to Mustafa
  - iii. Aside: Gary mentioned that he talked to Ed Frank at the caBIG meeting earlier this week. Ed told him that the SEED project is interested in using BioPAX data (they are already using WIT/PUMA2 data)
- c. PSI-MI → BioPAX converter
  - i. Joanne has been working on setting up a collaboration with Frank Gibbons and the Manchester ontology group. Both groups have expressed interest in using PSI-MI data in BioPAX form and are considering the idea of creating a PSI-MI→BioPAX converter.
  - ii. The project is still in the early planning stages.
  - iii. Note: A PSI-MI → BioPAX converter would be an excellent test of Level 2 beta
3. Other meetings
  - a. CHI conference in San Francisco
    - i. Joanne attended and spoke with a number of vendors
    - ii. It was an industry conference, few academics
    - iii. She talked to representatives from a number of companies and followed up with them via email (the companies included Ingenuity, Jubilant, OmniViz, Genomatix, and others)
    - iv. She received feedback on the need for dose information for Pathways. It is possible PharmGKB might address the concern.
  - b. BioPAX-Boston meeting was held last Friday
    - i. Large turnout (11 people)
      1. Given the turnout, we may need a more formal agenda in future
      2. Jonathan suggested that we might wish to have two kinds of meetings for the Boston community:
        - a. BioPAX-specific topics only
        - b. General pathway discussions
    - ii. Jeremy talked about data conversion efforts
    - iii. Joanne talked about funding
    - iv. Zhenjun Hu and Joe Mellor from BU presented VisAnt. The issue of incorporating layout data into BioPAX was raised.
    - v. Joanne and/or Jonathan will send out a meeting report in the future
  - c. Peter gave a talk at the DARPA Bio-SPICE meeting yesterday
  - d. Gary gave a talk at the caBIG meeting in St. Louis on Monday
    - i. caBIG = Cancer Bioinformatics Grid
    - ii. 50 cancer centers involved in sharing software and data
    - iii. They declared BioPAX a “caBIG standard”
      1. caBIG developers will be required to use BioPAX when handling pathway data
4. Documents, abstracts
  - a. ISMB Bio-Ontologies SIG abstract was submitted last week (Mike & Joanne)

- b. We need to submit BPC abstract soon (Gary & Mike)
- 5. Wiki
  - a. Last month, Gary installed a wiki (MediaWiki) on the SourceForge server
    - i. Requested by Jonathan and Joanne
  - b. Unfortunately, MediaWiki was too slow and flaky, so Gary installed MoinMoin wiki instead, which works better on the SourceForge server
    - i. <http://biopax.sourceforge.net/wiki/>
  - c. It currently is set to a weak security level, but we can make it stronger if we need to
  - d. Group consensus: Add documentation to the wiki site, point to it from the main site
    - i. Documentation such as best practices, use cases, etc.
- 6. Grants
  - a. DOE II – Possible 3 month extension
    - i. We need to submit the request within next 1-2 weeks
    - ii. Mike, Joanne, Jonathan, and Gary will work on this
    - iii. Request will be for \$20k over 3 months
- 7. Future meetings
  - a. ISMB 2005 in Detroit
    - i. Date: Saturday, June 25 (tutorial day)
      - 1. Agenda items
        - a. State representation
        - b. Gene regulation representation
    - ii. BioPathways SIG panel session
      - 1. Gary raised the idea with Vincent Schachter, but no concrete plans have been made yet
      - 2. Joanne will discuss the idea with the other members of BPC during their next conference call
      - 3. Possible topics:
        - a. Pathway repository
        - b. Sharing pathway data
        - c. Shared/distributed curation efforts
    - iii. Travel funding
      - 1. Some travel funding should be available, but details are not known yet (partially depends on DOE II extension)
      - 2. Mike is coordinating this and will send out information as soon as it is available
  - b. Japan F2F meeting: Nov 2005
    - i. Ken will send out announcement soon
    - ii. Mark your calendars: November 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>
  - c. SBML Hackathon
    - i. May 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> in Tokyo
    - ii. Jeremy is attending, will meet with Ken Fukuda
    - iii. Recent discussions on SBML discuss list concern BioPAX
      - 1. See posts by Greg Blumenthal and Nicolas Le Novere on sbml-discuss list

- a. [http://www.sbml.org/forums/index.php?t=threadt&frm\\_id=2&rid=0](http://www.sbml.org/forums/index.php?t=threadt&frm_id=2&rid=0)