

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Driving AI in BioPharma through a new generation of public/private partnerships

Dr Angeli Möller and Dr James Gebbie-Rayet

UKRI vision and mission



Our **vision** is for an outstanding research and innovation system in the UK that gives everyone the opportunity to contribute and to benefit, enriching lives locally, nationally and internationally.



Our **mission** is to convene, catalyse and invest in close collaboration with others to build a thriving inclusive research and innovation system that connects discovery to prosperity and public good.

STFC's mission

Mission:

- Discovering the secrets of the Universe
- Developing advanced technologies
- Solving real world challenges

Responsibilities:

- Frontier research: particle physics, astronomy, nuclear physics and space science
- Major UK multi-disciplinary facilities
- Stewardship of our R&I campuses

Annual budget: ~£950m





STFC's science base

Six sites across the UK + ING in La Palma

Around 3,000 staff

- approx. 35% of UKRI staff
- >85% are scientists, engineers and technicians
- 1750 at the Rutherford Appleton Lab

STFC National Laboratories

 STFC provides the high-tech scientific and engineering support for >10,000 industrial and academic researchers from across all domains





Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

STFC provides the stewardship of UK's world-class *multi-disciplinary* facilities on the Harwell campus:

- ISIS neutron spallation source
 - World-leading neutron source. In terms of publications sits alongside SNS and ILL
- Central Laser Facility (CLF)
 - Suite of high-power laser facilities
 - World-class facilities and technology development
- Diamond Light Source synchrotron
 - 86% STFC owned/funded
 - The UK's National synchrotron





Advanced Computing and HPC

We have very strong computing departments

- Scientific Computing Department ~250 people
 - works across UK on major collaborative computing products
 - delivers and operates large-scale digital infrastructure including JASMIN
 for Earth Observation data and the UK "Gridpp" HTC infrastructure
- Hartree Centre >100 staff
 - Collaboration with IBM on industry-focused super-computing/AI: aims to demonstrate solutions to industrially relevant challenges
- Also collaborate with external bodies, e.g. UKAEA
 - Hartree and Scientific Computing are supporting UKAEA's 'STEP' fusion programme (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production)
 - Areas include exascale simulation, AI enhanced modelling, and advanced visualisation







Scientific Computing

Biology and Life Sciences

James Gebbie-Rayet Biomolecular Simulation Group Leader



Our Capabilities

We apply our expertise to

- Development of novel scientific research software
- A diverse programme of scientific research
- Advanced data processing technologies
- A diverse programme of modelling and simulation
- Exploitation of HPC and optimisation
- Imaging and data visualisation
- Training for UK research communities

Domain Expertise

- Structural Biology
- Biomolecular Simulation
- Biophysics
- Biochemistry
- Bioinformatics
- Biological Imaging



Training UK Researchers

We develop and run training

- Training in cutting edge methods
- From fundamental computing to AI
- Cloud based scalable platform (JupyterHub)

Several formats available

- Traditional workshop format
- Sandpit/Hackathon style follow-ups
- Materials available online

Reach of 5000 UK Researchers 12,000 training days delivered annually



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Biomolecular Simulation





www.ccpbiosim.ac.uk www.hecbiosim.ac.uk

Cryo-Electron Microscopy

www.ccpem.ac.uk

Imaging and Tomography



www.ccpi.ac.uk

Macromolecular Crystallography



www.ccp4.ac.uk

National Data Infrastructure





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PHYSICAL SCIENCES DATA INFRASTRUCTURE www.psdi.ac.uk



External HPC

archer2

Exploiting Exascale HPC



Exabiosim is part of the UK ExCALIBUR programme

- Establish accessible routes to exascale biomolecular simulation
- Performance profiling of existing codes
- Code porting and profiling on novel testbeds
- Gathering energy data vs science output
- Developing blueprints for complex multi-scale multi-physics or multi-modal workflows







Exploiting Exascale HPC





MPI Tasks	Time in Solver	Efficiency
131,072	68.959 s	100%
262,144	34.769 s	99%
524,288	18.677 s	92%



CodeEntropy



Novel code for entropic calculations

- Structural entropy + solution entropy
- Runs on the end of molecular simulation
- Very accurate for applications involving binding sites
- Validation against QENS

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https://github.com/CCPBioSim/CodeEntropy





Case study (Unilever): vitamin B3 analogs amplify LL-37 activity

Experimental observation:

Synergistic effect of niacinamide (vit. B3) > Nmethylnicotinamide > isonicotinamide with naturally occurring human antimicrobial peptide LL-37 in skin conditions

Problem:

Understanding the molecular mechanism behind this co-operative effect to facilitate the design of even better potentiators of human defenses



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V.Losasso et al., Biophys. J. 121(3):491, 2022.

Computational solution:

Understanding the molecular mechanism behind this co-operative effect to facilitate the design of even better potentiators of human defenses





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Understanding how subtle changes in chemical structure influence cooperativity

Novel molecules design

V.Losasso et al., Biophys. J. 121(3):491, 2022.



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Questions?

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Thank you

scd.stfc.ac.uk

