



The importance of international collaborations in science and structural biology

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Keywords: international collaboration; structural biology.

International collaborations have been a fundamental pillar for the advancement of modern science. In particular, in structural biology, joining forces with researchers from different parts of the world not only enriches research but also accelerates discoveries that can benefit humanity. *Acta Crystallographica F – Structural Biology Communications* is proud to support this union, as shown by the global contributions to the journal. Structural biology, dedicated to studying molecular structures and their functions, is a very inclusive area of research that greatly benefits from the diversity of thoughts and techniques. Different specific expertises, whether in X-ray crystallography, cryo-electron microscopy, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, or computational methods, when combined, result in a more holistic and innovative approach to solving complex problems. In the last two years, *Acta Cryst. F* has received submissions from a wide array of countries, highlighting the global nature of scientific research. These countries include the following. North America: USA, Canada; Europe: Germany, France, United Kingdom, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden; Asia: China, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan; Oceania: Australia, New Zealand; Africa: Egypt; and South America: Argentina.

This diversity of contributing regions emphasizes the widespread commitment to structural biology and the collective effort to advance scientific knowledge across borders. However, it is important to note that the majority of the papers, more than 50%, are led by scientists from developed countries, particularly from North America, Europe and Japan.

To foster a more heterogeneous distribution, leading laboratories in structural biology could take on the responsibility and privilege of hosting researchers from developing regions. These collaborations are vital for addressing specific problems in those countries, which are often neglected. For example, endemic diseases affecting millions in tropical regions can receive the necessary attention and resources when scientists from different parts of the world join efforts.

Moreover, these partnerships promote the transfer of technology and knowledge, empowering developing laboratories to conduct cutting-edge research and become more self-sufficient in the future. This is an investment that benefits both developing countries and the global scientific community.

This regional diversity underscores the importance of cross-border cooperation in advancing scientific understanding and tackling global challenges. *Acta Cryst. F* is committed to fostering these collaborations, starting from the international team of Main Editors, Co-editors and reviewers. The journal not only publishes research that is the product of international partnerships but also encourages the submission of articles that highlight the importance of global cooperation.

Science knows no boundaries, and international collaborations are the heart of scientific progress. In structural biology, joining forces enables advances that no single laboratory could achieve alone. Supporting partnerships between laboratories from different regions, especially those in developing countries, is crucial for solving global problems and democratizing scientific knowledge. *Acta Cryst. F* will continue to be a catalyst for these collaborations, promoting inclusive and globally connected science.

