

Questions from the MARGINS Steering Committee, for Working Group at the Costa Rica Workshop

The MARGINS Program is entering the last part of its originally-conceived decadal period. In 2009 a major program review will be held, and possible successor programs will be outlined. The MARGINS Steering Committee is preparing the groundwork for this process. The first step is to evaluate progress in Focus Sites and motivate integration and synthesis activities, through workshops such as this one. Because wide expertise is present at this workshop, the Steering Committee has asked interested participants to address several critical questions to help frame the planning process.

First, please *identify possible representatives from this workshop for a small planning group* to summarize answers to these questions, in preparation for a community meeting to discuss the future of MARGINS in general and SubFac/SEIZE in particular. We ask that the Conveners select 2-4 members of this workshop to prepare short written summaries of the responses at the workshop to the questions below.

Second, please *address the following questions*, in whatever manner you see appropriate. These are meant to generally guide discussion and should not be seen as exclusive of other issues you deem important. They emerged from lengthy discussion at recent Steering Committee meetings as critical issues, but the community may identify other more appropriate ones.

1. Evaluation of success at this Focus Site.

- * What have been the major advances in achieving the SubFac and SEIZE science objectives at this Focus Site during the last 8 years?
- * Which of these advances are best suited to MARGINS' Education and Outreach programs?
- * What new questions have emerged from this work to drive science for the next decade?

2. Future of this Focus Site.

- * What key studies are still missing at this Focus Site, and why are they missing?
- * What integration and synthesis activities are needed and how can they be motivated?
- * After the end of this decade, what will still need to happen at this Focus Site in order to achieve its initial objectives, and how might that best be accomplished? The default is that Focus Sites should cease to be funded preferentially by MARGINS after the decade.

3. Long-term future of MARGINS.

- * Are the current 4 Initiatives appropriate ways to continue dividing the MARGINS program?
- * In particular, would it make sense to consolidate SubFac and SEIZE if one or both continue to be MARGINS programs?
- * Are there other new major discoveries that would motivate a different program emphasis?

Thank you for your efforts, wide community input is critical to this process.

- the MARGINS Steering Committee, Spring 2007

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