

EADGENE Micro array Courses

Micro arrays allow scientists quickly and efficiently to analyse the expression of thousands of genes in a single experiment. Scientists can use this powerful technology to advance the understanding of fundamental aspects of growth and development as well as to explore the underlying genetic causes of many diseases. Each array, containing DNA probes that represent (tens of) thousands of genes, enables scientists to determine the expression levels within a sample by measuring the amount of mRNA bound to each site on the array. With the aid of a computer, the relative amount of mRNA bound to the spots on the micro array is precisely measured, generating a profile of gene expression in the cell. In order to make this information meaningful and useful, it is important that scientists and bioinformaticians are provided with up-to-date training in the computer-based techniques for handling micro array data.

EADGENE scientists have recently been involved in the organisation of two micro array-training courses. The first course, organised by DIAS, was held in Foulum, Denmark, from 10th to 14th October, 2005. This course was designed to give both hands-on experience of different techniques in the laboratory and to improve understanding of some of the statistical procedures used for analyzing the data from these experiments. A second course, which concentrated on the statistical aspects of micro array design and analysis, was organised by the Roslin Institute and ARK Genomics, and held in Edinburgh, UK, from 5th to 7th December 2005. The courses proved very popular with a total of twenty-five delegates from EADGENE partner institutes in Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, and UK.

