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The impact of the Brazilian synchrotron initiative (UVX and SIRIUS) on the scientific development of Brazil - Protein Crystallography as an example

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Protein crystallography in Brazil really took off in the late 1980s and had its origins in São Carlos, where a group of small-molecule crystallographers was already well established. At that time it was necessary to overcome the skepticism of the scientific community who perceived protein crystallography to be an overly complex and sophisticated discipline for the existing infrastructure and knowhow. However, at about the same time, the first steps were also being taken in the construction of a synchrotron light source at Campinas in the state of São Paulo. This proved to be a critical ingredient because the presence of the synchrotron provided the catalysis for growing the PX community, which is now widespread and thriving throughout the country. Nevertheless the building of the first low-energy machine (UVX) also initially required overcoming significant skepticism. A second machine is now close to completion and promises to offer first-rate facilities for frontier research in Latin America. Is the user community prepared?

Summary

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Primary author: Prof. GARRATT, Richard (University of São Paulo)

Presenter: Prof. GARRATT, Richard (University of São Paulo)

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