

NASA ASTROBIOLOGY INSTITUTE



DATA COLLECTION AND DATA ANALYSIS CHALLENGES

Lisa Faithorn, Ph.D., RIACS
NAI Collaborative Research Manager
October 3, 2002

Astrobiology: A Comprehensive Field

- **Definition: The study of the origin, distribution, evolution and future of life in the universe**
- **Incorporates dimensions of both Space Science and Earth Science**
- **Includes Multiple Disciplines**
- **Is inherently colaborative**



Astrobiology: A Broad Research Agenda

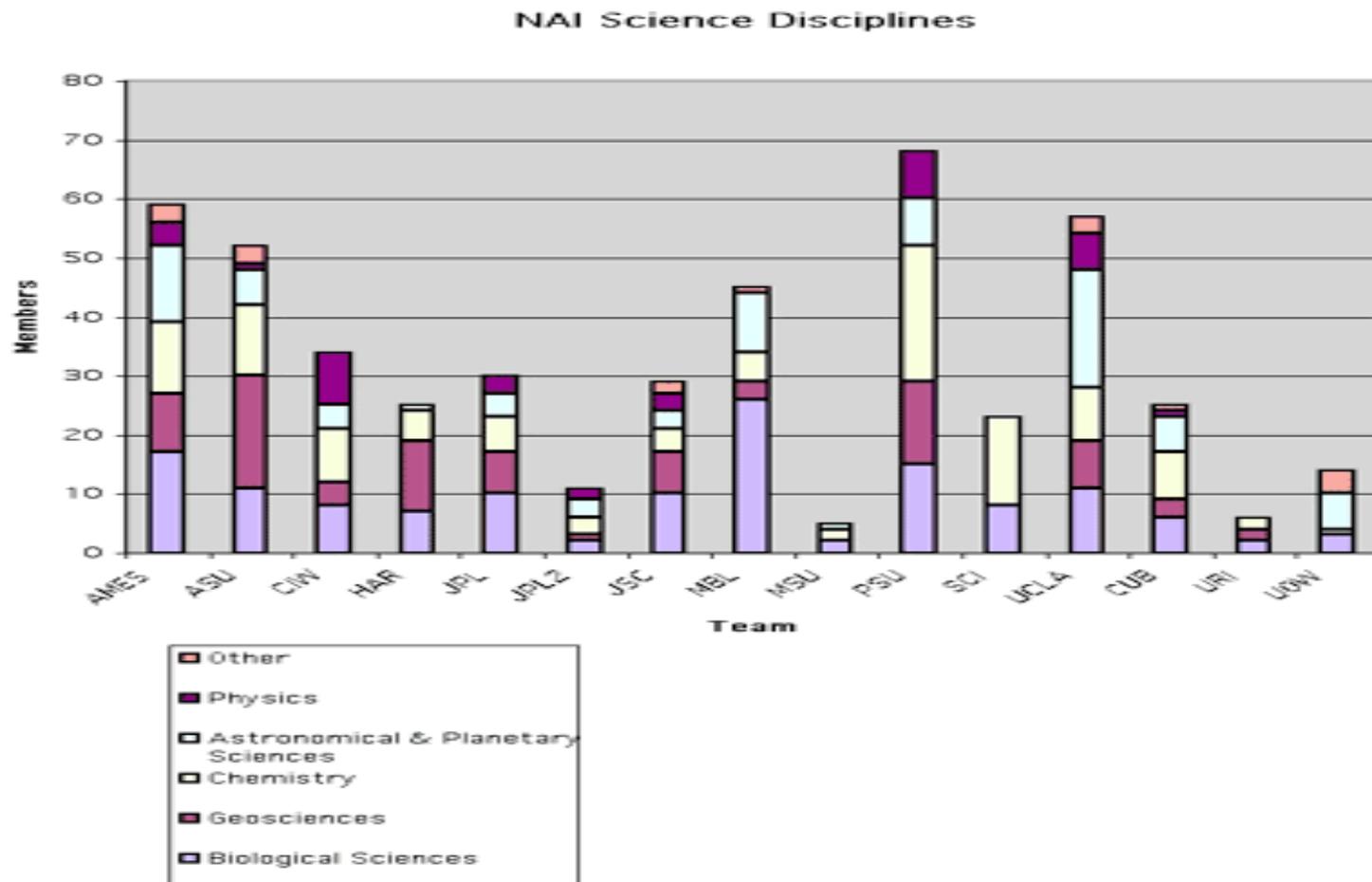
- **Research Foci**



Includes many types of science



Astrobiology: Engages Multiple Disciplines

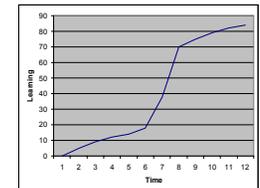


The Social Challenges of Virtual Collaboration

- Differences of language
- Time pressure
- Uneven access to collaborative opportunities
- Degree of common interests/goals/purpose
- In-Group/Out-Group perceptions
- Intellectual property and attribution issues
- Continuum of Enthusiasm



- Learning curve regarding shared knowledge



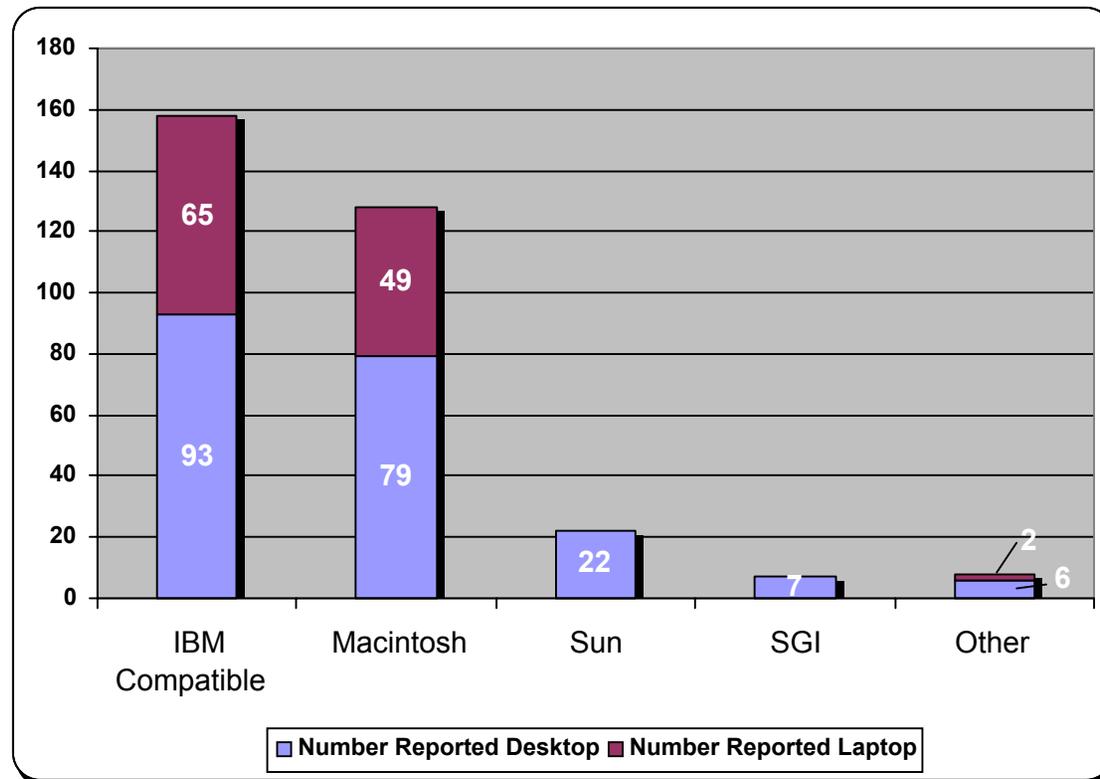
NAI Today

- **700+ Members**
- **14 Lead Sites**
- **15 Lead Teams**
- **100+ Collaborating Sites**
- **NAI Central**
- **International Associates and Affiliates**
- **In active relationship with larger astrobiology community**



Hardware Platform

- Among survey respondents - nearly half Macs (128 out of 323)



Uneven IT Support at Local Institutions

- One-fourth of respondents to survey have only peer or no support (43 out of 160)

