

Summary of proposed guidelines

1. Request new terms as needed to qualify how the gene product is involved in the downstream process in preference to annotating to the downstream process term
2. For small scale experiments, curators should annotate to the experimental evidence in the paper (using their judgement on (i) what is known about the gene product (ii) experimental methods used)
3. If a gene product has limited experimental literature, such as a newly characterised protein, it is acceptable to annotate to more general 'downstream' process terms that may represent a phenotype
4. We would like to provide annotators with a diagram summarising the downstream annotations which can be made to components of signaling pathways

Outstanding issues

1. What is the process term for a specific transcription factor – ACTION: transcription ontology revision
2. Define start and end of signaling processes – ACTION: signaling working group
3. Some MODs keep legacy annotations, some prefer to remove them – is this a problem?
4. Form a working group to look into phenotype/development/IMP issues