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FiberNet, the North American Research Coordination Network for Biological Fiber Diffraction: Progress Report. Gerald Stubbs¹, Thomas C. Irving², ¹Dept. of Biological Sciences and Center for Structural Biology, Vanderbilt Univ., Nashville, TN 37235, ²BioCAT, Illinois Inst. of Technology, Chicago, IL 60616.

In 2003, a network was established to coordinate biological fiber diffraction activities in the USA. The goal of the network is to develop fiber diffraction methods through software development and a series of retreats and workshops. Software development is largely in the hands of a full-time programmer, working closely with the British fiber diffraction organization CCP13. Major foci of the network are cooperation between fiber diffraction groups in the USA and elsewhere, and the coordinated use of the BioCAT facility at the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago. Meetings will include retreats that continue the spirit of the State Park meetings held since 1989, workshops at BioCAT, and sponsorship of sessions organized by the Fiber Diffraction SIG of the ACA. The first sponsored SIG session was held in 2003, and the first BioCAT workshop in 2004. The network is formally known as Research Coordination Network: Fiber Diffraction from Biological Polymers and Assemblies, and informally as FiberNet. It can be contacted at www.fiberdiffraction.org. FiberNet is supported by the National Science Foundation's Division of Molecular and Cellular Bioscience, through grant MCB-0234001.