i2b2 Cell Messaging Basics

All cells in the **i2b2 hive** communicate using standard, pre-defined *i2b2 XML request* and *response messages*.
A ***request message*** is sent from a client to a service and contains information inside the top level *<request>* tag that allows the service to satisfy the request. The *<request>* tag contains a *<message_header>*, *<request_header>* and *<message_body>*.
The service sends back a ***response message***, inside a top-level *<response>* tag, which informs the client about the status of the request and may also contain the actual results. The *<response>* tag contains its own *<message_header>*, *<response_header>* and *<message_body>* and it may optionally echo the request's *<request_header>*.
The following image illustrates the basic top-level elements contained within the request and response messages.