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volume 6. issue 1. winter 2003

# Phil Bourne & Michael Gribskov

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Dear Members:

2002 was a year in which the Society underwent major change in which it established itself as a professional body. In part through the appointment of an Executive Officer and office staff, and in part in how it represented our science worldwide. More scientists recognized what the Society does and what it has the potential to do. This recognition is important moving forward. Equally important will be to solidify a number of new initiatives: the Affiliated Regional Groups program, our membership in FASEB, a growing ISMB conference, our relationship to *Bioinformatics* and other journals, an expanded Web site, etc.



With greater recognition comes greater responsibility to do right by our members and our science. Members must be involved in all matters of importance to our science and be sure that the Society reflects your collective views. Clearly you want to be involved. Membership grew 23 percent this past year to 1700 and ISMB 2003 had over 1500 attendees, the most ever. It is gratifying to step down under these circumstances.

On a personal note, I would close by saying that because of my role I was able to travel to a variety of places and meet many more of you than I would have otherwise. This alone made the job worthwhile. It also made me realize that with a relatively low cost of entry, bioinformatics is being done everywhere worldwide. The Society needs to continually realize this. With that said, all that remains is to welcome and leave you in the capable hands of the new ISCB President, Michael Gribskov and the Executive Committee. Thank you one and all for your support of the Society.

*The ISCB welcomes Michael Gribskov as its new President*

As the new president of the ISCB, I want to first express my thanks to our immediate-past President, Phil Bourne, and the ISCB staff for having done a tremendous job over the last year in putting the society on a more business-like footing. The ISCB has experienced huge growth, and the new structures that have been put in place, while possibly not glamorous, have provided the necessary foundation both for continued growth and for improved service to the Society's members.



Looking forward, the Society faces both challenges and opportunities. With our growth has come increasing recognition; on the part of policy-makers, who have requested our input on funding issues; on the part of universities who are considering founding bioinformatics or computational biology training programs; and on the part of scientists, searching for help in advancing science in their region and specialty. We also face great challenges in building a truly international society—one that brings together scientists from around the world, not just from the U.S. and Europe.

The ISCB is still a young society. I ask you, the members, to spend a few minutes thinking about what you would like the society to be, to think about what projects we should take on, and to consider where we can make a positive impact. And then speak up! New ideas, new hands, and enthusiasm are needed at all levels, and I, the board of directors, and the ISCB staff look forward to working with you over the years ahead.

## ISCB EXPANDS INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Over the past year, the ISCB's Affiliated Regional Groups program has grown to include 13 affiliates in 10 countries over 4 continents, with more groups set to join in the next few months. The program, described in the Summer 2002 issue of the ISCB newsletter, is a means of creating and strengthening partnerships with regionally based bioinformatics groups throughout the world.

To emphasize the international aspect of the ISCB, the Board of Directors decided that developing an Affiliated Regional Groups program would create a structure of mutual recognition and support in the best interest of members from each group.

"We knew it was important that the ISCB become as wide-ranging as possible to further our mission to support an increased understanding of our science through communication and meetings," said 2002 ISCB President Phil Bourne. Toward that end, the ISCB regularly sends announcements and newsletters to the designated contacts of each Affiliated Regional Group. Those

contacts then pass along the announcements to their memberships, establishing a method for global communication of news and issues in the field of bioinformatics.

ISCB Vice President Anna Tramontano implemented the initiative to form the Affiliated Regional Groups program. "As the first female Vice President of the ISCB, I was pleased to be asked to take on this vital role toward community development," she said. One of the benefits she recommended was that affiliates be invited to submit nominees from within their membership for ISCB Board of Director seats. Another initiative advocated by Tramontano was to allow Affiliated Regional Groups to apply for conference support from the ISCB. "Although our finances are primarily tied to matters directly involved with our Society and its membership, we have earmarked limited funds toward external conference support, and that includes our affiliates," she said.

Student travel fellowships have also attracted potential affiliates to the ISCB. This

year, the ISCB provided US\$5,000.00 in student travel fellowships to the European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB), which was jointly organized in 2002 with the German Conference on Bioinformatics (GCB). The GCB is the German Informatics Society's (GI; see [www.gi-ev.de](http://www.gi-ev.de)) version of ISMB and in December, the GI became the ISCB's newest affiliate.

Two other new affiliates for the ISCB are the Vancouver Bioinformatics Users Group (VanBUG; see [www.vanbug.org](http://www.vanbug.org)) and the African Bioinformatics Network (ABioNet; see [www.abionet.org](http://www.abionet.org)). Both groups, formed in 2002, already have set up ambitious goals and plans for meeting them.

The ISCB is looking forward to interacting with the three new Affiliated Regional Groups in 2003, as well as furthering the Society's relationship with all affiliates worldwide. For more information on affiliation criteria and benefits, please visit [www.iscb.org/affiliates.shtml](http://www.iscb.org/affiliates.shtml), or write to [admin@iscb.org](mailto:admin@iscb.org).

## 2003 NEW MEMBER CAMPAIGN—REFERRAL INCENTIVE

It is amazing how quickly a year goes by. If it is true that time flies when one is having fun, then it is the ISCB's sincere hope that the past year has been among the best of times for its members, their friends, colleagues, family, and loved ones.

This message comes from the ISCB directors and staff, who kicked off 2003 by partnering with the ISCB members for the 2003 membership drive. To encourage members to take action, ISCB has introduced a *New Member Campaign* designed to benefit both returning and new members. Members are encouraged to visit the online membership registration and renewal

form ([www.iscb.org/membership.shtml](http://www.iscb.org/membership.shtml)) which now includes the field "Referred by ISCB Member" and works as follows:

- For every five NEW members who enter a referring member's name in this field, the referring member will be awarded a complimentary ISCB membership for 2004. (A new member is anyone who has never been a member or has not renewed a previous membership since 1998.)
- The top ten members listed most often by new members will be entered in a drawing at the end of the 2003 membership year for two complimentary conference registrations to ISMB 2004.

- One for the referring member.
- The other for a drawing among all the new members referred by that member.

Past members are encouraged to renew soon to continue their benefits as well as allow their friends and colleagues to list their ISCB membership referral. Whether new or returning to the ISCB, any member may take immediate advantage of all the benefits an ISCB membership brings. Remember, even new members can be the source of referrals. So spread the word!



## ISCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS INTRODUCES

*The ISCB Board of Directors is pleased to introduce the newly elected Officers who will serve as the senior leadership of the Board on the Society's Executive Committee (EC) for the next two years. Of course, these introductions are not really new, as all four of these individuals have served on the EC this past year. But their election to a second term, and Michael Gribskov's rise from Vice President to President, is worthy of celebration for the membership of ISCB, indicating a strong vote of confidence based on successful new initiatives and developments over the past 12 months.*

*To take on an EC role within the ISCB is no small commitment. It requires hours of volunteer leadership dedicated to advancing computational biology through the ever-growing activities and interactions of the Society. Furthermore, the ISCB bylaws require that each Officer have served on the Board of Directors for a minimum of one year prior to becoming an EC member. Each of these individuals, like their counterparts on the ISCB Board of Directors, has been giving of their time, expertise, and guidance for years.*

*As each of the new Officers heads into a new two-year term, below is a glimpse of who they are and what they would like to accomplish.*



**MICHAEL GRIBSKOV, PH.D.**  
ISCB PRESIDENT  
ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY  
OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

An ISCB member since 1997, Michael Gribskov has served on the Board of Directors and conferences committee since 1999, becoming co-chair in 2000. Since then, he also took on co-chairmanship of the education committee in 2002, and became ISCB Vice President that same year.

"I have watched ISCB grow from a small group of only a few hundred to a medium sized society. I am familiar with the structure of the society, with its issues, and with many of the personalities involved," said Gribskov. "My personal experience comes from running a moderately large research

group of 8-12 people, with many of our projects being collaborative in nature and involving meeting the bioinformatics needs of various experimental consortia. This combination of ISCB and personal experience should help me undertake the daunting task of ISCB president."

In a relatively short time period Gribskov has witnessed computational biology go from a relatively obscure and very specialized discipline, to one that is widely touted as essential to further advances in biology, biotechnology, human health, and treatment of disease. Simultaneously, the ISCB has experienced extraordinary expansion, growing to nearly two thousand in a matter of five years. Although it may not be apparent to the general membership, Gribskov acknowledges that accommodating this growth has required a huge effort to put the ISCB on a more professional footing. He believes that due to both ongoing and recent efforts of the board of directors, officers, and staff a structure now exists that should scale with the demands of a growing membership.

"It is time, therefore, to rededicate ourselves to our original purpose in forming a society," Gribskov said. "We must ask ourselves, what can ISCB do for its members, and more importantly, what can ISCB do to advance science? Our impact must be felt in many areas: we must work to inform and affect government policy, we must provide better resources for instruction and for the

implementation of training programs, we must continue to support scientific meetings of the highest quality, and we must continue to support and nurture new ideas and approaches to science." He believes there are many issues that must be dealt with while the Society struggles to achieve these goals, and asks, "How do we keep ISCB a truly international society, how do we help promote the growth of computational biology in less developed regions of the world, how do we develop bridges between the increasingly fractured sub-disciplines of computational biology, and how can we make ISCB more responsive to the needs and issues of its members?"

Finding answers to these questions, and implementing plans and actions to address them will certainly keep the new President of ISCB busy during the course of his term.

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## NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS



**ANNA TRAMONTANO, PH.D.**  
**ISCB VICE PRESIDENT**  
**PROFESSOR OF BIOCHEMISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF ROME "LA SAPIENZA"**

For the last year Anna Tramontano has served as the first female Vice President of the ISCB, a role that this election cycle has lengthened for another two years. Meanwhile she continues working as Director of the Master in Bioinformatics of the University of Rome, coordinator of the Bioinformatics group of the Italian Biochemical Society, member of the EMBO course and workshop Committee, and was recently appointed co-organizer of Critical Assessment of Protein Structure Prediction (CASP). Her career track also includes ten years as both a scientific director and an information technology and research information systems senior manager at a pharmaceutical company.

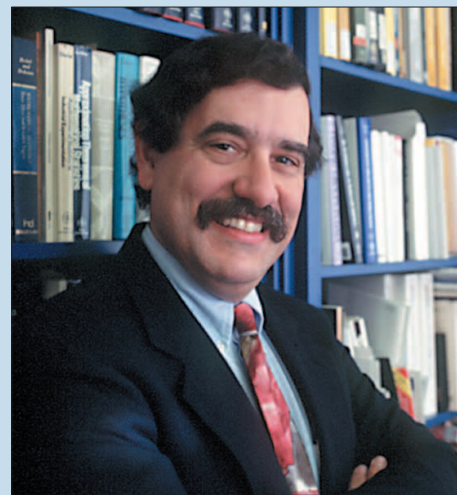
When asked about important issues facing the ISCB in the years ahead, Tramontano said, "I think that the work started with the Affiliated Regional Groups should go further and be pursued more proactively. We have collected information on several new and forming groups, and the next step should be to convince these groups, many of which are still rather unstructured, to contribute more effectively to the life of the Society for the betterment of the science beyond their individual regions." As she

heads the Affiliated Regional Group effort, it is expected to see excellent progress in this area.

Tramontano also feels very strongly that the structure of the Society, especially with respect to its committees, needs some rethinking. "The role of each committee should be regularly reevaluated," she said. "There should be a mechanism in place to allow all interested and willing members to contribute to them." Several members of the Board and many individual ISCB members have repeated these sentiments, and the Society's staff is working now with committee chairs to put the wheels in motion for more purposeful and better functioning committee structures.

From a personal perspective, Tramontano would like to help ISCB try harder to have an impact on European funding in bioinformatics. "As for Europe, I started to discuss the issue of a possible cooperation between ISCB and EMBO, with promising preliminary results." At the same time, and although she acknowledges it may be more difficult than on other continents, Tramontano encourages the ISCB to take advantage of existing European federations of societies and try to lobby with them, just as has recently begun within the USA by becoming an associate member of FASEB.

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**DAVID M. ROCKE, PH.D.**  
**ISCB TREASURER**  
**PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS**

David Rocke has spent 25 years teaching statistics and management science at the University of California, Davis (UCD). Through teaching, seminars, and some formal course work, he acquired a working knowledge of the basic business disciplines, including finance, accounting, and management information systems. He currently manages a research center with a three million budget in the College of Engineering and the School of Medicine at UCD. Rocke has also served as ISCB Treasurer for one year, becoming familiar with the financial issues facing the Society, and ready to continue his efforts for this next two year term.

His vision is simple: "The ISCB needs to grow to accommodate growth in the field, needs to adopt new programs, and needs to develop into a fully-professional organization with steady financial planning." Rocke is committed to spending more time with the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, spearheading long-range, strategic issues so that ISCB can move in the desired direction with as little disruption as possible.

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## ISCB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**BARBARA M. BRYANT, PH.D.**  
ISCB SECRETARY  
MILLENNIUM PHARMACEUTICALS

Serving on the ISCB Board of Directors since 2000, and as ISCB Secretary since 2002, Barbara Bryant continues to bring a myriad of both professional and volunteer leadership skills to the Executive Committee. Since 1995 she has held management positions at Millennium Pharmaceuticals, and volunteer positions in community organizations, such as serving as President of the Cambridgeport Children's Center for four years, including holding the offices of President and Vice President. Bryant said, "My style is to ask questions, listen, look for synergies, and integrate ideas, using techniques acquired from formal training in mediation."

Bryant sees major issues facing the ISCB as continuing to improve the quality of the Society-associated journals, conferences, and education at the intersection of life sciences and computation, taking advantage of opportunities to influence governments throughout the world, and determining and acting on our responsibilities as scientists and engineers to society as a whole. Although not intending to accomplish this alone, she embraces her role as ISCB Secretary as one involving communication on behalf of the Society, both within the

Board of Directors and through membership outreach.

Additionally, Bryant has taken a first step in the issue of funding by becoming the ISCB representative to the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) Board of Directors and Public Affairs Committee. She believes the broad funding effort can be further augmented by ISCB's active recruitment of non-U.S. members into the society, onto the Board of Directors, and onto the Executive Committee to help "identify means of influencing and informing governments and public decision-makers outside of the United States." Bryant further points out, "In the United States and elsewhere, government research funds are shifting to defense against bioterrorism. How does this change affect our field? ISCB should be a voice advocating responsible allocation of funds across scientific endeavors." One of many solutions she suggests is that the Society create forums for Members to discuss and formulate recommendations that can be taken to policy makers by the newly formed ISCB Government Relations Committee.

Like ISCB Vice President Tramontano, Bryant advocates active and functional Education, Conferences, Publications and Government Relations Committees that involve more Society members in their discussion and recommendation processes. Specifically, she would like to see the Education Committee pursue opportunities currently under discussion to create resources for educational institutions and students.

Finally, Bryant is an advocate for appropriate public access to code, data and scientific analyses (literature), and would like the ISCB to provide information and support for researchers who wish to share their work. She encourages the Society to investigate legal issues relating to Intellectual Property and make recommendations to lawmakers and institutions for solutions

that benefit the advancement of knowledge.

On a lighter note, Bryant promises "to continue my campaign to make Orienteering the official sport of the Society!" And if you know anything about Orienteering, all of the above is comparable to one big course, with each of the Officers, Directors, and Society members participating in reaching the final destination with the tasks of greatest value completed. An important element of Orienteering is that the participants have fun, so the ISCB Board of Directors encourages each and every member to fully enjoy the features and benefits of membership, while gaining valuable support and resources in the process.

CONTACT: [Barb.Bryant@mpi.com](mailto:Barb.Bryant@mpi.com)

The first European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB) took place in Saarbrücken, Germany, October 8-10, 2002. As a new international conference in the ever-widening circuit of bioinformatics meetings, ECCB was proud to host 459 attendees representing 30 countries around the globe. In his opening address, Thomas Lengauer, former ISCB vice president and ECCB 2002 conference chair said, "I think it can be safely said that the ECCB conference series stands on firm ground."

The idea for holding a European conference originated with Martin Vingron, who believed that each of the European national conferences could be elevated to become the ECCB on a rotational basis, drawing increased attention and attendance. "Some of the national conferences are already quite large and interesting, such as the Nordic countries, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and others in Italy and Spain are growing fast," said Alfonso Valencia, ISCB board member. "From political and scientific points of view it is clear that this will increase the visibility of the area and improve the quality of the national conferences." ECCB 2002 was a merged effort of the annual German Conference on Bioinformatics. The French Conference on Computational Biology, known as JOBIM, will rise to the occasion of hosting ECCB in Paris, September 27-30, 2003. In all cases, the official language of the ECCB conference series will be English, which is a break from tradition for some of the national conferences involved.

Promising to illuminate many different corners of this field, the three-day conference program featured 26 talks selected from 83 paper submissions, and eight internationally renowned invited speakers who presented



ISCB Travel Fellowship Recipients and Executive Officer (clockwise from far left): Mallika Veeramalai, Sivakumar Kannan, Markus Wistrand, BJ Morrison McKay, Ming Chen, Einat Sitbon, Bin Hu, B.V.L.S. Prasad, Laszlo Kajan, (not pictured: Englebert Mephu Nguifo)

the state of the art in their fields of research. As Lengauer said, "Some of them are computational biologists. Others are biologists that provide the experimental groundwork for computational biology research. In short, computational biology is a wide and interdisciplinary field." In addition, 190 posters reflecting the current state of ongoing projects were available for all attendees to view throughout the conference.

ISCB board members Søren Brunak and Alfonso Valencia were among the session chairs, and ISCB President, Philip Bourne, presented a paper. Both Bourne and ISCB Executive Officer, BJ Morrison McKay, addressed the group with information and updates about our Society's continued membership growth, new initiatives, and interactions with affiliated groups and conferences worldwide. McKay also had the pleasure of distributing nine travel fellowships from ISCB to member students from around the globe to help make it possible

for them to attend ECCB.

Discussions are now underway to share ideas of how ISCB and ECCB can further support one another's efforts. As a stated goal of the ISCB is "to increase understanding of the significance of our endeavor in the larger scientific community, government, and the public at large," increased interactions with affiliated regional groups and conferences in all regions of the world will certainly help to advance that goal on a truly international scale. Not only is it certain that ECCB stands on firm ground, but computational biology is firmly planted as a scientific discipline, and the more the Society can all contribute to its awareness, the stronger we will grow as a scientific community. The ISCB is pleased to have participated in this new European conference series, and hope to continue to play a part as it flourishes in the years ahead.



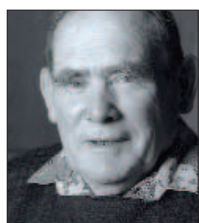
## NOTABLE FIGURES TO SPEAK AT ISMB 2003

Some of the foremost researchers in computational biology, including Nobel Laureate Sydney Brenner, will deliver keynote addresses at ISMB, being held in Brisbane, Australia, June 29-July 3, 2003. The keynote speeches are a highlight of this year's exciting program.

The speakers will cover fundamental developments in computational biology, cutting-edge research, and technological innovations.

### Keynote speakers include:

**SYDNEY BRENNER, FOUNDER OF THE**



**MOLECULAR SCIENCES INSTITUTE AND DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH PROFESSOR, SALK INSTITUTE.** Brenner is one of the leading pioneers of genetics and molecular biology and

shared the 2002 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with John Sulston of the Sanger Center at Cambridge University and H. Robert Horvitz of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Among his many notable discoveries, Brenner established the existence of messenger RNA. His research with *Caenorhabditis elegans* garnered insights into aging, nerve cell function, and apoptosis. Most recently, Brenner has been studying vertebrate gene and genome evolution. His work in this area has resulted in new ways of analyzing gene sequences, which has resulted in a new understanding of the evolution of vertebrates. More about Brenner can be found at [www.molsci.org](http://www.molsci.org).

**DAVID HAUSSLER, HOWARD HUGHES**



**MEDICAL INSTITUTE INVESTIGATOR AND PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ.** Haussler's research interests

include: genomics, bioinformatics, machine learning, statistical decision theory, pattern

recognition, neural networks, algorithms, and complexity. He is a fellow of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is a past chairman of the Steering Committee for the Computational Learning Theory Conferences, an associate editor for the *Journal of Computational Biology*, and was an action editor for the journal *Machine Learning*. More about Haussler can be found at [www.cse.ucsc.edu/~haussler](http://www.cse.ucsc.edu/~haussler).

**JOHN MATTICK, CO-DIRECTOR OF THE**



**INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOSCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND.** Mattick's work covers an interest in genomes and what new understandings can

be uncovered from the genomes of organisms that have been completely sequenced. He studies bacterial genomes and higher organisms, specifically their introns. Currently he is investigating alternative splicing and editing of genes and how introns play a part in this process. More about Mattick's work can be found at [www.imb.uq.edu.au](http://www.imb.uq.edu.au).

**RON SHAMIR, PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER**



**SCIENCE, TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY.** Shamir's fields of interest include bioinformatics, graph algorithms, and optimization. Along with teaching a number of courses, Shamir serves

on a number of editorial boards. Some current projects in Shamir's group include clustering gene expression data, computational tools for analysis of genetic networks and pathways, designing degenerate primers, and novel applications of DNA chips. More about Shamir can be found at [www.math.tau.ac.il/~rshamir](http://www.math.tau.ac.il/~rshamir).

**MICHAEL WATERMAN, PROFESSOR OF**



**MATHEMATICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.**

Waterman's work focuses on the creation

and application of mathematics, statistics and computer science to molecular biology, particularly to DNA, RNA, and protein sequence data. He is the co-developer of the Smith-Waterman algorithm for sequence comparison and of the Lander-Waterman formula for physical mapping. He is a founding editor of *Journal of Computational Biology*, on the editorial board of seven journals, and author of the text *Introduction to Computational Biology: Maps, Sequences and Genomes*. More about Waterman's work can be found at [www-hto.usc.edu/people/Waterman.html](http://www-hto.usc.edu/people/Waterman.html).

**YOSHIHIDE HAYASHIZAKI, PROJECT DIRECTOR OF THE GENOME**



**EXPLORATION RESEARCH GROUP, GENOMIC SCIENCES CENTER, RIKEN.**

Hayashizaki's research has covered a number of areas in genetic

research, most notably the establishment of a Mouse Genome Encyclopedia at RIKEN. From 1990 to 1992, he worked at the National Cardiovascular Center Research Institute in Osaka, where he developed the Restriction Landmark Genome Scanning System. In 1995, Hayashizaki was appointed Project Director of the Mouse Encyclopedia Project. Hayashizaki currently leads a research group that is working on analyzing gene transcriptional networks using the Mouse Genome Encyclopedia. More about Hayashizaki can be found at [www.gsc.riken.go.jp/el/group/thegenomeE.html](http://www.gsc.riken.go.jp/el/group/thegenomeE.html).

More about ISMB 2003 can be found at [www.iscb.org/ismb2003/index.shtml](http://www.iscb.org/ismb2003/index.shtml).



## ISCB GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

# FASEB

### THE ISCB JOINS FASEB AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER

In December of 2002 the Board of Directors of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) unanimously approved ISCB's application for associate membership in their 90-year-old organization. This was considered great news by the ISCB board of directors, as the Society extends its circle of influence through interactions among other member organizations sharing similar goals and needs.

FASEB is comprised of 21 societies with more than 60,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations based in the United States. FASEB's mission is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve—through their research—the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB serves the interests of these scientists in those areas related to public policy, facilitates coalition activities among Member Societies and disseminates information on biological research through scientific conferences and publications.

"This is a perfect match and we really look forward to working with the ISCB folks," enthused FASEB's Executive Director, Sidney Golub. "Discussions about ISCB's possible membership in FASEB began over a year ago and I'm pleased we are finally welcoming the Society as our newest member." ISCB past Presidents Phil Bourne and Russ Altman, who initiated those early conversations at the direction of the ISCB Board of Directors, echoed Golub's sentiments.

ISCB Secretary, Barbara Bryant, attended the FASEB board meeting in representation of the Society, giving a presentation about ISCB to augment the application that was reviewed by FASEB's membership committee prior to their making a recommendation of membership to

the board. "One of the FASEB meetings I went to while there was about U.S. federal funding," said Bryant. "FASEB has subcommittees that make recommendations for funding each of the federal agencies of relevance to experimental biologists, including the NIH, NSF, USDA, DOE, VA, and NASA. The board then gives feedback and votes on accepting these as the official FASEB recommendations."

# FASEB

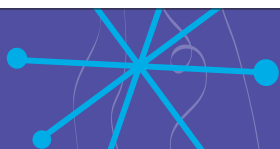
As much as ISCB's motivation to join FASEB was motivated by this ability to have a voice in U.S. federal funding and public policy, an equally important factor was their representation of other international societies with global membership issues and needs. Among such international groups are The Biophysical Society, The Protein Society, The Endocrine Society, the Society for Developmental Biology, and Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities. ISCB is pleased to become an associate member of FASEB, and collaborate with these and all other member societies toward the advancement of experimental biology for the greater public good.

### ABioNet ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE

The African Bioinformatics Network (ABioNet; see [www.abionet.org](http://www.abionet.org)) represents several African countries that have begun developing bioinformatics expertise. The organisation is supported by an initial founding grant from the World Health Organisation (WHO). ABioNet was formed in February 2002 during the Regional Training Course on Bioinformatics Applied to Tropical Diseases in Africa—an initiative of WHO/TDR in collaboration with the South African National Bioinformatics Institute.

ABioNet seeks to develop the application of bioinformatics in Africa while promoting the growth of bioinformatics awareness, training, education, infrastructure, resources, and research while continuously working in collaboration with similar international organizations and groups.

ABioNet hopes to spearhead bioinformatics initiatives in Africa by collaborating with international organizations and creating opportunities for African scientists to bring their citizens greatly improved care and modern methods in the much more immediate future.



## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

### **DIMACS SPECIAL FOCUS ON COMPUTATIONAL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**

DATE: September 2000-August 2003  
UPCOMING: Protein Domains: Identification, Classification and Evolution Dates: *February 27-28, 2003*; DIMACS Center, New Jersey, USA  
URL: [dimacs.rutgers.edu/Workshops/index-compmolecbiol.html](http://dimacs.rutgers.edu/Workshops/index-compmolecbiol.html)

### **O'REILLY BIOINFORMATICS TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE**

DATE: February 3-6, 2003  
LOCATION: San Diego, California, USA  
URL: [conferences.oreilly.com/biocon/](http://conferences.oreilly.com/biocon/)  
ABOUT: Lincoln Stein returns to keynote the O'Reilly Bioinformatics Technology Conference to discuss the challenges of bringing bioinformatics into the biological mainstream, and to chart a course for the future of bioinformatics.

### **FIRST ASIA-PACIFIC BIOINFORMATICS CONFERENCE WITHIN AUSTRALIA**

DATE: February 4-7, 2003  
LOCATION: Adelaide, AUSTRALIA  
URL: [www.fit.qut.edu.au/~chenp/APBC2003](http://www.fit.qut.edu.au/~chenp/APBC2003)  
ABOUT: Opportunities are emerging to integrate molecular biology components of bioinformatics with computational, physiological, morphological, taxonomic, and ecological components. Addressing this challenge will facilitate the way life science researches retrieve, analyze and visualize data and relationships in a collaborative work environment.  
CONTACT: [p.chen@qut.edu.au](mailto:p.chen@qut.edu.au)

### **NEW ZEALAND BIOINFORMATICS CONFERENCE**

DATE: February 13-14, 2003  
LOCATION: Wellington, NEW ZEALAND  
URL: [bioconf.otago.ac.nz](http://bioconf.otago.ac.nz)  
ABOUT: Workshops will cater to biologists and computer scientists. Series of seminars focus on microarray analysis, phylogenetics and protein structure and function prediction.

### **COMPUTATIONAL METHODS IN SYSTEMS BIOLOGY—UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO**

DATE: February 24-26, 2003  
LOCATION: Rovereto, ITALY  
URL: [www.unitn.it/convegni/cmsb.htm](http://www.unitn.it/convegni/cmsb.htm)  
ABOUT: Focus on how biological molecules in living systems participate in very complex networks.

### **ACM SYMPOSIUM ON APPLIED COMPUTING—BIOINFORMATICS TRACK**

DATE: March 9-12, 2003  
LOCATION: Melbourne, Florida, USA  
URL: [www.cs.iupui.edu/~bioin/](http://www.cs.iupui.edu/~bioin/)  
ABOUT: The biomedical information science & technology initiative report identifies the need for computational tools to meet important challenges in biomedical research. This track will address research issues related to bioinformatics.

### **3RD IEEE SYMPOSIUM ON BIOINFORMATICS AND BIOENGINEERING (BIBE 2003)**

DATE: March 10-12, 2003  
LOCATION: Washington DC Area, USA  
URL: [www.cs.msstate.edu/~bibel/](http://www.cs.msstate.edu/~bibel/)  
ABOUT: Symposium will provide a common platform for the cross fertilization of ideas, and to help shape knowledge and scientific achievements by bridging bioinformatics and bioengineering in an interactive and attractive forum.

### **IBC'S DRUG DISCOVERY TECHNOLOGY 2003**

DATE: March 31-April 3, 2003  
LOCATION: Stuttgart, GERMANY  
URL: [www.drugdisc.com/europe](http://www.drugdisc.com/europe)  
ABOUT: Join peers and leading industry experts for 4 intensive days of innovative conference programming addressing the business, IT and science of Drug Discovery.

### **COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO GAUSSIAN: THEORY AND PRACTICE**

DATE: April 1-4, 2003  
LOCATION: Ulm, GERMANY  
URL: [www.uni-ulm.de/coe/comingevents.html](http://www.uni-ulm.de/coe/comingevents.html)  
ABOUT: Workshops will cover the full range of methods available in the Gaussian package with emphasis on new methods and features.

### **RECOMB 2003**

DATE: April 10-13, 2003  
LOCATION: Berlin, GERMANY  
URL: [www.ctw-congress.de/recomb](http://www.ctw-congress.de/recomb)  
ABOUT: RECOMB Conference series was founded in 1997 to provide a scientific forum for theoretical advances in computational biology and their applications in molecular biology and medicine. The conference series aims at attracting research contributions in all areas of computational molecular biology.

### **WORKSHOP: KERNEL METHODS IN COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY**

DATE: April 14, 2003  
LOCATION: Harnack-Haus, Berlin, GERMANY  
URL: [cg.ensmp.fr/~vert/kmb03](http://cg.ensmp.fr/~vert/kmb03)  
ABOUT: One-day workshop to review the state-of-the-art in the application of kernel methods to biology in order to highlight promising research directions, and to foster communication between the computational biology and machine learning communities.

### **HiCOMB 2003**

DATE: April 22, 2003  
LOCATION: Nice, FRANCE  
URL: [hpc.eece.unm.edu/HiCOMB/](http://hpc.eece.unm.edu/HiCOMB/)  
ABOUT: The goal of the 2nd International Workshop On High Performance Computational Biology is to provide a forum for discussion of latest research in developing high-performance computing solutions to problems arising from molecular biology.

### **IMIA WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION**

DATE: April 23-25, 2003  
LOCATION: Portland, Oregon, USA  
URL: [www.ohsu.edu/bicc-informatics/imiawged](http://www.ohsu.edu/bicc-informatics/imiawged)  
ABOUT: Teach Globally, Learn Locally: Innovations in Health and Biomedical Informatics Education in the 21st Century.  
CONTACT: [hersh@ohsu.edu](mailto:hersh@ohsu.edu), [gormanp@ohsu.edu](mailto:gormanp@ohsu.edu), [sacherek@ohsu.edu](mailto:sacherek@ohsu.edu)

### **BioMED 2003**

DATE: June 25-27, 2003  
LOCATION: Salzburg, AUSTRIA  
URL: [www.iasted.org/conferences/2003/salzburg/bio-med.htm](http://www.iasted.org/conferences/2003/salzburg/bio-med.htm)  
ABOUT: Sponsored by the Int'l Assoc of Science and Technology for Development Technical Committee on Biomedical Engineering.  
CONTACT: [calgary@iasted.com](mailto:calgary@iasted.com)

### **ISMB 2003**

DATE: June 29-July 3, 2003  
LOCATION: Brisbane, AUSTRALIA  
URL: [www.iscb.org/ismb2003/index.shtml](http://www.iscb.org/ismb2003/index.shtml)  
ABOUT: Covers the development and application of advanced computational and informatic methods to address leading-edge problems in modern biological sciences and biotechnology.

#### 15TH EDITION LIPARI SUMMER SCHOOL

DATE: July 13-26, 2003

LOCATION: Lipari, ITALY

URL: [lipari.cs.unict.it](http://lipari.cs.unict.it)

ABOUT: 15th ed. of the Int'l School for computer science researchers will focus on algorithmics for data mining and pattern discovery.

CONTACT: [ferro@dm.unict.it](mailto:ferro@dm.unict.it)

#### BIOThailand 2003

DATE: July 17-20, 2003

LOCATION: Bangkok, THAILAND

URL: [biothailand2003.biotech.or.th](http://biothailand2003.biotech.or.th)

ABOUT: The National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology will organize BioThailand 2003: Technology for Life featuring scientific meetings, trade show and the showcase of Thai biotechnology innovations.

CONTACT: [biothailand2003@biotech.or.th](mailto:biothailand2003@biotech.or.th)

#### 7TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL LIFE (ECAL-2003)

DATE: September 14-17, 2003

LOCATION: Dortmund, GERMANY

URL: [www.ecal2003.org](http://www.ecal2003.org)

ABOUT: Bringing together scientists and engineers from different disciplines in an attempt to investigate complex systems from the class we call living systems.

#### 2003 IEEE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON NEURAL NETWORKS FOR SIGNAL PROCESSING

DATE: September 15-17, 2003

LOCATION: Toulouse, FRANCE

URL: [isp.imm.dtu.dk/nns2003/](http://isp.imm.dtu.dk/nns2003/)

ABOUT: The special session is open to all persons working at the frontier between Bioinformatics and Signal Processing/Neural Networks and offers them the possibility of presenting and discussing recent and original work that merges the two fields.

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS

#### ABioNet ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE

URL: [abionet.sanbi.ac.za](http://abionet.sanbi.ac.za)

ABOUT: ABioNet is an organisation representing several African countries that have begun developing bioinformatics expertise.

#### UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER-DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE IN BIOCOMPUTING

URL: [pevesr.cs.man.ac.uk/bodington/opensite/bio-science/info/b3bs/mandq/](http://pevesr.cs.man.ac.uk/bodington/opensite/bio-science/info/b3bs/mandq/)

ABOUT: Slated to begin 17 March 2003, the module is an element of the full MSc in bioin-

formatics, but is also suitable as an individual course for those with programming experience.

CONTACT: [Heather.Vincent@man.ac.uk](mailto:Heather.Vincent@man.ac.uk)

#### STACKDB v3.1 RELEASED

URL: [www.eugenetics.com/db.html](http://www.eugenetics.com/db.html)

ABOUT: The STACKdb Human Gene Expression Index, provided free to academics, is now provided with a comprehensive full-length mRNA index and additional output reports containing potential alternate expression forms.

CONTACT: [support@eugenetics.com](mailto:support@eugenetics.com)

#### Journal of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (JBCB)

URL: [www.worldscinet.com/jbcb/jbcb.shtml](http://www.worldscinet.com/jbcb/jbcb.shtml)

ABOUT: New in 2003, JBCB aims to publish high quality, original research articles, expository tutorials and review papers as well as short, critical comments on technical issues associated with the analysis of cellular information and the use of such information in biomedicine.

CONTACT: [limsoon@lit.a-star.edu.sg](mailto:limsoon@lit.a-star.edu.sg),

[mli@cs.ucsb.edu](mailto:mli@cs.ucsb.edu), [jwooley@sdsu.edu](mailto:jwooley@sdsu.edu)

#### PROTONET RELEASES LATEST VERSION

URL: [www.protonet.cs.huji](http://www.protonet.cs.huji)

ABOUT: ProtoNet announces the launching of a new version of ProtoNet (v 2.1). ProtoNet provides a hierarchical classification of all Swissprot proteins.

#### NEW BOOK: LEAST SQUARES SUPPORT VECTOR MACHINES

J.A.K. Suykens, T. Van Gestel, J. De Brabanter, B. De Moor, J. Vandewalle

URL: [www.esat.kuleuven.ac.be/sista/lssvmlab](http://www.esat.kuleuven.ac.be/sista/lssvmlab)

ABOUT: Focus on Least Squares Support Vector Machines (LS-SVMs) which are reformulations to standard SVMs. LS-SVMs are closely related to regularization networks and Gaussian processes but additionally emphasize and exploit primal-dual interpretations from optimization theory.

#### NEW DISTANCE LEARNING PROFESSIONAL MASTERS PROGRAM IN BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS

URL: [smi-web.stanford.edu/academics/](http://smi-web.stanford.edu/academics/)

ABOUT: The Biomedical Informatics training program at Stanford University will offer a professional Masters degree beginning Spring 2003. The professional MS program is designed so students may remain fully employed while studying for their degree. The requirements for the degree can be filled on-line through courses delivered by the Stanford Center for Professional Development.

#### FACULTY OF 1000 WINS THE ALPSP AWARD FOR PUBLISHING INNOVATION

URL: [www.facultyof1000.com/](http://www.facultyof1000.com/)

ABOUT: The online literature evaluation service, Faculty of 1000, has been recognised by The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers as the most innovative publication of 2002.

#### ANNOUNCING CLUSTER ANALYSIS OF GENE EXPRESSION DYNAMICS (CAGED)

URL: [chip.org/caged](http://chip.org/caged)

ABOUT: Computer program for cluster analysis of gene expression data collected through microarray experiments. CAGED implements a Bayesian clustering method designed to handle temporal experiments and subsuming standard independent experiments as a special case.

#### GRADUATE PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA: SPECIALIZATION IN BIOINFORMATICS

URL: [www.cis.uab.edu](http://www.cis.uab.edu)

ABOUT: Jointly administered by computer science faculty and biomedical research faculty in the UAB Medical Center. In addition to the computer science graduate admission requirements, the specialization requires an approved background in molecular biology.

#### BIOINFORMATICS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

URL: [www.bioinformatics.bc.ca](http://www.bioinformatics.bc.ca)

ABOUT: Trans-disciplinary program (offering learning streams leading toward certificate, MS, or PhD) designed and taught by leading researchers and their institutions in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest.

CONTACT: +1-604-707-5965; [nstewart@bcgsc.ca](mailto:nstewart@bcgsc.ca)

#### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: INTL. JOURNAL OF COOPERATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

URL: [www.worldscinet.com/ijcis/mkt/guidelines.shtml](http://www.worldscinet.com/ijcis/mkt/guidelines.shtml)

ABOUT: Papers describing state-of-the research including, but not limited to, the following areas are solicited: Database integration and interoperability; Information Modeling, metadata and data sharing; Multidatabase indexing and multidatabase queries; Data semantic and control; Ontology design; Knowledge discovery and data-mining; Algorithms for large scale and distributed biological databases

To recommend a news item be included in the ISCB Newsletter, please write to [admin@iscb.org](mailto:admin@iscb.org).





[www.iscb.org](http://www.iscb.org)

## *How are We Doing?*

Please email ISCB staff at [admin@iscb.org](mailto:admin@iscb.org) with comments, questions, or concerns regarding the website ([www.iscb.org](http://www.iscb.org)), this newsletter, or any other ISCB effort. The ISCB staff aims to meet the needs of ISCB's membership—member advice helps the staff meet this objective.

The ISCB acknowledges support from the National Biomedical Computation Resource at the San Diego Supercomputer Center at the University of California, San Diego, which provides the computational infrastructure for the ISCB web site and its underlying databases.