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A NOTE FROM ISCB PRESIDENT MICHAEL GRIBSKOV

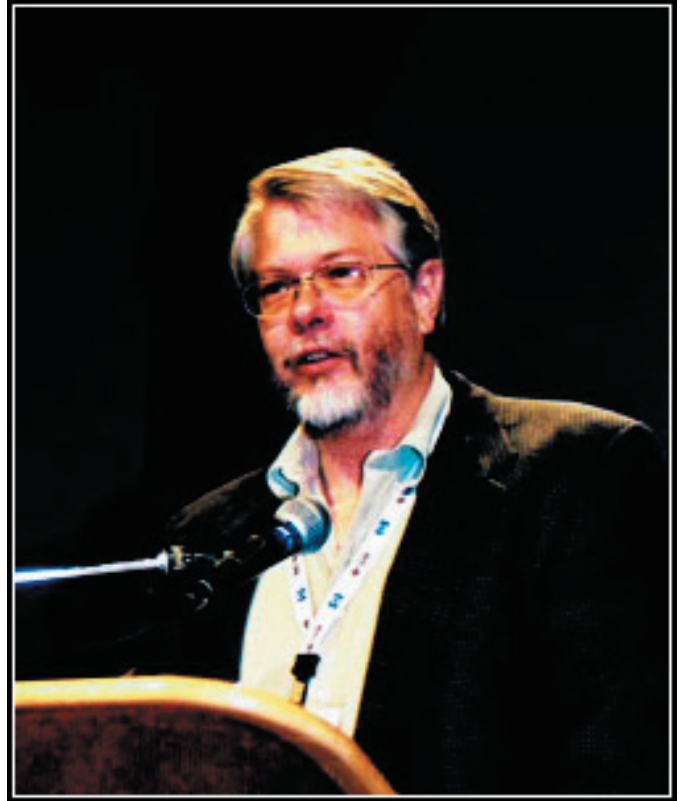
With this winter newsletter of 2004-2005 I am preparing to embark on my second term as ISCB's President. These past two years have included an equal measure of challenge and reward for me and for the Society, and I am continually proud of the personal commitment I see on a daily basis from fellow board and committee members, our small but effective staff, and so many of our members around the world.

As 2004 draws to a close, I am very pleased to report ISCB experienced its highest membership year ever at almost 2000 individual members, including 850 student/trainee members. Attendance at ISMB/ECCB 2004 was also the highest in the history of either conference, welcoming over 2100 delegates to Glasgow, Scotland. Both of these accomplishments helped further stabilize the Society's finances and we can now look to develop some new member benefits for 2005 in line with the strategic priorities outlined in the 2003-2006 Strategic Plan.

Last year at this time I wrote that our goals were "to continue to grow as an international organization and enable our members to network, build collaborations and affiliations, stay informed of advances and opportunities in the field, and share in a common voice toward advancing the worldwide understanding of computational biology." This is a solid future vision and I encourage the participation of all members to help make it a reality in the years ahead. To continue our momentum toward these goals I have recently appointed Barbara Bryant, ISCB Vice President Elect,

to the position of Public Affairs & Policies Committee Chair, replacing Peter Karp who has stepped aside as he winds down his board term. I am also in the process of appointing a new Publications Committee Chair to replace Phil Bourne who has resigned to take on a very exciting new venture on behalf of the Society (more on that in the next newsletter), and will soon appoint a new Affiliates & Special Interest Groups Committee Chair to replace Anna Tramontano who has recently resigned from that post. Personally, I remain committed to strengthening our ties and increasing the value of interactions with affiliated regional groups that serve memberships within defined geographic areas, and I see these three appointments as critical to the success of that commitment.

At this time I would like to recognize a number of our board members whose terms are coming to an end in January 2005. Russ Altman (President 2000-2002), Peter Karp (Public Affairs & Policies Chair 2002-2004), and Teri Klein (Treasurer 2000-2002) have all served on the board since the Society's founding in 1997. Soren Brunak (ISMB 2001 Conference Chair), Winston Hide (Education Committee co-Chair until 2004),



Tandy Warnow, and Mike Waterman have all also served the board since 2002. For her service as ISCB Vice President during the last three years, I would especially like to acknowledge Anna Tramontano. Although her board term does not expire until 2006, her two terms on the ISCB Executive Committee is ending, and I know I speak on the full committee's behalf when I say we will miss her colorful personality in our discussions and her to-the-point perspectives in our decision making.

We are honored by the service of so many, and each year I ask all of our members and colleagues to think about what you would like the ISCB to be and what you could do to help. This is an open invitation to get involved at any time – just write to admin@iscb.org and we will gladly sign you up!

2005 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

ISCB membership registration for 2005 is now live at www.iscb.org/membership.shtml so please be sure to sign up now to activate your member benefits for the new year without delay.

Due to the positive feedback of the tiered dues categories introduced last year, we are again featuring reduced fees for members from lower income economies. By providing reduced rates to members from developing countries we hope to make ISCB membership more accessible than ever before, and welcome new members that might otherwise find it extremely difficult or impossible to join the Society. Therefore, based on the World Bank annual ranking of economies, the following dues structure (all prices listed in US Dollars) has been implemented for 2005:

Professional Members

\$99 if working in a High Income Country

\$40 if working in a Lower Middle or Upper Middle Income Country

\$20 if working in a Low Income Country

Students & Post doc Members

\$49 if studying/training in a High Income Country

\$20 if studying/training in a Lower Middle or Upper Middle Income Country

\$10 if studying/training in a Low Income Country

For both professional and student/post doc memberships the 2005 pricing has remained the same in the middle income categories, and has actually been reduced in the low income categories as compared to ISCB's 2004 dues pricing. A link is available from the membership page of our site to the World Bank ranking, so please be sure to check if you think you might fall into one of the reduced rate categories.

As we open the new membership year, we are pleased to highlight the very specific tangible benefits membership in the ISCB can earn for you. All prices below are listed in US Dollars unless otherwise noted, and are generally based on professional membership categories. Student conference discounts may be lower due to the traditionally lower starting price of student registrations.

2005 Conference Discounts

See http://www.iscb.org/events/event_board.php for more details:

- * Beyond Genome and select Cambridge Healthtech Institute conferences - minimum of 10% off
- * Bio-IT World conference - NEW for 2005! - 25% off
- * European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB) – TBA
- * Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB) \$100 off
- * International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology (RECOMB) - TBA
- * Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing (PSB) - \$50 off

2005 Journal Discounts

In all cases the below represents discounts for professional members by ordering through ISCB as compared to individual subscriber rates offered directly through the publishers; student/trainee discounts are typically even greater than those listed below:

- * Bioinformatics - minimum of \$375 savings
- * Briefings in Bioinformatics - minimum of \$31 savings
- * Briefings in Functional Genomics & Proteomics - minimum of \$31 savings
- * Combination BIB and FGP when ordered together - minimum of \$94 savings
- * Comparative & Functional Genomics - minimum of \$11 savings
- * Computers in Biology and Medicine - NEW for 2005! - minimum of \$143 savings
- * Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine NEW for 2005! - minimum of \$133 savings
- * Human Genomics NEW for 2005! - \$16 savings
- * Human Molecular Genetics - minimum of \$94 savings
- * Journal of Biomedical Informatics - NEW for 2005! - minimum of \$151 savings
- * Journal of Computational Biology - minimum of \$234 savings

* OMICS – A Journal of Integrative Biology - minimum of \$141 savings
(If there is a journal you would like to see added for 2006, please let us know at admin@iscb.org)
Added-Value Member Benefits:

- * Complimentary job postings of positions available at your institution/company
- * Membership in the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) for a voice in their US public affairs and funding initiatives
- * Travel fellowship eligibility for students and postdoctoral fellows to designated international meetings
- * A Board of Directors, Student Council, and several active committees working on your behalf to raise the level of membership excellence and the awareness of our science among other scientists, governments across the globe, and the world community.
- * Access to post degree programs, upcoming events, news/press releases (not exclusive to members)
- * Access to current developments in the field via the Website, quarterly newsletter and letters from the ISCB President (not exclusive to members)

As you can see, an ISCB membership can pay for itself by taking advantage of just one or two of the membership benefits above, and the more you take advantage of the more your membership is working for you. So, don't delay in registering for your ISCB 2005

ISCB to Host Open Meeting During PSB 2005

The Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing (PSB 2005) will take place January 4 – 8, once again at a favored hotel of this conference series, the Fairmont Orchid on the Big Island of Hawaii. As has become an annual tradition, ISCB will host an Open Meeting on Thursday, January 6, at 5:00pm for members and anyone interested in learning more about the Society. If you have registered for PSB 2005 please be sure to mark your agenda now to participate in this annual meeting of the Society.

ISCB past President Philip Bourne will address the group with a recap of 2004's activities and accomplishments, and introduce major initiatives in line with the Society's strategic plan. This will be followed by an interactive Q&A session that traditionally elicits very candid remarks regarding the new and ongoing activities and programs of the ISCB. We encourage a brainstorming atmosphere to surface ideas on what our members want and need from their Society, and therefore encourage your participation and comments.

This brainstorming session intentionally segues nicely into the following session on the PSB agenda, the "Standards for Bioinformatics Meeting: Emerging Standards for the Bioinformatics Community." This session will focus on the development of new standards, the adoption and dissemination of established standards, and the role that professional societies such as ISCB and IEEE should play in the process.

We hope you will be attending PSB, and if so, be sure to mark your calendar now to attend these informative and interactive sessions.

Save the Dates! ISMB 2005, June 25-29

Submitted by Yuri Ikeda Santos on behalf of the ISMB 2005 Logistical Organizing Committee

The International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB) is presenting the 13th Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB 2005) conference from June 25-29, 2005 at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center in Michigan. ISMB 2005 will be co-hosted by the University of Michigan's Bioinformatics Program and the Michigan Center for Biological Information (MCBI). The Conference will be chaired by the University of Michigan's Dr. David States, Professor of Human Genetics and the Director of the Bioinformatics Program and co-chaired by Dr. Brian Athey, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and the Director of MCBI.

Michigan's life sciences community has grown to become a vibrant and growing sector of the region's economy, making the state an excellent setting for ISMB 2005. Today, Michigan is home to 542 life sciences companies, and the State of Michigan invests over \$2 billion in R&D each year for the expansion of research in the field. This investment has led to the creation of over 100 new companies since 2000, and today, the state leads the nation as one of the fastest-growing life sciences states. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) funds Michigan Technology Tri-Corridor (MTTC), which fosters growth in life sciences, advanced automotive technologies and homeland security industries. With the Michigan Life Sciences Corridor (MLSC) fund, the Core Technology Alliance (CTA) was created in 2001, which is a consortium of three research universities: The University of Michigan and Wayne State University, Michigan State University, and the Van Andel Research Institute. The CTA develops a collaborative network of technologically-sophisticated core facilities to enhance life sciences research and product development throughout the State of Michigan.

ISMB 2005 will be held in Detroit's Renaissance Center, a renowned city landmark which contains corporate offices, hotels, restaurants and shops. The Renaissance Center is surrounded by revitalized historic neighborhoods, and is located on the riverfront which features a number of tourist activities and exciting nightlife. In recent years, this area has truly become the heart of the "Motor City". Detroit, the oldest big city

in the Midwest, is best known for being home to the automotive industry and Motown, but it is also very rich in heritage, entertainment, and cultural attractions. The city is extremely convenient as a world conference destination, as it is a short 90-minute flight for 60 percent of the nation's population, and is a destination for many non-stop flights from Europe.

From the many valuable comments and feedback we have received from delegates in previous conferences, the ISMB 2005 Scientific Organizing Committee and the Logistical Organizing Committee are working together to plan the best ISMB conference yet. We plan to include "Panel Discussion" sessions during the main conference to provide an open forum for scientists to highlight and discuss the field's challenges and future direction, and we also plan to incorporate several educational workshops into the meeting.

If you would like to submit a paper to ISMB 2005, the call for papers is now online at: http://www.iscb.org/ismb2005/paper_call.htm. The submission deadline is January 14, 2005 at 11:59 PM in the time zone of your choice! This year, the Scientific Organizing Committee has chosen to discontinue the short paper submission track and will only accept full paper submissions for the conference. Authors should also watch for our call for posters (coming soon) as the poster selection committee will choose high quality abstracts to be elevated as platform presentations.

Please check the conference website for updates, and sign up to receive notices at: <http://www.iscb.org/ismb2005/prospects.php>.

SIG REPORTS 2004

Submitted by Ilan Samish, 3Dsig co-organizer

3Dsig, the 1st structural bioinformatics special interest group meeting, was held preceding the ISMB/ECCB conference. The 2-day meeting hosted 220 registrants for a program of 8 invited speakers, 20 short presentations, discussion sessions, a round-table panel and novel laptop sessions. Beyond the power-point presentations, the laptop sessions enabled usage of structural bioinformatics software and intimate-group interactions at various levels. 3Dsig was organized by Ilan Samish, Meir Edelman and John Moulton, the latter chairing a scientific committee that included Phil Bourne, Luis Serrano, Michael Sternberg, and Ron Unger.

Scientifically, 3Dsig's hot topics included extending structure prediction to function prediction as well as interaction analysis (binding sites, protein-protein, docking). Opposite and complementary trends were raised: On one hand, moving to large-scale global analysis using every bit of information that can be datamined. On the other hand, 3Dsig topics included careful and detailed analysis of raw data (e.g. NMR vs. X-ray data, effect of crystal-packing, usage of electron-density maps), as well as stretching our understanding/prediction to new horizons (intermediate resolution structures, protein disorder, membrane environment, structure-based evolution analysis). Further, the usage and growing need for combining 'wet' and in silico data was emphasized (e.g. protein interactions, transmembrane topology prediction, RNA structure)

The 3Dsig-2004 booklet is available online: <http://3dsig.weizmann.ac.il/2004/3dsigbook.pdf>

Submitted by Ralf Blossey, Bioinformatics & Statistical Physics SIG coordinator

The Bioinformatics & Statistical Physics SIG meeting was held in conjunction with ISMB/ECCB 2004 in Glasgow, Scotland for the first time. A previous meeting took place as a Satellite to the first European Conference of Computational Biology 2002 in Saarbrücken, Germany. The main theme of the meeting is the relation between the physical and functional properties of biomolecules (DNA, proteins) and biological systems; new technological directions were addressed by

contributions to the function of bio-nanotechnological devices, in particular for DNA hybridization, and by studies of biological networks, in particular those of gene regulation.

22 talks were presented to an audience of approximately 60 participants. As judged by the audience' and speakers' feedback, the meeting was very well-received. For more complete information about this SIG and pdf files of the presentations please see <http://iri.ibl.fr/bn/pages/SIG/index.html>

Audience, speakers and this organizer believe that the topical theme is timely and of growing interest to the community of computational biologists. Future editions should, however, make the SIG a true forum for exchange between physicists and bioinformaticians. I am therefore grateful for any suggestions or contributions from ISCB members in order to help achieve this goal. Please feel free to contact me at ralf.blossey@iemn.univ-lille1.fr.

Submitted by Phil Lord and Robert Stevens, Bio-Ontologies SIG co-organizers

The Annual Bio-Ontologies SIG at ISMB has now reached its seventh year. An Ontology is a formal representation of knowledge which can be used to classify and organise biological phenomena. Although ontologies have been used for many years, the success of the Gene Ontology has ensured that they are a standard part of the bioinformatics armoury. The Bio-Ontologies SIG serves as a general forum to present both "News and Views" and early research. It provides a natural place in which cutting edge bio-ontology research can be presented.

This year's Bio-Ontologies SIG was no exception, with 12 research talks, a keynote by Dr. David Shotton of the BioImage database, and a lively panel session, presenting to an audience of 80-100 people. For the first time, a selection of these talks will be published in a special issue of Comparative and Functional Genomics.

TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS

One of the ways that ISCB supports the growth of our science and helps to give back to our community is through travel fellowships. Students and post docs worldwide have benefited from the funds distributed by ISCB over the years, whether they were funds derived from membership dues, or funds the Society was able to secure through corporate sponsorships and granting agencies.

For last August's ISMB/ECCB conference in Glasgow, Scotland, \$89,000 USD and €25, 000 in funding assisted a total of 112 students and post docs to attend the conference. This was made possible through the generous funding of corporate sponsors E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co., Hewlett Packard, Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Pfizer Global Research & Development, as well as US funded grants from the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation, and a European Commission funded grant from the BioSapiens Network of Excellence.

We are pleased to share just a sampling of the many comments of appreciation and scientific development we received from this year's fellowship recipients upon returning home from ISMB:

By receiving the notice that I had been awarded with the Travel Fellowship, I felt a great honour. However, I was not aware, at that time, of how great the ISMB conference would be or how significant it would be as a scientific forum. Indeed, the opportunity to attend ISMB/ECCB 2004 was unique and invaluable to me because it represented a stimulus for keeping my effort on learning and practicing bioinformatics, which is a challenging activity for a biology-only background researcher as me... It was an immense pleasure to be there and be able to interact with such talented researchers from all over the world, getting to know their ideas, their results and, most importantly, their approaches on developing and applying informatics tools to improve our knowledge of biological processes.

Diana Magalhaes Oliveira
Postdoc Fellow at the University of Toronto
Toronto, Canada

Because of generous contributions by various funding agencies, I received an ISMB travel grant which enabled me to attend ISMB/ECCB 2004. I would like to extend my gratitude towards these agencies as well as ISCB, for making these funds available to students like myself... By presenting a poster on the HIV Genome Browser at ISMB, it was possible to get extremely useful input from the community about possible extensions and modifications of the browser. I was also able to share my knowledge and the difficulties I've been experiencing with scientists working on similar projects.

Anelda Boardman
University of Western Cape, SANBI
Bellville, South Africa

The project devoted to computational analysis of prolactin receptor signal transduction has been started in our laboratory of Endocrinology less than a year ago. And thus it was really important for me (as one of the active participants of this project) to show our preliminary results and to discuss them with the leader scientists in the field. These contacts which I had during the congress will allow us to continue and develop our project at a new level of skill... Unfortunately, because of the situation in Russia the only way to participate in this congress is to find any foreign support and thus the funds supported by ISCB's sponsors offered the great opportunity for me to participate in this wonderful congress in Glasgow.

Roman L. Bogorad
Moscow state University
Moscow, Russia

In general, I was very impressed to see enormous amount of directions in bioinformatics, interesting projects and ideas. And the most significant educational experience of the conference was in sharing results of the research because it gives great input for continuation of research, you start to see some shortcuts in yours (and other's :-)) results, get a lot of ideas. Personally, it was also very interesting to see a lot of famous scientist in bioinformatics which you knew before just by their names below an article title... In summary, this conference gave me a lot of stimuli for continuation of my research in the months and years ahead.

Vladimir Potapov
Weizmann Institute of Science
Rehovot, ISRAEL

TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS CONTINUED

Having attended the conference for two consecutive years, I am amazed at how much progress is made in a year and how directions have rapidly shifted. Learning about these changes is exciting, motivating, and helpful in directing my short- and long-term research. In particular, I enjoyed the opportunity to exchange ideas with other scientists, sharing my research project as a poster, taking ideas back to my lab in Boston, and exploring potential post-graduate options... I graciously appreciate your support of the ISMB conference travel fellowships. Without your generosity, I would have most certainly missed the conference this year.

*Sharyl L. Wong
Harvard Medical School
Boston, USA*

... the material was well organized, well presented and pitched at just the right level for me. During the conference, I was able to meet researchers working on similar problems and make plans for future joint work. However, I find the most valuable experience was getting a glimpse of the “big picture” in computational biology. This is something one can lose sight of in day-to-day work, even in a world-class research institution like UCSF. The “birds-eye view” of the field comes from a combination of perspectives provided by keynote speakers, exposure to a very large number of papers and posters, and conversations with colleagues old and new...

Thank you so much for the fellowship!

*Rachel Karchin, Ph.D
University of California
San Francisco, USA*

We are pleased to announce that ISCB will be sponsoring 2005 travel fellowship funds from membership dues and contributions for the Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing (PSB) in Hawaii, the International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology (RECOMB) in Cambridge, MA, and the European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB) in Madrid, Spain. Additionally, corporate support and agency grants will again assist dozens of students and post docs to attend the Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB) conference in Detroit. We hope you will consider making a personal or corporate donation to help build a strong fellowship fund for 2005 and beyond. You can contribute during your 2005 ISCB membership registration process, or contact us at admin@iscb.org for information on donation options if you are not a member, have already joined for 2005 and would like to donate retroactively, or are interested in corporate donation possibilities.

GIVING IS FREE!

In this holiday season and beyond you can give to ISCB without specifically giving to the Society at all!

For over a year now ISCB has featured a growing list of bioinformatics books with direct links to Amazon.com for immediate purchase. Now when you link to Amazon.com from anywhere on the ISCB website, and purchase any products during those visits (books, music, DVDs, and more), ISCB will earn a referral fee. Depending on items purchased, the fee can be anywhere from 2.5% all the way up to 15%. There is no additional cost to you, but shopping this way can provide revenues to ISCB, which we use to fund our programs and activities.

So, if you are in the gift giving mood when visiting www.iscb.org be sure to browse the list of bioinformatics books and use the easy links to Amazon.com to shop online. Without even trying, you could be giving more than gifts to your family, friends or yourself -- you could be contributing to ISCB without any additional out of pocket expense, and we will appreciate you for it dearly.

STUDENT COUNCIL: OUR VISION, OUR FUTURE

Submitted by Manuel Corpas on behalf of the ISCB Student Council

“There is always room in your life for thinking bigger, pushing limits, and imagining the impossible.” -- Anthony Robbins.

The ISCB Student Council (SC) is a new section of ISCB dedicated to facilitating opportunities of development for students and young researchers in the field of Computational Biology. We have had the chance to openly discuss our ideas both formally and informally with members of the ISCB Board of Directors as well as among ourselves, creating an atmosphere of mutual learning and scientific growth. Creativity and communication of ideas has been a constant characteristic of our internal email forum where everyone has a voice to contribute with whatever idea may enhance our plan of becoming truly a resource for the new generation of leaders in the field of Computational Biology.

Some of the highlights of the SC during its first year have been the creation of five subcommittees each one dedicated to a specialized area of action: Marketing, Operations, Outreach, Business Relations and Events. Each one of them has had its own challenges and outcomes. ISMB/ECCB 2004 in Glasgow, Scotland represented for us the fruition of many months of dedicated efforts to reach an official status within our parent society and the first opportunity to hold open meetings inviting young researchers to participate. This was also our first opportunity to gain feedback from the participants of our meeting and we were pleased to experience a three-fold expansion in the number of people actively involved in the SC.

The road ahead looks more exciting than ever, with our main goal of consolidating as the premier organization for young researchers in the area of Computational Biology. We are committed to achieving this ambitious goal in Detroit at ISMB 2005. It can be anticipated that we will offer a series of activities and career development sessions which are now being organized. These activities will include seminars such as “How to Write a Paper” or “Opportunities in Industry” given by prestigious scientific experts; a mentoring program where PhDs

will have the opportunity to meet senior people one-to-one, a Student Council Dinner, the Open Meeting Forum and many others which we will announce as they are firmed up. Also on the website front, we recognize that this is our mirror to the world and our Website Management Team is building a resource containing the diverse activities being carried out by the SC. Finally, 2005 will see our first call for nominations in conjunction with the regular ISCB board and officer nominations. All positions of responsibility will be newly elected and the vote will be open for all SC members.

As we have shown here, our agenda is open, full of activities and opportunities. Our liaisons within the ISCB board of directors, Phil Bourne and Rita Casadio, have given their support to us, and ISCB has provided all the resources and contacts that we need to succeed. There is only one more thing that is required for the success of the SC, and that is your involvement if you think our efforts can be beneficial to you, and you, in turn, can assist in our efforts. We invite you to reinforce your own professional development by committing yourself to the ISCB SC. The next level of your research might just involve contacts you make through the SC community. Take new action now! Contact us by writing to admin@iscb.org and let us know of your interest to get involved.

FASEB UPDATE

Prepared by Barbara Bryant, ISCB liaison to the FASEB Board of Directors and Public Affairs Executive Committee

ISCB is an associate member society of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), which maintains offices in Washington DC and is active in public policy on behalf of 22 member societies, representing over 65,000 scientists. Below are highlights of some of the most recent FASEB activities:

- FASEB is planning a workshop in June 2005 on the interface between government, academia and industry, with a focus on conflict of interest. This workshop is a response to a number of current issues, including recent concerns about government researchers “in the pocket” of industry, a drying of product pipelines in the pharmaceutical industry, and downward pressure on science funding budgets in the U.S. Sections of the meeting will be open to all interested parties. In a closed session, representatives from FASEB societies, government and industry will develop a white paper with proposals to address key issues.
- FASEB recently completed a five-year strategic plan. One outcome is a goal of being more proactive in public advocacy. Currently FASEB does an excellent job of interacting with government leaders regarding proposed and existing policies; however, a new FASEB committee is proposed that would work toward earlier access to information about developing issues and policies, and identifying issues and playing an active role in new directions. This is timely given the indications that Congress plans to take up an NIH Reauthorization bill in 2005. Any number of issues may come up in this process; it is an opportunity for changes, some of which FASEB’s member societies may not agree with.
- FASEB is a major advocate for government support

for research. This is a difficult time for medical and scientific research.

The current administration’s focus is more on education than on health issues. Many lawmakers are saying that NIH has already received plenty of funding in the last few years. This attitude, along with an expensive war, a distressed economy and huge deficits, makes it hard to find the money for NIH. The NSF budget is also hurting, but for a somewhat different reason: NSF is funded through the VA-HUD bill which also funds veterans and other strong constituencies that currently have more clout than NSF. FASEB continues to work to educate our elected representatives about the benefits of science; individuals can contribute to this effort as well.

For a full review of FASEB’s activities and information on the member societies that make up this federation, please visit <http://www.faseb.org>. ISCB members that would like to be advised of FASEB activities and updates on a regular basis can select this new mailing list option within the membership registration process. Alternatively, current members can login to their current account to update mailing list options. See <http://www.iscb.org/membership.shtml> for links to new membership or current login.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Submitted by Barbara Bryant, newly appointed committee chair

I am honored to have been named the Chair of ISCB's Public Affairs and Policies Committee. I believe the most important thing for us to do in the next year will be to engage more ISCB members from around the world in science policy issues of relevance to their lives and careers.

The Committee held an open meeting at ISMB/ECCB in Glasgow this past summer. We had been hoping to attract members interested in expanding our advocacy efforts to parts of the world beyond the USA. Unfortunately, everyone who attended was from the USA, so our focus during the committee meeting primarily addressed U.S. issues. We do hope that we will get interest from non-US members over the coming year.

The areas of interest identified at the ISMB/ECCB 2004 meeting included these:

- Minorities and under-represented communities amongst computational biology scientists
- Public discussion of new government restrictions on tools and data
- Ability of new investigators to obtain grants and other resources
- Allocation of funding to new areas of research
- Open source; reproducibility of results
- Open access to scientific literature
- URLs in grant proposals
- Discrimination: difficulties with US visas; negative attitudes toward

foreign researchers in various countries

- Mechanisms for engaging other members in discussions

Anyone interested in joining the Committee or participating in ISCB activities related to public policy are encouraged to contact the committee via admin@iscb.org. And whether you plan to join the Committee or not, please let us know which of these issues, or others, you feel are important for ISCB to pursue. Our efforts are on behalf of all members, so your personal input is very valuable to us.

ISCB members that would like to be advised of Public Affairs activities and updates on a regular basis can select this new mailing list option within the membership registration process. Alternatively, current members can login to their current account to update mailing list options. See <http://www.iscb.org/membership.shtml> for links to new membership or current login.

ADVERTISING AND CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Now, for the first time ever, ISCB is providing advertising opportunities in this newsletter. Organizations can purchase ads from credit card size up to full page (and full page inserts for print runs), or sponsor all or part of the newsletter. Upcoming editions of this newsletter will be distributed the first weeks of March, June and September 2005, and closing dates for ads are four weeks from the date of publication.

Additionally, if the opportunity to become a sponsor of the ISCB through a corporate membership appeals to your organization as one that fulfills a social responsibility goal toward international outreach for the Life Sciences community, we want to hear from you. We are actively developing programs that jointly fulfill the needs of industry partners and those of the Society. All sponsorships are customized to meet the unique goals of each of our partners.

For advertising or customized information about corporate sponsorship opportunities for your organization please contact BJ Morrison McKay, Executive Officer, at admin@iscb.org.

New Board Members to Take Office January 2005

During the annual ISCB board of directors meeting in Glasgow, Scotland last July, elections were held and the results included the reelection of one board member and seven new members elected for the coming term (2005-2008). We look forward to welcoming each one of them in their full capacity soon. Until then, here is a bit of an introduction to give you a glimpse of the skills and issues they will be bringing to the board.

KEVIN KARPLUS, PhD

*Professor, Biomolecular Engineering
University of California, Santa Cruz, USA*



Dr. Kevin Karplus' primary research interest lies in protein structure prediction and protein design: secondary-structure prediction with neural nets, fold-recognition and alignment with hidden Markov models, and new-fold prediction with

and cost functions.

His interest in serving on the ISCB Board of Directors is motivated by a desire to see ISCB become an accrediting body for bioinformatics degree programs, as well as the society of our science that address growth issues of the field before it gets too unwieldy. Dr. Karplus is also impassioned about keeping journals and conferences affordable, while keeping the Society in stable financial condition at the same time. Dr. Karplus is particularly qualified to tackle these issues, having gone through accreditation processes for a new computer engineering department and having helped create both undergrad and graduate bioinformatics curricula at UCSC. In addition to joining the ISCB board of directors, Dr. Karplus is also heading a task force of the education committee to draft a whitepaper on accreditation.

An interesting tidbit of background information is that Dr. Karplus was on the organizing committee for the ISMB conference in Greece where the first ISCB board

of directors meeting was held, and then served as ISCB's first webmaster. He has been on the Program Committee of ISMB since the third or fourth ISMB. So, welcome aboard and in many ways welcome back, Dr. Karplus!

JANET KELSO, PhD

*Postdoctoral researcher
South African National Bioinformatics Institute*

Dr. Janet Kelso's research focuses on the building and application of ontologies for molecular biology, and she is particularly interested in understanding the causes and results of transcriptome variation both within and between species.



"The ISCB has the responsibility to provide credible leadership in the rapidly growing field of computational biology," stated Dr. Kelso. "To this end it is critical that the organization examines ways to enter into discussions with its wider membership during the formulation of policy such that policies published by the society reflect accurately the general consensus of the membership." Additionally, she feels the ISCB as an organization, as well as its individual members, should seek new ways to inform scientists, governments and the public about the importance of computational biology. As a member of the South African National Bioinformatics Network she was involved in the development of an approved syllabus for a postgraduate bioinformatics degree, and is anxious to contribute her experience with this development to the ISCB education committee.

Dr. Kelso is currently in the process of moving from South Africa to the Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany. We hope she settles in soon so we can tap her to work hard on our members' behalf!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO TAKE OFFICE JANUARY 2005 CONTINUED

THOMAS LENGAUER, PhD

Director

Max-Planck Institute for Informatics, Germany



ISCB is thrilled to welcome Dr. Thomas Lengauer back for another term as a director of the ISCB. He was previously a founding member of the board, serving until 2000. During that time he served as ISCB vice president (1999-2000), organizer of ISMB

1999 (Heidelberg), as has been on the organizing teams of ISMB in 1995, 2000, 2004

Dr. Lengauer's research interests span topics in computational biology and computational chemistry. In computational biology investigated topics include protein structure prediction, structure-function relationships, protein-ligand (esp. drug) interactions, analysis of expression data, disease-related bioinformatics, notably HIV and HCV. In computational chemistry he is active in drug screening.

"As a European representative of the ISCB board of directors and active member in the organization of European bioinformatics conferences I would engage in helping ISCB outreach further into European communities," Dr. Lengauer stated in his candidacy to return to the board. He believes the key issues of ISCB are to expand its international representation and relevance, and secure the solidity of its financial base. With his experience in conceptualizing and coordinating research funding programs (four German national research programs, three of them in bioinformatics, totaling roughly € 35 Mio) and international conference series (ISMB, RECOMB, ECCB), we are very happy to have Dr. Lengauer coming back on board.

REINHARD SCHNEIDER, PhD

Team Leader

EMBL, Germany



For the EMBL organization Dr. Reinhard Schneider works on Data Integration and Knowledge Management, setting up and initiating pilot projects. His election to the board, however, was based very much on his belief that the "Three

Year Strategic Plan" of the ISCB captures the issues of greatest importance to the Society. He stated, "Personally I believe the most pressing issue is the financial stability. To rely mainly on the revenue of the ISMB conference has shown to be quite vulnerable. Without a stable financial backing all other activities will suffer substantially."

Based on his industry experience, Dr. Schneider has committed to helping find a sustainable funding strategy and to foster the relationships with commercial partners. His industry experience includes six years working for a software company in the Life Science Informatics field, from unpacking computers and setting up coffee machines up to the position of an Executive Board Member being responsible for approx. 200 employees in six development sites in the US and Europe. He also currently serves on the supervisory board of a biotech company and is involved in setting up a start-up company. Although he is a very busy man, ISCB is fortunate to have Dr. Schneider as an incoming board member and we expect to be reporting good things of his progress in helping us achieve our strategic plan.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO TAKE OFFICE JANUARY 2005 CONTINUED

TERENCE P SPEED, PhD

Professor of Statistics

University of California at Berkeley, USA



When fast at work Dr. Terry Speed spends his time in microarray data analysis, motif finding, gene mapping, and molecular evolution. However, like all of our incoming board members, Dr. Speed wears many hats and his interest in serving the ISCB members lies in ensuring the financial viability of the Society, and maintaining and enhancing the quality of the journals and the conferences.

By enlarging membership, and seeking the active involvement of members in the society's management, Dr. Speed believes ISCB can achieve all of its goals and more. He has plenty of experience in similar societies to draw from. For example, Dr. Speed has been a long term member and past office bearer of the International Biometric Society, including past president of the Western North American Region. Similarly he is currently president of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, an international society of about 4,000 members, and serves on the RECOMB steering committee. With this level of leadership experience ISCB is looking forward to welcoming Dr. Speed aboard in January.

TAN TIN WEE, PhD

Associate Professor

National University of Singapore



For the National University of Singapore, Dr. Tan Tin Wee spends his time on bioinformatics databases, bioinformatics services, and Grid Computing.

For service to the ISCB, however, Dr. Tan listed the following as critical issues the board should address now to serve the membership and retain the relevance of the Society:

1. FINANCES - How to build financial strength is the primary issue facing ISCB.
2. INDUSTRY - Establishing industry liaisons and achieving industry support is crucial.
3. AFFILIATIONS - International organizations sit on top of a pyramid of regional and national organizations, and ISCB is at the unique position to exercise its leadership role.
4. EDUCATION - ISCB's educational program is strategically placed to help institutions formalize their curriculum, accredit them, coordinate their rollout, and guide their progress.
5. PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION - A potentially sizeable chunk of our membership needs professional recognition from a respected professional society.
6. GOVERNMENT ACTIVISM - ISCB is well placed to advise and facilitate the wave of change in the life sciences as well as promote the bioinformatics and computational aspects of R&D expenditure among national R&D agencies from US through Europe to Asia.
7. STANDARDISATION - There is an urgent need in the life science community for standardization in the database records, the interoperability, the standard interfaces to a wide range of biological information. Can ISCB fill this vacuum, or should it do it itself, or foster another organization to do it, or let somebody else take the lead on this?

NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO TAKE OFFICE JANUARY 2005 CONTINUED

Having outlined the above, however, Dr. Tan clarified, "This is not to say our academic and research activities, which are our mainstay, should be neglected along the way. Strong educational programs to bolster ISCB's conference programs should be included. A strong set of conferences and a healthy journal are both established pre-requisites for any international organization." As for the major issues highlighted above, Dr. Tan hopes to contribute his experience and advice in the board processes, and he has already started to do so during the three month board training he and all new board members are currently going through.

ALFONSO VALENCIA, PhD

Protein Design Group

Instituto Nacional de Bioinformatica, Spain

This was a reelection to the board for Dr. Alfonso Valencia's second consecutive term. In addition, He has recently been named co-Executive Editor of Bioinformatics journal, is currently serving as co-chair of the ECCB 2005 conference to be held in Madrid, and for the last few years has been part of the program committees of ISMB, GIW, ECCB, WABI, and other key conferences in the area.

His research activities include structural bioinformatics, text mining, function prediction, and comparative genomics. However, Dr. Valencia was keenly interested to serve on the ISCB board again due to his recent appointment to the Bioinformatics journal, and for his desire to continue to help grow the Society to a truly international level. "To reach visibility as a truly influencing Society and in particular increase its visibility as a vehicle for science" is of particular importance to him.

"For the past few years I have been mediating between ECCB and ISCB, e.g. co-organization of the ISMB/ECCB 04 conference. During the last year I have also initiated conversations with FEBS, representing the European Biochemical Societies, for a possible collaboration with ISCB," stated Dr. Valencia. "My plan is to continue with these two mediation activities." Regarding the focus in Science, he has collaborated in the selection of papers for the ISMB conferences in 2003, 2004 as area chair, and is one of the organizers of

one of the oldest SIGs (text mining) and of a new one on Genome Annotation. "SIGs are the most dynamic scientific part of the Society. Therefore, my intention is to continue working in the integration of the SIG activities in the Society, and their relation with the ISMB program areas," stated Dr. Valencia.

LISA VAWTER, PhD

Senior Principal Scientist, Informatics

Aventis Pharma

G protein-coupled receptor chemical biology is what keeps Dr. Lisa Vawter busy at Aventis. That is to say, association of pharmacology with structural and sequence features in service of predicting small molecules that will interact in predictable ways

with the receptors. Additionally, she has a long-standing academic collaboration with a group that develops heuristics for solving large phylogenetic trees and does performance analysis of phylogenetic algorithms.

When accepting her nomination for a seat on the ISCB board, Dr. Vawter saw as major issues facing the Society (a) Acquiring long-term funding for public computational resources (e.g. supercomputing facilities) and (b) Fostering interdisciplinary communication. To do this she proposes the Society must address the primary funders of supercomputing facilities (DOE, NIH and NSF in the US) and gain commitment for continuous funding of some portion of staff and of hardware and upgrades. She also supports the idea that ISCB should cosponsor workshops at the interface of data analysis and algorithm development and the fields that we wish to impact with our ideas, including applied genetics, genomics, physiology, drug design and pharmacology (the interface between small molecules and proteins). "With increased communication with scientists in these fields, we will not only increase our understanding of biologically significant parameters and



biologically interesting problems, but we will also foster advances in research and increase our impact on these fields,” she exclaimed. With Dr. Vawter’s extensive experience in managing and participating in global interdisciplinary efforts, academic and industry politics, and skills as a good facilitator and builder of teams, we have no doubt she will be a very welcome addition to the ISCB board of directors.

On January 21, 2005 these seven new and one renewed board members will take office, as seven others step down at the conclusion of their terms. The outgoing board are: Russ Altman, Soren Brunak, Winston Hide, Peter Karp, Teri Klein, Tandy Warnow, and Mike Waterman. On behalf of the entire membership of ISCB, we wish to thank them for their tremendous spirit of volunteerism these past years, and hope for their continued involvement in the workings of the Society. The input and efforts of each and every one of them have been invaluable, and it is likely the ISCB would not be the organization it is today were it not for their contributions.

Officer Election Results

Many thanks to the 319 members (17%) who participated in the ISCB Officer elections for the upcoming term beginning January 21, 2005. Based on the election results, the ISCB board of directors has ratified the election as follows:

Vice Presidents:

Burkhard Rost of Columbia University

Barbara Bryant of Millennium Pharmaceuticals

Secretary:

Toni Kazic of University of Missouri – Columbia

Treasurer:

David Rocke of University of California – Davis

In addition to the above, Michael Gribskov of Purdue University was elected last year as the President-elect (he was already serving as President at the time, therefore ensuring a second term), and will therefore begin his second term as President along with the other Officers elected in this cycle. Full ballot results are detailed at http://www.iscb.org/20041017_results.shtml.

We would like to acknowledge Professor Anna Tramontano, whose term as Vice President will conclude in January 2005. Anna will have served in the position of Vice President for three years with a concerted effort toward the development of an international affiliates program, serving as chair of the Affiliates & SIGs Committee. Although the next chair will be able to enjoy the fruits of Anna’s labor, she laid a solid foundation upon which to build. Thank you Anna!

UBC GENETICS GRADUATE PROGRAM RETREAT

Submitted by Carri-Lyn Mead, University of British Columbia

The University of British Columbia Genetics Graduate Program hosts a retreat each year to give all students in the program an opportunity to show their work and learn what their colleagues are working on. The Genetics Graduate Program is composed of over 100 faculty and students from a wide spectrum of research, all of whom are able to participate in the retreat. The retreat involves poster sessions interspersed with guest speakers that are leaders in various areas of genetics followed by an awards dinner in the evening where one poster from each session is awarded a travel award of \$300.

The 2004 retreat represented not only the wide breadth of clinical molecular genetic research, but a strong contingent of bioinformatics research as well. Forty-six students (in 2nd year and above) participated in the retreat by presenting a poster of their research. The posters were divided into sessions of approximately 12 posters each. Each poster session allowed those 12 students to present their work to a panel of peer and faculty judges. At the end of the day, each session chose 1 student as having the best overall presentation, poster, and research project. This year there were 4 winners. Evette Haddad investigated a novel pathway of lymphocyte activation by bacterial carbohydrates. Suganthi Chittaranjan explored the role of a novel gene (CG4091) involved in autophagic cell death in fruit fly larvae. Kris Palma looked into why a particular strain of *Arabidopsis* is especially resistant to infection. Brad Dykstra presented work in which he was able to restore the entire hematopoietic system in mice using a single stem cell. The judging panels each remarked that choosing a single poster winner was a difficult task as there were many posters in each session that represented outstanding work.

One unique aspect of the retreat is that it is entirely student organized and run. A small organizing committee of student volunteers is formed each year who address every aspect of the retreat, including getting sponsorship, organizing student involvement, and the tiny details involved in the day of the retreat and the awards dinner at the end. Each year leading researchers in genetics are invited to

come and speak at the retreat. This year, the retreat had three fabulous speakers: Dr. Tim Caulfield (Canada Research Chair in Health Law & Policy, University of Alberta), Dr. Marco Marra (Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre), and Dr. Philip Hieter (Michael Smith Laboratories). Each of the speakers presented an aspect of their own research that had either recently been discovered, or was in the process of being investigated.

"The Retreat is one of the first opportunities for many students to present their work and helps them prepare to give talks and write papers in the future" commented one of the retreat student participants. The UBC Genetics Graduate Program Retreat is an example of all of the best parts of scientific research coming together: student researchers having the opportunity to display their work and put it in context with their peers, leading researchers of the community contributing by presenting some of the cutting edge research they are actively working on, acknowledgement of outstanding students through travel awards, and behind it all an active student body working to make it all possible.

The UBC Genetics Graduate Retreat was generously sponsored by the Genetics Graduate Program, IBM, the CIHR/MSFHR Bioinformatics Training Program, Genome BC, VWR, BD Biosciences, Invitrogen, BC Lions, Vancouver Aquarium, Qiagen, Applied Biosystems, Roche, Fisher, Aramark, Amersham/GE Healthcare, Sigma, Carsen Group, and Beckman.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

ISCB ANNUAL CONFERENCES

ISMB 2005

United States - MI – Detroit

Dates: Jun 25, 2005 through Jun 29, 2005

ISMB 2005 (Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology) is the world's largest and oldest Bioinformatics Conference. The conference will provide a forum for disseminating the latest developments in bioinformatics. This multidisciplinary conference brings together scientists from molecular biology, medicine, computer science, mathematics and statistics. The scope of ISMB encompasses the development and application of advanced computational methods for biological problems at the levels of sequences, cells, organs, and organisms.

ISCB Member Discount: up to \$100 USD

Event URL: <http://www.iscb.org/ismb2005>

ISMB 2006

Brazil - Ceara – Fortaleza

Dates: Aug 06, 2006 through Aug 10, 2006

The Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology will be held in South America for the first time in 14 years of the conference in 2006. Watch the website for more details as they become available.

Event URL: <http://www.iscb.org/ismb2006>

ISCB Co-Sponsored Conferences

Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing 2005

United States - HI - Kohala Coast

Dates: Jan 04, 2005 through Jan 08, 2005

The Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing (PSB) 2005 is an international, multidisciplinary conference for the presentation and discussion of current research in the theory and application of computational methods in problems of biological significance. Papers and presentations are rigorously peer reviewed and are published in an archival proceedings volume. PSB 2005 will be held at the Fairmont Orchid on Big Island of Hawaii. Tutorials will be offered prior to the start of the conference.

ISCB Member Discount: \$50 USD

Event URL: <http://psb.stanford.edu/>

RECOMB 2005

United States - MA – Cambridge

Hosted by: Broad Institute of MIT & Harvard/Boston University

Dates: May 14, 2005 through May 18, 2005

RECOMB is a well established international conference in a dynamic field of science bridging computer science and biology. The meeting consists of keynotes from the best scientists in the field and the latest research findings presented as both oral papers and posters. The conference program includes between 30 and 40 contributed papers, that are selected by an international program committee with around 30 experts during a rigorous review. The conference series aims at attracting research contributions in all areas of computational molecular biology

ISCB Member Discount: TBA

Event URL: <http://www.broad.mit.edu/recomb2005/>

European Conference on Computational Biology

Spain – Madrid

Hosted by: by INB

Dates: Sep 28, 2005 through Oct 01, 2005

From September 28th to October 1st 2005, the ECCB 05 and the Jbi 05 take place in Madrid Spain. The "Bioinformatics National Institute" (INB) will host the Conference.

An appraisal opened to the participation in which the professionals of the bioinformatic sector can interchange ideas and experiences. The ECCB conference will be a very good opportunity to fulfill these goals, and we hope to count with the endorsement of our European colleges for the consolidation of our activities in Bioinformatics.

ISCB Member Discount: TBA

Event URL: <http://www.eccb05.org>

ISCB Affiliated Conferences

Events and Opportunities of Interest continued

Structure-Based Drug Design & Virtual Screening

United States - MA – Boston

Hosted by: Cambridge Healthtech Institute

Dates: Mar 28, 2005 through Apr 01, 2005

Structure-Based Drug Design and Virtual Screening bring together high-throughput crystallography and NMR, computational advances in docking algorithms and virtual screening, and traditional techniques of high-throughput screening and combinatorial chemistry to increase the efficiency and speed of the drug discovery and development process. Cambridge Healthtech Institute's fifth annual Structure-Based Drug Design conference continues to deliver the latest developments in de novo, NMR-based, and crystallography-based drug design, while the second annual Virtual Screening conference brings new innovation and recent results in computational methods for smarter drug discovery and development. Attend both meetings to gain insight into smarter drug design and development from methods, case studies and technologies presented by pharmaceutical, academic and biotechnology experts.

ISCB Member Discount: 10 Percent

Event URL: <http://www.healthtech.com/2005/sbdl/index.asp>

Bio-IT World Conference & Expo

United States - MA – Boston

Dates: May 17, 2005 through May 19, 2005

The 2005 Bio-IT World Conference aims to be an indispensable event, bringing together life science, IT, and healthcare professionals to discuss and evaluate the latest scientific, technological and IT breakthroughs in the post-genome sequence era. Delegates from major pharmaceutical, biotechnology, government and academic organizations will have the opportunity to learn about the latest tools, services and training that fuel bio-IT, enabling advances in genomics, proteomics, drug discovery, through to clinical trials and evidence-based medicine. For the 4th consecutive year, Bio-IT World will deliver a truly international gathering of industry leaders, IT professionals and biomedical researchers

ISCB Member Discount: 25 Percent (Use Priority Code C0601)

Event URL: <http://www.bio-itworldexpo.com>

The World Pharmaceutical Congress

United States - PA – Philadelphia

Hosted by: Cambridge Healthtech Institute

Dates: May 24, 2005 through May 26, 2005

This is the premier pharmaceutical R&D event of the year, for pharmaceutical researchers & executive by pharmaceutical researchers and executives. Make plans to be a part of and experience:

- Over 500 Leaders in Pharmaceutical Research World Wide
- An Exhibit Hall Bursting With Energy! 78% of Attendees Making Purchasing Decisions
- Thought-Provoking Keynote Presentations From Three Senior Level Pharmaceutical Company Executives
- Walking Away with Excellent Sales Leads

ISCB Member Discount: 10 Percent

Restrictions: Note: When registering, please enter or reference code ISCBDIS in the keycode box of the registration form to receive ISCB discount.

Event URL: <http://www.worldpharmacongress.com/>

Beyond Genome 2005

United States - CA - San Francisco

Hosted by: Cambridge Healthtech Institute

Dates: Jun 13, 2005 through Jun 16, 2005

Beyond Genome 2005 is the Future of Medicine. The Programs for Beyond Genome are 14th Annual Bioinformatics and Genome Research, 3rd Annual RNA Interference, 9th Annual Proteomics, 7th Annual Systems Biology, and Innaugural Genomics Variation: Enabling Personalized Medicine

Beyond Genome Features: Over 1000 participants; Over 35 Exhibits; Multiple Keynote Addresses; Technology Workshops; Luncheon Workshops; Roundtable Discussion Groups; Interactive Tutorials

ISCB Member Discount: 10 Percent

Restrictions: Discount available only for ISCB members that reference the separate pricing category on the registration form or website.

Event URL: <http://www.beyondgenome.com>

Other Conferences & Events of Interest

Events and Opportunities of Interest continued

DBiBD: Workshop on Database Issues in Biological Databases

United Kingdom - Edinburgh, Scotland

Hosted by: European Bioinformatics Institute and the Edinburgh Database Group

Dates: Jan 08, 2005 through Jan 09, 2005

Event URL: <http://dbibd-05.inf.ed.ac.uk/>

Third Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Conference

Singapore

Hosted by: Institute for Infocomm Research, Singapore and Deakin Univeristy, Australia

Dates: Jan 17, 2005 through Jan 21, 2005

Event URL: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/~phoebe/APBC2005/>

Bioinformatics and Genome Data Analysis

Tunisia - 3038 - Sfax

Hosted by: Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax, Tunisia

Dates: Mar 23, 2005 through Apr 02, 2005

Event URL: <http://anibal.webzzanine.net/bioinformatics>

EvoBIO 2005

Switzerland - Lausanne

Hosted by: EvoGP/EvoCOP/EvoWorkshops 2005

Dates: Mar 30, 2005 through Apr 01, 2005

Event URL: <http://www.cs.vu.nl/~evobio/evobio05.html>

International Workshop on Biomedical Data Engineering

Japan - Tokyo

Hosted by: Institute for Electrical and Electronics

Engineers (IEEE), The Database Society of Japan

(DBSJ), Information Processing Society of Japan

(IPSJ), The Institute of Electronics, Information and

Communication Engineers (IEICE), 21st Century COE Research Project

Dates: Apr 03, 2005 through Apr 04, 2005

Event URL: <http://www.db.is.kyushu-u.ac.jp/bmde2005/>

4th International Workshop On High Performance Computational Biology (HiCOMB)

United States - CO - Denver

Hosted by: IEEE

Dates: Apr 04, 2005 through Apr 04, 2005

Event URL: <http://www.hicomb.org/>

2005 International Workshop on Bioinformatics Research and Applications

United States - Georgia - Atlanta

Hosted by: Emory University

Dates: May 22, 2005 through May 25, 2005

Event URL: <http://www.cs.gsu.edu/pan/iwbra.htm>

IEEE Workshop on Computer Vision Methods for Bioinformatics

United States - CA - San Diego

Hosted by: IEEE

Dates: Jun 25, 2005 through Jun 25, 2005

Event URL: <http://www.ittc.ku.edu/BioCVPR/>

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

The VLDB Journal, Special Issue on Data Management, Analysis and Mining for the Life Sciences

Date: Sep 10, 2004

The last few years has seen emerging activity in the database, data mining, and information retrieval communities. This special issue will feature papers that reflect synergies between computational advances in data management and manipulation and the fields of molecular biology, cell physiology and systems biology. Topics of interest include (but are not limited to) the following:

- * Complex biological data types
- * Support for biological queries and data analysis
- * Data Integration solutions, performance metrics and Quality Of Service
- * Managing multiple biological models and the evolution of sources and schemas
- * Logics and semantics for modeling biological systems
- * Bio-aware design patterns
- * Provenance, pedigree and lineage of biological data
- * Workflow and derived data
- * Management of uncertainty and incompleteness in biological databases
- * Biological constraints and constraint Enforcement
- * Data mining of biological data, e.g., finding gene expression patterns in microarray data.

URL: <http://www.umiacs.umd.edu/~louiqa/2004/Call1.html>

Contact Person: Louiqa Raschid (louiqa@umiacs.umd.edu)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO HOST THE ANNUAL ECCB (European Conference on Computational Biology)

Date: Sep 21, 2004

ECCB (European Conference on Computational Biology) is seeking management of the 2006 ECCB Conference. Please see <http://bioinf.mpi-sb.mpg.de/conferences/eccb/ConferenceSiteProposalECCB2006.doc> for more information.

For more information on ECCB please check out <http://bioinf.mpi-sb.mpg.de/conferences/eccb/eccb.htm>

URL: <http://bioinf.mpi-sb.mpg.de/conferences/eccb/eccb.htm>

Contact Person: Prof. Dr. Thomas Lengauer, Ph.D.
(lengauer@mpi-sb.mpg.de)

Introducing Bioalgorithms.info educational website

Date: Oct 05, 2004

Bioalgorithms.info is a website for students just being introduced to the field. Included on the website are slides that cover introductory molecular biology, introductory algorithmics, and applications of algorithms to molecular biology. The site also functions as a class website: rather than each instructor maintaining a separate website, *bioalgorithms.info* can host all classes. Discussion groups, chat rooms, online quizzes, creating assignments, and disseminating grades are some of the features of this free service. It has powerpoints, practical problems, implementation problems, solutions, etc as well as a large list of Bioinformatics Professors worldwide with links to their sites (about 200 links)

Finally, we are building a comprehensive directory of the bioinformatics community and presenting this as a portal from *bioalgorithms.info*.

URL: <http://www.bioalgorithms.info>

Contact Person: Neil Jones (ncjones@cs.ucsd.edu)

NRW Undergraduate Science Awards (Bioinformatics)

Date: Nov 07, 2004

Six International NRW Graduate Schools were founded in October 2001 as an initiative of the German Federal State of North-Rhine Westphalia (NRW). Their main research focuses are in Bioinformatics and Genome Research (Bielefeld), Neurosciences (Bochum), Production Engineering and Logistics (Dortmund), Genetics and Functional Genomics (Cologne), Chemistry (Münster), and Dynamic Intelligent Systems (Paderborn).

NEWS FROM THE FIELD CONTINUED

The NRW Graduate Schools have announced an international undergraduate award to fertilize the early development of research experience and practice during undergraduate studies. Every NRW Graduate School awards an annual prize of 1.500 Euro for an outstanding research paper in the corresponding field of research. The Award is open to applicants from all over the world. Enrollment at one of the six Graduate Schools is not required.

URL: <http://www.undergraduate-awards.de/>

Contact Person: Dr. Klaus Prank (klaus.prank@cebitec.uni-bielefeld.de)

ISMB 2005 Call for Tutorial, Papers, Posters, Software Demos

Date: Nov 17, 2004

The Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB), the annual meeting of the International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB), has recently announced a call for papers with a submission deadline of January 14, 2005. ISMB 2005 will bring together scientists from an enormous range of disciplines, including molecular biology, medicine, computer science, mathematics and statistics. Papers that demonstrate both the development of new computational techniques AND their application to biomedical questions are especially encouraged. A call for Tutorials was also previously announced, and a call for posters is coming soon; additionally applications for software demos are currently being accepted. See the conference website at <http://www.iscb.org/ismb2005/> and then select "submissions/guidelines" from the menu on the left for full details.

URL: <http://www.iscb.org/ismb2005/>

Contact Person: General Information (info05@ismbconf.org)

Bioinformatics Associate Editors

Date: Nov 30, 2004

Bioinformatics is seeking to appoint a number of new Associate Editors to join the editorial team in 2005, during an exciting period of development.

The Associate Editor role involves working with the Executive Editors and other Associate Editors to maintain the high quality of the journal. Associate Editors are responsible for deciding which manuscripts should be accepted for publication, based on their own knowledge and experience, on the opinions of invited referees, and often following correspondence with the authors to make the submission suitable for publication. The review process is conducted using an online submission and peer review system (Manuscript Central) and the Associate Editors are assisted by an established editorial office. Associate Editors also have an important role in contributing to the journal's direction, innovation and development.

In the minimum, the appointed Associate Editors will each oversee the peer review of two new submissions per week in their area of expertise.

If you would like to express your interest in the role of Associate Editor, or should you have questions, please contact Claire Saxby (claire.saxby@oupjournals.org) by 20th December 2004. In your email, please explain your background, research interests and reasons for wishing to join the editorial team of Bioinformatics, and include a current CV. Previous collaboration with the journal as referee and/or author, scientific record, and overlap with the experience of the existing editorial team will be among the important factors for the selection of Associate Editors.

It is estimated that the annual honorarium for the position will be in the region of £1000 (although this may increase depending on the number of manuscripts handled).

It is hoped that the new Associate Editors will continue in their role at least until the end of 2007, subject to agreement.

Alex Bateman and Alfonso Valencia, Executive Editors, Bioinformatics
Claire Saxby, Bioscience Editor, Oxford Journals, Oxford University Press

Contact Person: Claire Saxby (claire.saxby@oupjournals.org)

NEWS FROM THE FIELD CONTINUED

UK Bioinformatics Network Launched

Date: Dec 06, 2004

All ISCB members in the UK are invited to join the new UK Bioinformatics Forum (UKBF) network, a non-profit organisation creating networking opportunities and promoting UK Bioinformatics. The network is open to both academia and industry, is free of charge, and was the first organisation to be given ISCB Associated Regional Group status in the UK. The network launched its Bioinformatics portal web site last month, which carries current news, events and job vacancies from the UK Bioinformatics sphere.

Our Steering Group count among its members representatives from industry and academia: Prof. Sir Ed Southern (University of Oxford, Oxford Gene Technology), Prof. David Fell (Physiomics PLC), Prof. Chris Hawes (Oxford Brookes University), Dr Darren Flower (Jenner Institute), Dr Phil Scordis and Dr Alasdair Stamps (Celltech Group, UCB), Dr Andrew Hynes (Etiologics), Dr Fiona Reid (Oxford Science Enterprise Centre) and Dr Veronica McGowan (University of Oxford CPD Centre).

For full details of this press release go to https://www.iscb.org/news/news_data.php?78

URL: <http://www.bioinformaticsforumuk.net>

Contact Person: Dr Jon Rees (jon.rees@bioinformaticsforumuk.net)

RECAP OF THE 2ND ANNUAL MCBIOS

Submitted by Steve F. Jennings,
University of Arkansas at Little
Rock

The Second Annual Conference of the MidSouth Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Society (MCBIOS) was held October 7-9, 2004 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Featuring Dr. Michael Gribskov (ISCB President) and Dr. Alan Leshner (CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science) as keynote speakers, the conference was attended by almost 100 students, faculty and researchers from seven states. There were 21 technical talks and 27 posters presented. Presenters have the option of developing a follow-on, journal article which may be published in an upcoming special issue of BMC Bioinformatics upon passing the peer review process.

This conference was held in conjunction with the 2004 Arkansas Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN) Fall Symposium, which is funded by the NIH National Center for Research Resources. The Arkansas BRIN program and the National Center for Toxicological Research were the major sponsors of the conference. Additionally, Insightful Corporation provided a tutorial on their S+ and ArrayAnalyzer data mining and statistical analysis software S+ package.

The 2005 MCBIOS conference will be held in Baton Rouge, LA. MCBIOS is a regional affiliate of ISCB and its website can be found at www.MCBIOS.org.