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A NOTE FROM ISCB PRESIDENT

Michael Gribskov

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Professional societies exist for the benefit of their members. Usually this means providing opportunities for professional development through training and skill enhancement, setting standards for training and professional certification, and providing tools and resources that enhance the membership's abilities to perform their jobs (such as course preparation resources). ISCB is still a very young society and has far to go to provide strong support in many of these areas. In particular, I feel that we continue to do a poor job at harnessing the volunteer energies of members in providing these resources, but am confident we can get on the right track in addressing that in the foreseeable future. The strongest performance of ISCB continues to be in hosting our annual ISMB conference, and in the negotiation of discounts on journal subscription and conference registration fees for our members. These are excellent reasons for joining the Society, but I believe that providing better resources for professional training, and tools that support the work of our members must be our primary focus for the coming years.

The single most important contribution of ISCB toward the community at large continues to be in the presentation of our annual meeting - ISMB. The organizers of ISMB2005 have assembled an excellent program for this year's meeting. I thank David States, Brian Athey, and their many coworkers for putting together a meeting with many innovations. Great attention has been paid to reducing the cost of the meeting while maintaining the highest standards - I look forward to seeing many of you in Detroit in the days ahead.

The ISMB meeting requires a great deal of advance planning. I will also take this opportunity to thank Goran Neshich for his steadfast efforts and abundant enthusiasm in planning for ISMB2006 to be held in Fortaleza, Brazil August 6-10, 2006.

Planning for both of these meetings has been complicated by difficulties in funding



and by increased restrictions on travel which are resulting in reduced attendance at international meetings such as ISMB and RECOMB. To counteract that we need to step up efforts to secure private grant funding to help make the meetings more accessible for all. Ultimately, it is important that we continue to provide appropriate forums for disseminating our science to the broadest possible audience. Conferences and journals remain our best vehicles for achieving that, and your participation is essential to their success.

On that note, I am happy to report that in a major new effort ISCB has teamed with the Public Library of Science to create a new open-access journal, *PLoS Computational Biology*. As a new official journal of the Society, we believe that our members will find *PLoS Computational Biology* to be essential reading, as well as a new and high-impact venue for publishing their work. With its focus on computational studies with direct biological impact, we believe that *PLoS Computational Biology* fulfills a need heretofore unmet in computational biology journals, and I am sure that you join me in welcoming the premier issue available online June 24, 2005 at www.ploscompbiol.org.

See you in Detroit,
Michael Gribskov
President, ISCB

WELCOME TO ISMB 2005!



With the conference upon us, the various organizing committees have worked long hours to finalize arrangements to provide the most exciting conference this year in bioinformatics, ISMB2005 in Michigan. With this year's central US venue, ISMB2005 will present the greatest magnitude of bioinformatics and life sciences research and tools in the world, and we are very excited to offer the opportunity for attendees to participate in the many talks, as well as tutorials, poster sessions, software demonstrations, and exhibitions of hardware and software purveyors.

As of the time of this writing, we anticipate over 100 scientific paper presentations over the 5 days of the conference, accompanied by over 700 posters featured throughout the magnificent Marriott Renaissance Center in Detroit, Michigan. We expect a strong showing from industry and academic software production groups, with over 80 software demonstrations registered to date. This year, we will have 14 half-day tutorial sessions, and preceding the conference we are hosting eight one and two-day special interest group (SIG) meetings.

The team of ISMB 2005 conference organizers has devoted much time to brainstorming ideas and introducing new facets to ISMB in order to

improve upon this already compelling and popular bioinformatics meeting. The Scientific Organizing Committee and the Logistical Organizing Committee worked together closely to add several new sessions to this year's agenda. These new sessions include: elevated posters/abstracts oral presentation, 2 NIH workshops, and an education workshop. Also new for this year, the organizers of ISMB, in association with the Public Library of Science, are featuring the *PLoS Computational Biology* Late Breaking Poster Session, which gave academic and non-commercial researchers an opportunity to submit their latest work to this much anticipated session.

In addition to the exciting science, we have also organized a Gala Dinner which will surely be a memorable night for all participants. Delegates are invited to board the Detroit Princess, a brand new premier cruising riverboat, for a special evening on the waters of the Detroit River.

For all who are with us at ISMB2005, we hope you enjoy the conference!

Advertising and Sponsorship Opportunities

ISCB is now providing advertising opportunities in this newsletter. Organizations can purchase ads from credit card size up to a full page (and full page inserts for print runs), or sponsor all or part of the newsletter. ISCB newsletters are distributed the first weeks of March, June, September and December, and closing dates for ads are four weeks prior to 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.

DR. EWAN BIRNEY NAMED AS THE 2005 OVERTON PRIZE WINNER!

Dr. Ewan Birney



The International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB) has announced that Dr. Ewan Birney of the EMBL European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI), will receive the 2005 Overton Prize, which honors outstanding accomplishment of a scientist in the early- to mid-stage of his or her career who has already made a significant contribution to the field of computational biology through research, education, service, or a combination of the three.

"Dr. Birney is best known for his advocacy of open source bioinformatics, and his generous contributions to the BioPerl community. Perhaps even more important to biology is his leadership of the Ensembl genome annotation project, providing rapid and accurate computational annotations for eukaryotic genomes. Dr. Birney follows his own advice, and credits the success of the Ensembl project to the open source development model," said Dr. Lawrence Hunter of the University of Colorado Health

Sciences Center, the ISCB's founder and current chair of the ISCB Awards Committee.

He added, "Dr. Birney is not only a hugely productive scientist, but he started young: his first bioinformatics tools, Pairwise and Searchwise, were published when he was an undergraduate at Oxford, and their successor, GeneWise, is still in broad use more than a decade after its introduction."

The prize will be awarded at the ISCB's annual meeting, Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB), in Detroit, Michigan, from June 25 through 29. Dr. Birney will deliver the annual Overton keynote lecture on the final day of the conference at 8:30a.m.

Dr. Birney trained as a biochemist at Oxford University and completed his doctoral studies in gene prediction with Dr. Richard Durbin at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute. He moved to the EBI in 2000 to coordinate the EBI's contribution to Ensembl, a joint project with the Sanger Institute to provide a comprehensive, automatically generated annotation for the genomes of higher animals. Currently Ensembl serves a million pages a week and has been used to generate gene sets for several genomes, including human, mouse, rat and chicken.

Dr. Birney is a co-leader of the open-source bioinformatics toolkit Bioperl and President of the Open Bioinformatics Foundation, which supports the development of several

bioinformatics toolkits.

He said, "Making software source code and scientific data freely available is the best way to ensure scientific progress." Earlier this year Dr. Birney was awarded the 2005 Benjamin Franklin Award, which recognizes scientists who advocate open access to software and other materials in the bioinformatics.

The Overton Prize was established by the ISCB in memory of G. Christian Overton, a major contributor to the field of bioinformatics and member of the ISCB Board of Directors who died unexpectedly in 2000. Previous recipients are Dr. Uri Alon of the Weizmann Institute of Science (2004), Dr. W. James Kent of the University of California, Santa Cruz (2003), Dr. David Baker of the University of Washington (2002), and Dr. Christopher Burge of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2001).

For further information on each of these past winners please visit the ISCB website at <http://www.iscb.org/overton.shtml>

DR. JANET THORNTON RECOGNIZED AS 2005 ISCB SENIOR SCIENTIST ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD WINNER

Janet Thornton

The International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB) has recognized Dr. Janet Thornton, Director of the EMBL European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI), as the winner of the annual Senior Scientist Accomplishment Award. Dr. Thornton is the third scientist to have earned the honor.

"Dr. Thornton's many contributions to bioinformatics have greatly advanced our understanding of protein structure through computation. Beginning in the 1970's, Dr. Thornton has published many predictive and explanatory models of protein function, protein-protein, protein-ligand and protein-dna interactions, and, more recently, protein catalytic sites. In the 1990's, she created the CATH classification system for protein structures and the associated database, now vital tools for understanding protein chemistry and evolution," said Dr. Lawrence Hunter of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, the ISCB's founder and current chair of the ISCB Awards Committee.

"In addition to her deep scientific contributions, Dr. Thornton has directed the European Bioinformatics Institute since October of 2001, dramatically expanding its research mission while continuing to provide its vital and unique databases to the molecular biology community," he said.

The Senior Scientist Accomplishment Award recognizes

members of the computational biology community who are more than 12 to 15 years post-degree and have made major contributions to the field of computational biology through research, education, service, or a combination of the three.

The prize will be awarded at the ISCB's annual meeting, Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB) in Detroit, Michigan, from June 25 through 29. Dr. Thornton will deliver the annual Senior Scientist Accomplishment Award keynote lecture as the finale to the conference at 11:30am on the 29th.

Dr. Thomas Lengauer, member of the ISCB Awards Committee and professor at the Max Planck Institute said, "Janet Thornton could be described as 'Miss Structural Bioinformatics'. She has made outstanding and seminal research contributions to her field and, as Director of the EBI and the coordinator of the BioSapiens Network of Excellence, has selflessly dedicated herself to developing the research landscape in computational biology."

In 2002 Dr. Thornton was appointed Extraordinary Fellow, Churchill College, Cambridge and Honorary Professor, University of Cambridge and in 2003 she was elected a Foreign Associate Member of the National Academy of Sciences in the United States. She is also a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Member of the European Molecular Biology Organization, and a Commander of the British Empire. Dr. Thornton has been the recipient of more than 20 other awards and appointments to highly respected Institutes and funding councils, most notably, the 1986 Ronald Tress Prize for Research, 1991 Pfizer Academic Award for Excellence in Research, 2000- Hans Neurath Award, Protein Society, and the 2002 Feodor Lynen Medal.



PLOS COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY TO LAUNCH AT ISMB 2005

BIOINFORMATICS BOOKS LIST ONLINE

The selection of bioinformatics books listed at www.iscb.org/bioinformaticsBooks.shtml is constantly growing and a great gateway to finding the latest and greatest available to computational biologists and bioinformaticians worldwide. All books are listed alphabetically by author with links for more detailed information including the table of contents, number of pages, etc.

And now, if you see a book you want to buy you can click directly through to make your purchase through Amazon.com. The link from ISCB does not restrict your orders to the books listed on our site, so you can search for additional titles or any variety of products of interest, and complete all of your online reading and entertainment shopping in one easy session. If you do buy from Amazon when linking from the ISCB website, the Society earns a small referral fee so you are actually helping to further support our science in the process.

To see if you can find the book you have been meaning to order, go to the above URL now. If it's not there, do let us know! And if you are an author, editor or publisher of a book of interest to bioinformaticians that you would like to see added to our site, please write to us at admin@iscb.org. We will consider all requests as we build upon the usefulness of this resource list.

The launch of *PLoS Computational Biology* is only days away - June 24. The response thus far has been tremendous from the community.

The vision we have for the journal as a community resource is first and foremost to support the dissemination of our science in a way that draws attention to the quality, depth, and scope of our best work. That this is an open-access journal is an integral part of this vision. Open access ensures not only that everything we publish is immediately freely available to anyone, anywhere in the world, but also that the contents of this journal can be redistributed and reused in ways that increase their value. Computational biology thrives on open access to all types of biological data - it is high time that we apply the same principle to our papers and unleash our creativity to develop new ways to use the scientific literature.

At ISMB, look for our Preview Issue. After that, the inaugural issue includes a Perspective from Sean Eddy on his belief that we are in the "ante"-disciplinary phase of our science - a time ahead of becoming an organized science and not to be confused with the push toward being "inter"-disciplinary, as many would have us become. This is followed by a series of research articles, including: Pagel et al. describe a method for determining pairs of functionally related genes and then use that method to study how these pairs are either gained or lost over evolutionary time; Margalit et al. report on the modeling of transcription factor binding sites and discover 29 such binding sites for C2H2 zinc-finger proteins in *Drosophila melanogaster*; and Ehrenberg et al. model ribosome-mediated transcriptional attenuation and explain the functional differences that result from the structural dif-

ferences of the leader sequences of the *trp* and his operons.

Finally our vision for *PLoS Computational Biology* is that it will be vital to your work, and that your ideas and discoveries will become a vital part to this journal and, through open access, the community. We will continue to need you to submit your best work to the journal and encourage your colleagues to do so as well. Beyond that, recognize that we are a unique community in that we use information in novel ways. These are exciting times for biology and publishing. We hope to capitalize on this excitement, so do not hesitate to tell us what we should be doing by sending e-mail to ploscompbiol@plos.org. Visit www.ploscompbiol.org for complete information and to sign up for regular email alerts to newly published papers.

Philip Bourne
Editor-in-Chief



STUDENT COUNCIL UNDERTAKES A MASSIVE ACTION PLAN

ISCB Student Council (ISCB-SC) is dedicated to creating opportunities to facilitate the advancement of students and young researchers in the field of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics. The Student Council is made up of various subcommittees, including Business Relations, Events, Marketing, Operations and Outreach, to foster its development. There is always an opportunity for enthusiastic members of the SC to actively participate in the subcommittee of their choice and join the leadership to further the efforts of the SC. The SC also organizes events to unite students and trainees during conferences such as ISMB and ECCB, and provides mentoring opportunities for students. ISCB student post doctoral members can enroll in the mentoring program to be paired with a senior member with an expertise in the student's area of research.

According to a recent SC questionnaire conducted internally, members have mentioned that they benefited greatly from attending conferences, student exchange programs, networking during conferences and participating in the Student Council! If you are a student or post doc (trainee) member of ISCB and are interested in joining the ISCB Student Council, please <http://www.iscb.org/scouncil.shtml> and be sure to mark the Student Council checkbox within your electronic membership registration/record.

Kudos to Victor Weigman of the ISCB SC Business Relations subcommittee! Victor proposed the 'Massive Action Plan' for

this subcommittee in preparation for ISMB. The plan consists of two parts; Project Pairing Program (PPP) and Industrial Training Source. The current emphasis is on developing the PPP, where graduate students are to be paired up with participating companies. Such an agreement would benefit both parties by providing extramural support to companies, along with experience and funding to graduate students. The main goal heading into ISMB 2005 is to create a working database of people who have participated in academic and industry relations. ISCB Vice President Barbara Bryant suggests creating a list where the details of the arrangement between the companies and students can be documented. Some of these details will include the financial nature of the relationship, or whether the student is just planning to present his/her work. She also suggests compiling a FAQ to go along with the PPP project as an informative measure. These suggestions and many others are being compiled into a task list for the members of this subcommittee to begin implementing. If you would like to learn more about this particular project, along with deadlines and milestones for its completion, please refer to the website created by Victor Weigman, BRC Chair, at <http://www.unc.edu/~weigman/ISCB-SC/>

Submitted by Sevin Turcan,
ISCB SC Marketing Subcommittee Member

ISCB STUDENT TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED - DON'T MISS OUT!

If you are a student or post doc member of ISCB who will be presenting a paper or poster at ECCB or PSB, did you know you can apply for travel fellowship funds supported directly from the Society to help defray your costs to attend these conferences?

The deadlines are approaching fast, so submit your funding applications immediately:

ECCB Application Deadline:

Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Application Form:

http://www.iscb.org/travel_fellowship_form.php

* Please note that the travel fellowship application deadline through ECCB directly has already closed, but members may still apply through ISCB for an extended period).

PSB Application Deadline:

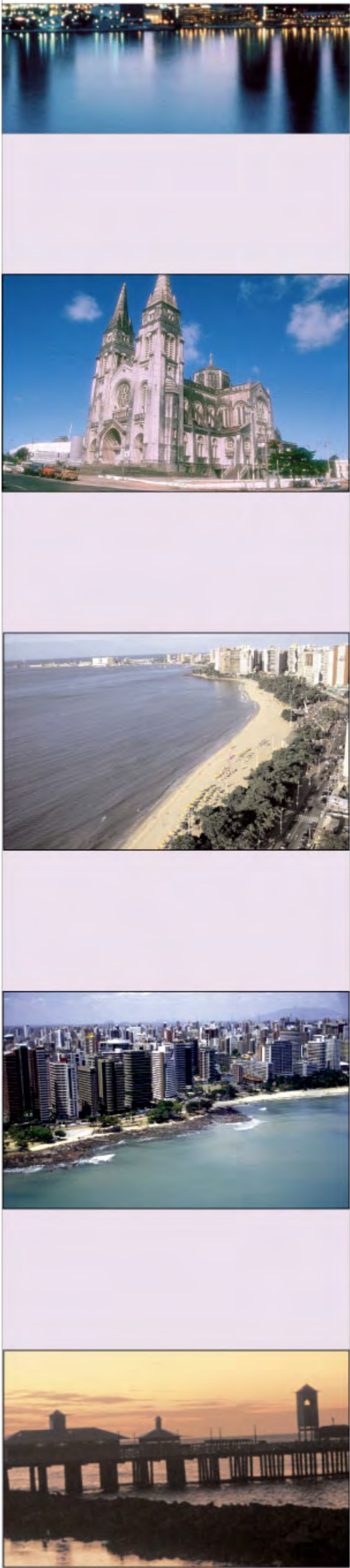
Monday, August 15, 2005

Application Form:

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

All applicants for PSB travel fellowships must be made directly through the PSB website.

Although ISCB does not directly organize or own these conferences, the leaders of our Society are highly supportive of the excellent science presented at these annual conferences, and recognize them as outstanding educational opportunities for the young members of our field. Therefore, the board of directors approved 2005 funding to support student travel to ECCB and PSB, as well as RECOMB which was held in May.



ISMB 2006:

COME FOR THE SCIENCE, STAY FOR THE BEAUTY OF BRAZIL

The ISMB 2006, to be held from August 6th to 10th in Fortaleza, in the state of Ceara, Brazil, will feature three major additions as compared to all earlier ISMB conferences.

1. For the first time we plan to offer a Nobel Laureate keynote address each conference day. In addition, the most prominent scientists in the area of Molecular Biology and its Computational branches will be addressing the audience in what is known as the World's Largest Bioinformatics Conference.
2. For the first time the ISMB Conference will be held in a tropical country rich in tourist destinations. Consequently, delightful opportunities abound for the participants to enjoy tropical flavors before and after our scientific encounters.
3. SwissProt will be celebrating 20 years since their services were initiated and are putting together a special celebrative event immediately before the ISMB, making Fortaleza the World's Capital of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology for 12 whole days.

Few countries are able to offer as great a variety of tourist options as Brazil. With a land mass the size of a continent - more than 8 million km² - the nation is fifth largest in the world, exceeded only by Russia, Canada, the USA and China, occupying almost half of South America. The distances from north to south and from east to west are greater than from New York to Los Angeles and from Moscow to Lisbon. Intersected to the north by the Equator and to the south-east by the Tropic of Capricorn, Brazil covers an area equivalent to 16 Frances, 23 Germanys or 28 Italy's.

Brazil embraces contrasting ecosystems such as the Amazon and Atlantic Forests with their incredibly luxuriant woodlands, the Cerrado (scrublands) and the Caatinga (arid lands) with unusually twisted trees and landscape that changes radically according to the seasons, the Pantanal (marshland) with its flood plains teeming with an amazingly rich chain of animal reproduction. But dwarfing all other features of this huge country is the world's greatest rain forest, the Amazon, with its river basin holding one-fifth of all the fresh-water on earth.

Today Brazil is South America's leading economic power and a regional leader. Brazil is expanding its presence in world markets by being the largest exporter of coffee, soybean, sugarcane, orange juice, poultry, beef, minerals for iron and other metals, small passenger airplanes, and recently of agriculture related genomes, software and many other industrial items.

For hundreds of years, Brazil has symbolized the great escape into a primordial, tropical paradise, igniting the Western imagination like no other South American country. From the mad passion of the world's biggest party, the Rio Carnival, to the immensity of the Amazon, it is a country of mythic proportions and staggering beauty, with stretches of unexplored rainforest, pristine tropical beaches, and endless rivers.

Commit to ISMB 2006 today, and be sure to plan some extra time to explore and enjoy all Brazil has to offer you. Visit <http://www.iscb.org/ismb2006/> for all conference news and updates.

Submitted by Goran Neshich,
Conference Chair

MAGNIFICENT MADRID TO HOST ECCB 2005

The fourth annual European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB/05) will be an excellent opportunity for all who attend the congress to foster relations between bioinformatics, biotechnology and bio-pharmaceutics companies and other agents involved in this sector at an international level.

This fourth edition of the ECCB and sixth session of the Jornadas de Bioinformática (JBi - the annual meeting of Spanish Bioinformatics Network) will cover the top subject matters in bioinformatics, such as databases, protein structure and function, genes and genomes, microarrays, phylogenetics, SNPs, Systems Biology, Algorithms, etc.

In a unique twist this year, the organizers are preparing for an interactive event in which professionals from the bioinformatic sector can exchange ideas and experiences. The keynote speakers are to be presented in pairs of contrasting views by Jean Michel Claverie and Temple Smith for "Perspectives in Bioinformatics"; Ewan Birney and Tom Gingeras for "How complete is knowledge of the Genome

Sequence"; and Richard Durbin and Chris Sander for "The future of Systems Biology".

Throughout the program of talks and keynote addresses we hope to present an important scientific contribution that will provide members of the different countries and the national and international societies represented in the various geographical areas with much to talk about and further explore long after the closing session. The ECCB conference is a great opportunity to fulfill these goals, and we hope to count with the endorsement of our colleagues for the consolidation of our activities in bioinformatics.

The whole will take place in the cosmopolitan and entertaining Spanish capital, Madrid. We invite you all and as the host we will do our best to make you feel welcome in Madrid and hope that this meeting will allow us to deepen our bonds of science, companionship and friendship.

Submitted by Marta de la Riva,
Local Organizing Committee



RECOMB 2005

The Ninth Annual International Conference on Research in Computational and Molecular Biology (RECOMB 2005), co-sponsored by the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and Boston University's Center for Advanced Genomic Technology, welcomed 625 delegates May 14-18 to the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, MA, USA.

The scientific program featured 8 keynote talks, 39 Paper presentations and over 200 posters. Two of the keynote presentations were named lectures: Charles DeLisi (Boston University) presented RECOMB 2005 The Stanislaw Ulam Memorial Computational Biology Lecture with a talk titled "Discovery and Annotation of Genetic Modules." And Jonathan King (MIT) presented the RECOMB 2005 Distinguished Biology Lectur. By delivering a talk titled "Amino Acid Sequence Control of the Folding of Parallel β -Helix, the Simplex β -Sheet Fold."

Kudos to Jill Mesirov of the Broad Institute and Simon Kasif of Boston University for organizing an exceptional conference. And, of course, they could not have done it without the professional conference coordination of Gus Cervini and Lynn Vitiello, who worked hard to ensure a great experience for all.

Mark your calendars now for RECOMB 2006: Venice, Italy, April 2-5. For full details, see <http://recomb06.dei.unipd.it/>

Submitted by Gus Cervini,
Organizing Committee

PRESIDENT-ELECT ELECTIONS CYCLE TO BEGIN SOON

Post Your Events & News on the ISCB Website

If you have a bioinformatics conference or event to announce, or news to share with our community, be sure to post it directly to the ISCB website for widespread dissemination of information. Over 35,000 visitors view the ISCB site monthly, so your exposure is maximized with this valuable free tool.

Upcoming conferences and events can be submitted at www.iscb.org/events_post.php, while news of a new product, publication, collaboration opportunity, fellowship program or any other information such as might be distributed in the form of a press release can be submitted at www.iscb.org/news_post.php.

All submissions will be reviewed by ISCB staff to ensure appropriate content prior to posting to the conferences or news pages of the website. Events will remain posted on the site until five days after the start of the event, and news will remain for 90 days from the date of posting.

We have four great candidates running for the position of ISCB President-elect this year:

- Barbara Bryant, currently serving as Vice President, Public-Affairs & Policies Committee Chair, and ISCB representative to the FASEB Board of Directors
- Shoba Ranganathan, currently serving as Board Member and Education Committee Chair
- David Rocke, currently serving as Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair
- Burkhard Rost, currently serving as Vice President and ISMB Review Committee Chair

The ISCB Board of Directors created the President-elect position in 2003 as the first step in an effort to develop a clear leadership path within the Society. From the list of active roles each of the candidates has played in the Society it is clear the leadership path is becoming well worn. The President-elect will serve a one year term in a training role alongside the President before taking over the presidency for the following two-year term. This is an "Officer" position within the elected leadership of the Society, which includes membership in the Executive Committee.

Full statements from each President-elect candidate, including CV and statements on particular areas of research, viewpoints on major issues facing the Society, plans to address those issues, non-scientific expertise, and service to the field or ISCB can be viewed at www.iscb.org/PEcandidate_list05.php.

From July 18 through August 15, 2005 you will be able to submit questions to each or all of the candidates for further information about their experience and plans for the future. Questions should be addressed to admin@iscb.org with a subject line of 'Question for President-Elect Candidate'. Please specify if your mail is for all candidates or a specific candidate, and the mail will be forwarded accordingly. Replies will come directly from the candidate(s) to whom the question was/were directed.

Beginning August 15 members will be able to cast votes on the ISCB website by logging in on the membership page at www.iscb.org/login.php and selecting President-Elect Election from the menu that presents on the left of the page.



ISCB was represented in mid-June at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) conference on the interface between academia, industry and government, with a focus on conflict of interest. This past year has seen much discussion of conflict of interest, such as the NIH ban on scientists receiving appreciable income from industry. NIH Director Elias Zerhouni gave a keynote address at the conference.

FASEB has lingering questions and concerns about the NIH enhanced public access policy, and has an active subcommittee working to clarify confusing aspects of the NIH rule and its implications for societies and journals. Currently the policy places responsibility for compliance with copyright law and journal policies with authors. Getting the correct version of the manuscript released is important. These and other issues show that there is an opportunity for scientific societies to provide recommendations to all the players as to how to best implement the goal of public access to scientific literature.

FASEB has been very active in support of stem cell research, and issued a call to members to support the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005. So far this legislation has won approval in the U.S. House of Representatives, and is now in the U.S. Senate. If it passes there as well it seems it may still face an uphill battle as President Bush has vowed to veto any bill that crosses his desk that approves the use of embryonic stem cells.

FASEB is developing a response to the National Academy of Sciences "Bridges to

Independence" report, and is examining data from NIH on training awards for 2004. We remain concerned about the trend toward fewer grants for young investigators, as well as the general slowdown or even decrease in the number and funding levels of peer-reviewed federal grants for science.

FASEB, along with a number of partner organizations, is advocating additional changes in U.S. visa policy to ease unnecessary bottlenecks and delays for international students and scholars.

A new FASEB subcommittee of the Science Policy Committee has been formed to address clinical research policy issues.

The American Physical Society has approached FASEB about joining a coalition of scientific societies issuing a critique of "intelligent design" and reaffirming support for teaching of evolution in the elementary and secondary schools. This will be discussed further within FASEB as the statement matures.

Everyone is invited to visit the FASEB website at <http://www.faseb.org/> and any ISCB member interested in participating in any of the above FASEB initiatives is encouraged to contact the ISCB Public Affairs and Policies Committee by writing to admin@iscb.org.

Submitted by Barbara Bryant,
ISCB V.P. and Representative to the FASEB Board of Directors

PSB 2006 KEY DATES

The next Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing (PSB) will be held at the Grand Wailea Resort on the Hawaiian island of Maui, January 3-7, 2006. The following are important upcoming dates.

Call for papers deadlines

Paper submissions due:
July 18, 2005

Notification of paper acceptance: *September 6, 2005*

Final paper deadline:
September 23, 2005

Travel award applications

Available: *August 15, 2005*

Deadline: *September 11, 2005*
at noon PST (Decisions will be announced in mid-October.)

Abstract submission

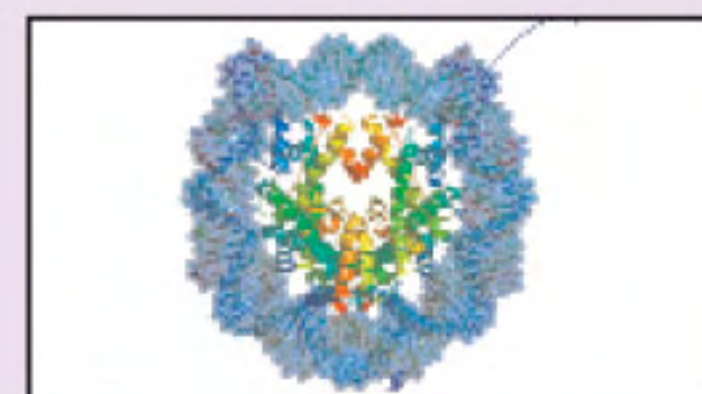
Opens: *August 15, 2005*

Deadline: *November 1, 2005*
at noon PST

Registration

Opens: *August 15, 2005*

Closes: As soon as PSB 2006 sells out!





ISMB 2005 ACTIVITIES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL DETROIT, MICHIGAN, USA

STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

PRIOR TO ECCB 2005

The ISCB Student Council is organizing an International Symposium to be held on Wednesday, September 28, immediately preceding ECCB 2005 in Madrid. This Symposium is targeted to young computational biology researchers who are keen to develop their research communication skills, want to meet like minded colleagues, network with accomplished scientists and learn about career opportunities available in Europe and globally. Please be sure to register for ECCB 2005 at <http://www.eccb05.org/> and sign up for the symposium at the same time.

Students planning to attend this pre-ECCB Student Symposium are encouraged to submit an abstract specifically for the Symposium. The best abstracts will be selected for oral presentation at the Symposium and all submitted abstracts for the Student Council Symposium will also be presented as posters at the main ECCB 2005 event, and included in the poster abstract book.

Email your abstract to bioinspiration@gmail.com no later than the deadline of August 15, 2005.

Please check the ECCB 2005 website for updates and register for the conference to capture the advantageous registration rates for ISCB student members before the early registration deadline of July 20, 2005.

<http://www.eccb05.org/student.htm>

Submitted by Manuel Corpas,
Student Council Representative to the
ISCB Board of Directors

Below is an exciting listing of planned activities of the ISCB Student Council during ISMB 2005 in Detroit. If you are a student or post doc attending the conference, please check the Program Book for final times and locations of each activity, and be sure to participate in the many events tailored to your needs as a young researcher. You do not need to be an ISCB Student Council member to participate in any of these activities, but we are certain you will be convinced to join by the time ISMB 2005 is over!

Thursday, 23rd June 2005

7:00pm-8:30pm

Informal meeting of the SC leadership and working committees (newcomers welcome)

Saturday, 25th June 2005

7:00pm-8:30pm

Discussion panel: "Inspiring Role Models: Their Own Experience"

Panel discussion of various experts from different sub-disciplines of Computational Biology

8:30pm-10:00pm

Networking dinner (individuals pay own way; newcomers welcome)

Submitted by Sevin Turcan,
ISCB Student Council marketing
subcommittee member

Sunday, 26th June 2005

9:30am-5:00pm

Scheduled Mentorship Sessions

11:30am-12:30pm

Featured Lecture from Manolis Kellis,
Assistant Professor at MIT

"Adventures in comparative genomics:
from yeast to human"

Monday, 27th June 2005

9:30am-5:00pm

Scheduled Mentorship Sessions

12:15pm-1:15pm

Talk on "Industrial Career prospects in
Computational Biology"

Presented by Stefan Unger, SUN
Microsystems Inc.

Tuesday, 28th June 2005

9:30am-5:00pm

Scheduled Mentorship Sessions

12:15pm-1:15pm

Talk on "How to write a paper for
publication"

Presented by Philip Bourne, Editor-in-
Chief of PLoS Computational Biology



At this year's RECOMB conference, I had a couple of interesting conversations on topics related to science policy. One conversation centered around efforts to address potential dangers to society in the work that we do. Another topic was educational outreach to the general public.

As developers and users of new technology, we have the opportunity to think about how to ensure responsible use of these advances. For computational biologists, there are issues of patient privacy and insurability, or other uses to which the information that we synthesize and analyze might be put. George Church at Harvard is a prolific inventor of new molecular and computational biology technology. He also thinks about applications of this work, and how to guard against abuse. Recently, Church has been developing technology to automatically assemble sequences. How do we make sure that we know who is assembling which sequences, and avoid, for example, inappropriate instantiation of pathogen genomes? Church has written, and shared with government agencies and lawmakers, a white paper about ways to control the misuse of automated sequence assembly that might enable, for example, the synthesis of pathogen genomes. This kind of forethought and advice is an important role of the scientist in society.

The national press has reported recently on efforts in Kansas against the teach-

ing of evolution in schools. Russ Doolittle played a large role in the development of the field of computational biology, and continues to make contributions in our field, with a focus on molecular evolution. In addition to his scientific work, he has also taken on the anti-evolutionists by participating in conversations and debates. David Haussler told me about seeing a video of Professor Doolittle arguing our case in a public debate; while highly entertaining, it is sobering to realize how many people reject scientific knowledge, and prevent children from learning these important concepts. Engagement on this level consumes significant effort, but we need scientists to address these issues and inform the public.

How do you, or could you, as a member of the computational biology community, contribute to these and other problems in our society? The ISCB Public Affairs Committee is working on a member survey to identify issues and actions of most interest to you. Watch for news of the survey on the ISCB website in the weeks and months ahead. And feel free to write to admin@iscb.org to let us know of any efforts you personally have made in the areas addressed above.

By Barbara Bryant,
Committee Chair

NEW STUDENT COUNCIL LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCED

The ISCB Student Council underwent its first leadership elections since forming early last year. Congratulations go to the following list of highly involved and dedicated individuals, with much anticipation of their year ahead:

Student Council Chair: Amandeep Sidhu, Bioinformatics Researcher, Faculty of Information Technology, University of Technology Sydney, Australia

Student Council Vice Chair: Sarath Chandra Janga, Researcher, Center for Genomic Sciences, UNAM, Mexico

Student Council Secretary: Mallika Veeramali, Bioinformatics Research Student, University of Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

Student Council Business Relations Representative: Victor Weigman, Graduate Student in Biology and Bioinformatics, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, USA

Student Council Outreach Representative: Hank Hong Huang, Bioinformatics Scientist, Florida State University, USA

Student Council Marketing Representative: Sanne Abeln, DPhil (PhD) Student, University of Oxford, England, United Kingdom

Student Council Representative to the ISCB Board of Directors: Manuel Corpas, PhD Student, University of Manchester, England, United Kingdom

For all who participated in the elections process, thank you. Please be sure to also cast your ballot for the upcoming ISCB President-elect elections, which will determine the next President of the Society.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

ISCB Annual Conferences

Rocky05
United States - CO - Snomass
Dec 09, 2005 - Dec 11, 2005
ISCB Member Discount: TBA
<http://www.iscb.org/rocky05>

ISMB 2006
Brazil - Ceara - Fortaleza
Aug 06, 2006 - Aug 10, 2006
ISCB Member Discount: TBA
<http://www.iscb.org/ismb2006>

ISCB Co-Sponsored Conferences

European Conference on Computational Biology
Spain - Madrid
Sep 28, 2005 - Oct 01, 2005
ISCB Member Discount: 30%
<http://www.eccb05.org>

Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing 2006
United States - HI - Maui
Jan 03, 2006 - Jan 07, 2006
ISCB Member Discount: \$75
<http://psb.stanford.edu/>

ISCB Affiliated Conferences

13th Annual Nucleic Acid-Based Technologies:
Applications Amplified
United States - MD - Baltimore
Jun 27, 2005 - Jun 28, 2005
ISCB Member Discount: 10%
<http://www.healthtech.com/2005/pcr/index.asp>

FASEB Summer Research Conference
Italy - Toscana
Aug 03, 2005 - Aug 08, 2005
<http://src.faseb.org/>

5th Workshop on Algorithms in Bioinformatics
Spain - Eivissa
Oct 03, 2005 - Oct 06, 2005
<http://www.lsi.upc.es/>

Fifth Virtual Conference on Genomics &
Bioinformatics
United States - VA - Ballston
Oct 25, 2005 - Oct 28, 2005
http://www.virtualgenomics.org/vcgb/conference_2005.htm

Other Conferences & Events of Interest

Structure and Biophysics - New Technologies
for Current Challenges in Biology and Beyond, a
NATO ASI
Italy - Erice, Sicily
Jun 22, 2005 - Jul 03, 2005
<http://smrl.stanford.edu/erice2005/>

BioMeet 2005
United States - MD - Gaithersburg
Jun 23, 2005 - Jun 23, 2005
<http://www.Perlsource.net/BioMeet.html>

IEEE Workshop on Computer Vision Methods
for Bioinformatics
United States - CA - San Diego
Jun 25, 2005 - Jun 25, 2005
<http://www.ittc.ku.edu/BioCVPR/>

Workshop on Biological Applications of Genetic
and Evolutionary Computing (BioGEC 2005)
United States - Washington DC
Jun 25, 2005 - Jun 26, 2005
<http://www.epistasis.org/biogec2005.html>

17th International Conference on Scientific and
Statistical Database Management (SSDBM
2005)
United States - CA - Santa Barbara
Venue: Bren School, University of California
Jun 27, 2005 - Jun 29, 2005

Short Course in Statistical Genetics
Italy - Pavia
Venue: University of Pavia
Jul 04, 2005 - Jul 08, 2005

International Conference on BioMedical
Visualisation MediViz05
United Kingdom - London
Jul 06, 2005 - Jul 08, 2005
<http://www.graphicslink.demon.co.uk/MediViz05>

The DIMACS Bio-Math Connect Institute 2005
United States - NJ - Piscataway
Jul 17, 2005 - Jul 29, 2005
<http://dimacs.rutgers.edu/dci/2005/>

Moscow Conference on Computational
Molecular Biology (MCCMB'05)
Russia - Moscow
Jul 18, 2005 - Jul 21, 2005
<http://mccmb.belozersky.msu.ru/2005/>

Data Integration for the Life Sciences 2005
United States - CA - San Diego
Jul 20, 2005 - Jul 22, 2005
<http://www.syncenter.org/dils2005/>

MAS*BIOMED - First International Workshop
on Multi-Agent Systems for Medicine,
Computational Biology, and Bioinformatics
Netherlands - Utrecht
Jul 25, 2005 - Jul 26, 2005
<http://www.diee.unica.it/biomed05>

Brazilian Symposium on Bioinformatics
Brazil - RS - Sao Leopoldo
Jul 27, 2005 - Jul 29, 2005
<http://www.unisinos.br/simposio/bsb/index.php>

2005 IEEE Computational Systems Biology
Conference
United States - CA - Palo Alto
Aug 08, 2005 - Aug 11, 2005
<http://conferences.computer.org/bioinformatics/>

ICEng 05 Special Session on Computer
Infrastructure for Systems Biology
United States - NV - Las Vegas
Aug 14, 2005 - Aug 16, 2005
<http://bio.informatics.iupui.edu/bio-05/>

Interactome Networks United Kingdom - Cambridgeshire - The Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton Aug 31, 2005 - Sep 03, 2005 http://meetings.cshl.edu/meetings.html SYMBIONIC Course 2005 on Methods, Data Handling and Standards in Neuronal Systems Biology Italy - Trieste Aug 31, 2005 - Sep 03, 2005 http://www.symbioticproject.org/Categories.asp?article_category_id_start=4&article_category_id=24 Therapeutic Applications of Computational Biology United Kingdom - Cambs - Cambridge Sep 04, 2005 - Sep 06, 2005 http://www.ebi.ac.uk/Information/events/therapeutic/ Systems Biology Workshop at ECAL 2005 United Kingdom - Canterbury Sep 05, 2005 - Sep 05, 2005 http://www.cmp.uea.ac.uk/sysbio_ecal/ IBC's 12th Annual International Chips to Hits(R) 2005 United States - MA - Boston Sep 12, 2005 - Sep 15, 2005 http://www.chipstohits.com/default.asp?source=3050-22 Special Session on Computational Biology at KES 2005 Australia - Melbourne Sep 14, 2005 - Sep 16, 2005 http://www.latrobe.edu.au/kes/ Pharmacogenomics 2005 United Kingdom - Cambridgeshire - The Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton Sep 14, 2005 - Sep 17, 2005 http://meetings.cshl.edu/meetings/pharmuk05.shtml	CIBB 2005 - SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE METHODS FOR BIOINFORMATICS AND BIOSTATISTICS Italy - Crema Sep 15, 2005 - Sep 17, 2005 http://cibb05.disi.unige.it/ Third Annual RECOMB Satellite Meeting on Comparative Genomics Dublin, Ireland September 18 - 20, 2005 http://www.gen.tcd.ie/recomb_cg/ BioSapiens-viRgil Workshop on Bioinformatics for Viral Infections Germany - Bonn Sep 21, 2005 - Sep 23, 2005 http://workshop2005.bioinf.mpi-sb.mpg.de/ 5th Workshop on Algorithms in Bioinformatics Spain - Eivissa Oct 03, 2005 - Oct 06, 2005 http://www.lsi.upc.es/ Workshop: Advances in Genome Technology and Bioinformatics United States - MA - Woods Hole Oct 04, 2005 - Oct 30, 2005 http://www.mbl.edu/education/courses/special_tops/pics/genome.htm Short Course on Complex Trait Analysis United States - ME - Bar Harbor Oct 05, 2005 - Oct 11, 2005 http://www.jax.org/courses/events/coursedetails.do?id=133 Workshop on Statistics in Genomics and Proteomics Portugal - Monte Estoril-Lisbon Oct 05, 2005 - Oct 08, 2005 http://wsgp.deio.fc.ul.pt NETTAB 2005 on Workflows management: new abilities for the biological information overflow Italy - Naples Oct 05, 2005 - Oct 07, 2005 http://www.nettab.org/2005/	Comparative and Functional Genomics (BITS) Workshop United Kingdom - Cambridgeshire - The Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton Oct 27, 2005 - Oct 30, 2005 http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/doc_WTX024428.html International Workshop on Bioinformatics 2005 China China - Nankin Nov 02, 2005 - Nov 05, 2005 http://www.cs.iupui.edu/~bioin/bioinformatics05/ 8th Conference on Computational Genomics United States - MA - Cambridge Nov 09, 2005 - Nov 12, 2005 http://www.jax.org/courses/events/coursedetails.do?id=137 ISBMDA 2005 Portugal - Aveiro Nov 10, 2005 - Nov 11, 2005 http://www.ieeta.pt/isbmda05 2005 IEEE Symposium on Computational Intelligence in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology United States - CA - San Diego Nov 14, 2005 - Nov 15, 2005 http://www.cibcb.org/ 5th Georgia Tech Conference in Bioinformatics United States - GA - Atlanta Nov 17, 2005 - Nov 19, 2005 http://opal.biology.gatech.edu/conference/ The 2005 International Workshop on Bioinformatics and Computational Biology China - Beijing Nov 30, 2005 - Dec 03, 2005 http://www.bioinformatics.uwaterloo.ca/~j3xu/CI6016/CI6016-BIOINFO-CFP.htm "Applications of Machine Learning in Medicine and Biology" at ICMLA'05 United States - CA - Los Angeles Dec 17, 2005 - Dec 19, 2005 http://www.ece.ualberta.ca/~lkurgan/MLMB.htm
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How are We Doing?

Please email ISCB at admin@iscb.org with any comments, questions, or concerns regarding the website (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 in meeting this objective.

ISCB acknowledges the support from the San Diego Supercomputer Center, at the University of California, San Diego, which provides office space and the computational infrastructure for the ISCB web resource and underlying databases.



www.iscb.org

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