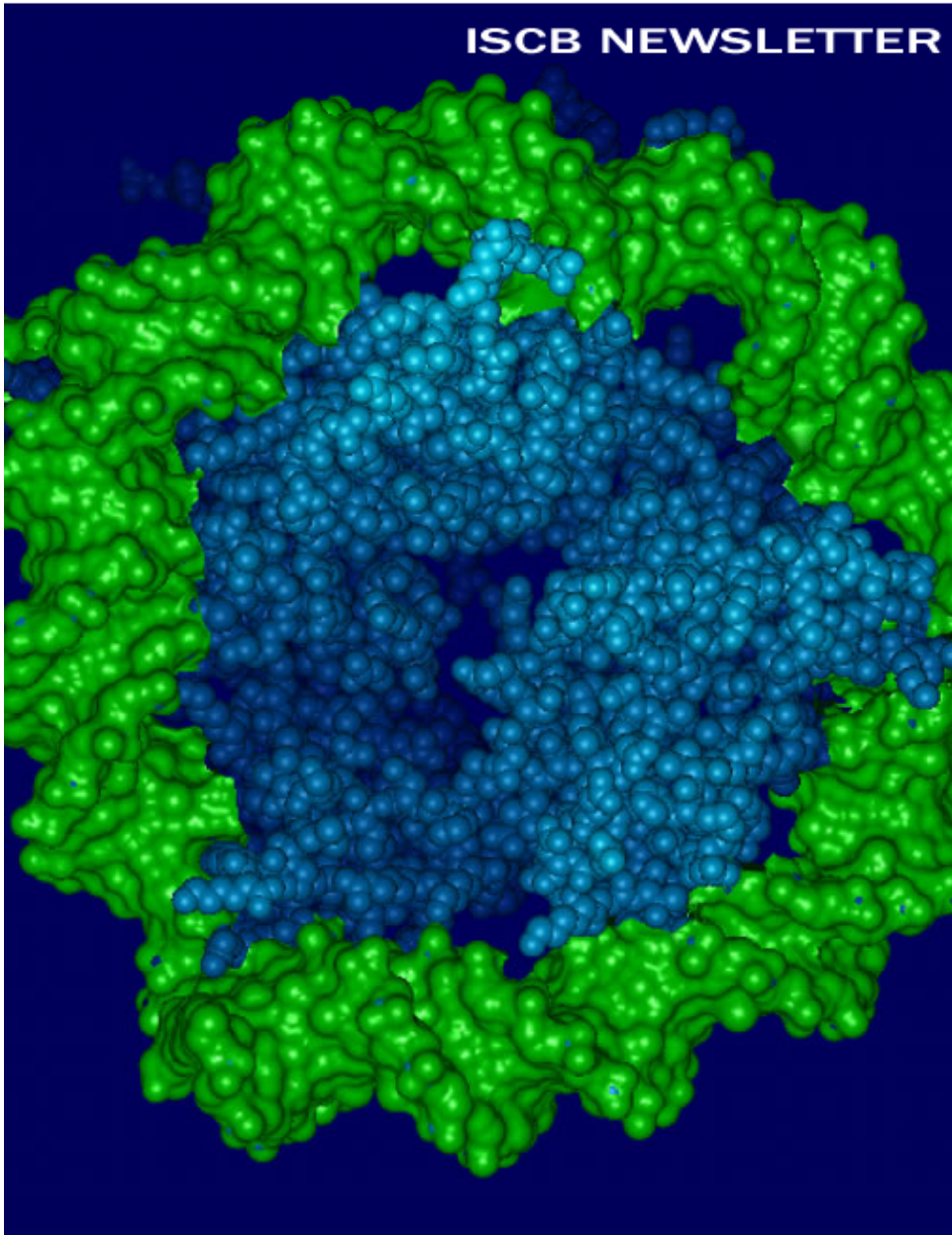


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This image shows a portion of the structure of a human nucleosome (PDB entry 1AOI), with a fragment of DNA (in green) packed around the eight histone proteins (in light blue). Kindly provided by Anna Tramontano. More information on this structure can be found in the following paper:

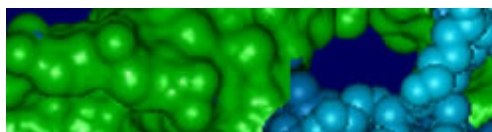
Luger, K., Mader, A. W., Richmond, R. K., Sargent, D. F., Richmond, T. J.: Crystal structure of the nucleosome core particle at 2.8 Å resolution. *Nature* 389 pp. 251 (1997)

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President's Letter

Dear Members:

I am happy to report that the ISMB meeting in Detroit was an outstanding success. I thank David States, Brian Athey, and the rest of the organizers for their efforts – everything went smoothly and the quality of the presentations and posters was excellent. Apparently some of our members thought that Detroit might not be a pleasant site for a meeting – I am happy to say that they were wrong – the Renaissance Center proved to be a great venue and close to a nice selection of restaurants. The total number of attendees was 1754 – this is very good although somewhat lower than as some meetings in the past (Edmonton '02; Glasgow '04), but still quite respectable. The financial figures are now in, and ISMB 2005 has contributed approximately \$180,000 to the ISCB operating budget. As the principle revenue source for the Society, this will enable the office and elected leaders to continue to provide services and benefits to our members worldwide. As you know, the ISMB 2006 will be held in Fortaleza, Brazil, and will be held in conjunction with a conference celebrating the Swiss-Prot 20th anniversary. Please begin making your plans now so that you can attend – it will be a once in a lifetime experience.



The election for the next ISCB president has now been completed and the votes tallied. We had four strong and qualified candidates Barbara Bryant, Shoba Ranganathan, David Rocke, and Burkhard Rost. Each and every one of these candidates has contributed enormously to ISCB, and I would have been happy to see any one of them elected. The election was very close, with Burkhard winning by a hair (complete results elsewhere in this issue). I congratulate all four candidates on their willingness to take up a significant burden for little reward; I hope that the unsuccessful candidates will continue to work to help ISCB prosper and grow. Burkhard will now serve for one year as president-elect and take over as president in January 2007 (I can hardly wait).

Many changes were made at the board meeting this year including changes to many of the committee chairs. This new blood will reinvigorate our committees – now is a good time to step forward if you would like to join in serving on one of the standing committees: Conferences, Education, Finance, Governance, Publications, Public Affairs and Policies, or Affiliates and SIGs. Please send email to the ISCB office (admin@iscb.org) or to the chair of any committee that interests you (see the committees' web page at www.iscb.org/committees).

In the near future I hope to be able to report significant changes in the way ISCB relates to affiliated societies, SIGs, and other organized group. Among the possibilities being considered are simplified processes for the formation of SIGs, formation of local ISCB chapters, and methods by which members of national society could easily and affordably become full ISCB members.

Finally, let me close with an exhortation. I believe that ISCB is a place where scientists whose work crosses the line dividing computation and biology can meet and exchange ideas. I hope that you will join me in asking your colleagues whether they are members, and in encouraging them to join. While our current membership is about 1850, it could be much higher – and with greater membership our ability to achieve our goals in education, public policy, conferences, workshops, outreach and other areas will improve. Our new

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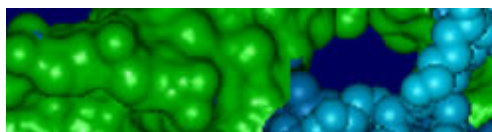
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membership registration site has just opened, with memberships now good for 12 months rather than tied to the calendar year as was previously the case. So, join or renew now and promote the same to your colleagues and peers. Further, I encourage you to speak up, loudly and often, if you do not feel that ISCB is going in the direction you want it to. We are striving for excellence in all areas.



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Rost To Become Next ISCB President

From August 16 through September 5, ISCB members participated in electing the next president of ISCB by casting ballots for president-elect. Dr. Burkhard Rost was the ultimate victor in a very tight race among four candidates, with just two votes separating him from runner up, Dr. Barbara Bryant. A total of 373 ballots were cast by current year ISCB members with the following results:



Burkard Rost	102
Barbara Bryant	100
Shoba Ranganathan	89
David Rocke	82

Currently serving as an ISCB Vice President, Dr. Rost will begin his one year term as president-elect on January 21, 2006, followed immediately by a two year term as president.

This was the first time in the Society's history that four candidates ran for any single officer position, and the fact that they were running to take the helm as the next president made this particularly interesting and exciting. With such close results it is apparent that all candidates were considered highly qualified by a significant segment of the voters. However, results such as these plainly demonstrate just how powerful each individual vote is. With approximately 1800 eligible voters at the time of the election, nearly 21% of them voted. This is slightly more than last year, and a reasonable percentage for society/association election participation.

If you were among the nearly 400 members who voted in this election, Thank You! If you intended to vote but never got around to it, we hope the closeness of the above numbers demonstrate the value of each individual vote – next time please participate! The nominations committee is working on increasing voter turnout in the future by exploring alternative balloting mechanisms, among other things. If you have experience with running elections for other groups, ISCB would love to hear from you at admin@iscb.org.

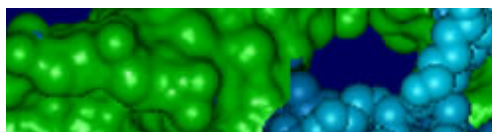


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Rocky '05 Bioinformatics Conference - Set for Aspen, Colorado in December 2005



ISCB is hosting the 3rd Rocky Mountain Regional Bioinformatics Conference (Rocky '05) to be held in Snowmass/Aspen, Colorado, USA from December 9-11, 2005.

The meeting is designed to bring together computational bioscientists from the North American Rocky Mountain Region to share research results and build community among the region. A mix of invited lectures, discussions on topics of regional interest and short talks from many regional research groups as well as presentations from outside the region will make up the scientific program.

While the conference is focused regionally, it will also be of interest to anyone outside the region who wishes to attend. We encourage those within and outside the region to participate in this conference and register before the early registration deadline to take advantage of early bird conference registration fees.

The conference is organized by the University of Colorado Center for Computational Biology and chaired by Lawrence Hunter, Ph.D., Director, Computational Bioscience Program, University of Colorado School of Medicine and Stephen C. Billups, Ph.D., Director, University of Colorado Center for Computational Biology

Keynote Speakers

Asa Ben-Hur, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, Colorado State University

Larry Hunter, University of Colorado School of Medicine

Dr. Kirk E. Jordan, Emerging Solutions Executive, IBM Strategic Growth Initiatives/Deep Computing

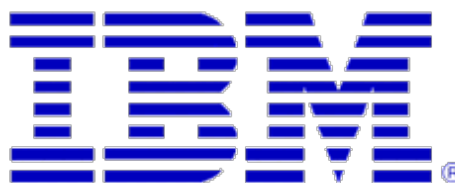
Dr. Katherina J. Kechris, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, San Francisco, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics

Steve Lincoln, Vice President of Informatics, Affymetrix, Inc.

Gene Myers, Group Leader, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Janelia Farms Research Campus (HHMI JFRC)

Christoph W. Sensen, Professor, University of Calgary, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Sun Center of Excellence for Visual Genomics, Faculty of Medicine

A special thanks to the sponsors of Rocky '05.



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Cancer Informatics



Past Attendee comments

100% of the attendees found the extent of the scientific program met or exceeded their expectations

75% said they formed new collaborations as result of attending

100% of the attendees felt the program overall met or exceeded their expectations

"Great meeting! I hope to attend next year and participate more extensively . I liked that the short talks weren't over-coordinated by topics. Well done. Thank You. "

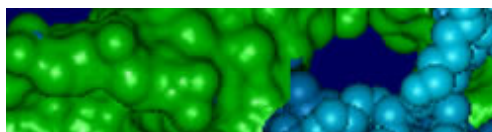
"Great conference, great location, good job."

"Great group of people. I came here looking for collaborators, grad students: I found "one-step removed" colleagues working same problems, and so, defined collaborative efforts during 5-minutes breaks and I found 3 possibilities as additions to lab-team! I want to share information with colleagues who would then be more likely to attend next time."

Attendee registration is now open at <http://www.iscb.org/rocky05/registration.htm>



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Update on *PLoS Computational Biology*



Our journal (<http://compbiol.plos.org>) was started based on the following premise:

PLoS Computational Biology features works of exceptional significance that further our understanding of living systems at all scales through the application of computational methods.

I am pleased to report that after five monthly issues I believe we have met this goal and the future looks exceptionally bright for providing a home for reviews, perspectives, research articles and educational materials that show our computational work is making a distinct difference to the understanding of biology at a variety of scales. Many people have commented to me on the quality of the research, the timeliness and depth of reviews and the professionalism exhibited by PLoS staff. I am proud to be part of this effort. Here are a few statistics on how we are doing.

From January 1 through September 20 (the first issue was in June) 2005 a total of 227 research articles were submitted; 87 were rejected before review, 50 after review, 34 were accepted and 37 are active. Overall acceptance rate is 20% thus far. The average time taken for all first decisions was 27.2 days, with a mean reject before review time of 8.3 days and a reject after review time of 43.0 days. We are working to reduce this time.

By the end of September a total of 4,110 people had signed up to receive an electronic email table of contents and a total of 45,163 full text articles had been downloaded. A total of 121,621 RSS feeds have been accessed.

The Editorial Board has been expanded to accommodate the type of papers being submitted, particularly in the area of neurobiology and modeling of complex systems. New initiatives are planned including a video archive of seminal lectures, a special session at ISMB 2006 in Brazil and a new educational section of the journal.

The International Society for Computational Biology (ISMB) has assigned Anna Tramontano as Editor to the journal to oversee Society contributions to the journal and these are now being published on a monthly basis.

As a journal intended to serve the community we continually welcome your ideas and suggestions for improvement. If you want to see some of the ideas we have in mind take a look at <http://compbiol.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pcbi.0010034>. It only remains me to thank our outstanding Editorial Board as well as Steven Brenner, Rocky Choi, Andy Collins, Mike Eisen, Catherine Nancarrow, Mark Patterson and Chris Sander for getting us this far.

Philip E. Bourne
Editor in Chief, *PLoS Computational Biology*

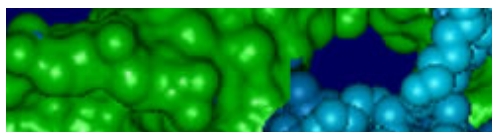


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Putting Students in the Spotlight

The Student Council is pleased to announce a new drive allowing students to increase their research visibility. We call this series of events the Student Council Symposiums (SCS). After Student Council events at ISMB 2005 in Detroit, we recognized that students would like to have more opportunities to meet other young researchers in their field and discuss their work. We hope that these symposiums will be a foundation for new and fruitful scientific interactions between students. These opportunities may be used by the participants for the further enhancement of their scientific careers.

This brings rise to the duality of these events, which incorporates aims of our Outreach and Business Relations Committees. The primary aspiration is targeted to young computational biologists who are attending ISCB-sponsored conferences. The second is based on those students who cannot make these events and wish to utilize the scientific resources of their region. These two separate styles will assist students on multiple levels by allowing discussion and advertisement of research, identifying colleagues, and building of research networks.

The first SCS kicked off on Wednesday, September 28, immediately preceding ECCB 2005 in Madrid. We initiated our own entire review process of student abstracts and have been pleasantly surprised by the quality and amount of abstracts submitted. We received over 60 abstracts in 7 different categories covering a wide range of topics within computational biology. From these our review team selected 20 for an oral presentation at the symposium and another 36 for poster presentation at ECCB. For more information on the 1st International Student Symposium in Computational Biology please visit <http://www.eccb05.org/student.htm>.

Also in planning is the first in the line Student Council sponsored regional symposiums. The ideal behind these venues are to recruit local universities, businesses, and governmental research facilities together for a large networking event. We consider that premise of such an event is created from what we call "The Three Musts":

1. Students MUST be cognizant and take advantage of what options are available to them.
2. Universities and their faculty MUST be aware of the impact of training and niche of discipline and their necessary evolution.
3. Companies and Institutions MUST have some measure for quality of students and the reach of the ensuing research.

These guidelines are the manifestation of the Business Relations Committee's Massive Action Plan.

We strive that the SCS provides a service to the society and other young computational biologists that is quite unique and worthwhile. If you are interesting in helping with these events please send an email to iscbsc@iscb.org.

Sincerely,

Sanne Abeln (Chair of ISCB-SC Marketing Committee)

Victor Weigman (Chair of ISCB-SC Business Relations Committee)

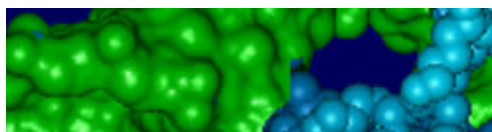


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Call for 2006 Awards Nominations

It's that time of year again! ISCB is now seeking nominations for the sixth annual Overton Prize and the fourth annual Sr. Scientist Accomplishment Award. Please submit your nomination online at http://www.iscb.org/iscb_awards_nomin/nomin_form.php no later than December 2, 2005.

Each award represents the highest level of scientific recognition bestowed upon junior and senior level computational biologists by the ISCB. A highlight of being named to either award is the invitation to present a keynote talk at the Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB) conference, being held next in Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil, August 6-10, 2006.

These are international awards, and nominations from all regions are encouraged. Past winners are:

OVERTON PRIZE

2005	Ewan Birney
2004	Uri Alon
2003	Jim Kent
2002	David Baker
2001	Christopher Burge

SR. SCIENTIST ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD

2005	Janet Thornton
2004	David Lipman
2003	David Sankoff

See <http://www.iscb.org/overton.shtml> and <http://www.iscb.org/ssaa.shtml> for award details and short biographies on these past winners.

Nominations are made through an online submission form to the ISCB. The ISCB Awards Committee then evaluates each nominee, researching more about them than perhaps the nomination form provides, and meeting by teleconference to discuss each nominee and determine the winner of each award. For the first time ever the ISCB Awards Committee now includes several past winners of these awards, which is a welcome move intended to include a jury of one's peers in the selection process.

If you have nominated someone in the past who did not win, please do not hesitate to nominate that same person again. Repeat nominees as well as self-nominations are always welcome. All nominations will be treated confidentially.



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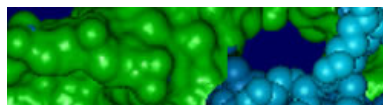
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Biology.
All rights reserved.**ISCB NEWSLETTER****ISMB 2006 in Brazil: Knowledge Areas to Cover the Global Interests and Ignite and Broaden the Brazilian and Latin American Ascent of "Our Science"**

Submitted by Goran Neshich, ISMB 2006 Conference Chair, EMBRAPA Information Technology, Campinas, SP, Brazil

Organizing a high profile scientific conference is not a novelty for Brazilian scientists. However, the 14th Annual International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB: www.iscb.org/ismb2006), to be held in Fortaleza from August 6 to 10, 2006, has a special significance for both Brazil and the international science scene; The organizing committee of the ISMB 2006 has been working hard during the last four years in order to first create adequate conditions within the ISCB itself before being able to win over the decision that the 14th annual ISCB meeting will not be in Europe or in the US, but at the heart of the tropical beach area of the Brazilian Northeast: the city of Fortaleza in the state of Ceara.



The ISCB should be congratulated for such a decision. Traveling off the beaten path, ISCB is showing its maturity by supporting the needs of its global membership and venturing into a very noble task: supporting interests already ignited for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics within the vibrant Brazilian scientific community, which is very eager to have an ever increasing international insertion.

Brazil has invested very prudentially in research areas such as genomics and bioinformatics. This trend started back in 1996 and as a pinnacle result obtained several complete bacterial genomes and initiated a number of projects aiming to complete some plant and animal genomes (<http://watson.fapesp.br>

/onsa/Genoma3.htm).

"The focus of this project is to develop the ability to sequence the genetic material of a microorganism on a large scale, providing detailed genetic information important to agriculture and related areas."

Published reports in *Nature* and *Science* have crowned this effort (*Nature* - "Citrus Pathogen Sequenced" - vol.406, 13/07/2000), and, as a consequence, a number of related areas have started to flourish – the Brazilian Computational Biologists and Bioinformaticians certainly did not miss such an opportunity.

In 2004, a new society was formed: the Brazilian Association for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (AB3C: <http://www.ab3c.org>) as an affiliated society of the ISCB. In October, 2005 the first annual meeting of the AB3C, the X-meeting, was held in Caxambu, in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais (<http://www.x-meeting.com>), with the participation of a very significant number of keynote speakers from outside the country: Rich Roberts, Pavel Pevzner, Stephen Altschul, Michael Ashburner, Eberhart Voit, Jonas Almeida, Peter Roepstoff, Rama Ranganathan, Steven Brenner and Michael Gribskov. The accepted papers are to appear in the open access journal: Genetics and Molecular Research (<http://www.funpecrp.com.br/gmr/year2004/vol4-3/index.htm>) which is enjoying an increasing impact index. The X-meeting was our prelude into the second annual meeting of the AB3C, which is to be held together with the ISMB 2006.

Thus far the ISMB 2006 has been enjoying very significant support across the globe. We have gathered a "dream-team" to compose our Organizing Committee, with Amos Bairoch, Nobuhiro Go and Barry Honig having joined us as members of our special Advisory Committee. They have given worthy suggestions on the scientific areas we will be covering in our program, ensuring that we attain the most in terms of presenting the largest spectrum of activities but also allowing for some new additions to the program. This platform was then taken to the next level by the program chairs, Phil Bourne and Søren Brunak (past chairs of the ISMB conferences in 2000 and 2001, respectively). The ISCB Conferences Committee, headed by Janet Kelso and Burkhard Rost, added some suggestions before the final list of topic areas for the ISMB 2006 program was approved. Through this process, the following list of areas will make up the ISMB 2006 scientific program:



Topic Area	General Description (not meant to be inclusive)
Sequence Analysis	Methods and biological advances based on the analysis of primary RNA, DNA and protein sequences.
Evolution and Phylogeny	Phylogenetic methods and biological advances resulting in an increased understanding of the relationship between species.

Comparative Genomics	Methods and biological advances from large scale genome sequencing and comparison.
Transcriptomics	Methods and biological advances associated with transcription including all regulatory mechanisms.
Proteomics	Methods and biological advances using for example NMR, mass spectrometry and improved understanding associated with any aspect of the protein complement of a cell
Databases & Data Integration	Descriptions of advances associated with novel database content and improved methodologies for data access and dissemination
Ontologies	Development, novel use and methodologies associated with the formal description of biological data.
Text Mining & Information Extraction	Methods and biological advances associated with the analysis of the existing biological literature, including NLP and benchmarking experiments.
Structural Bioinformatics	Methods and biological advances associated with the analysis of 3D atomic structure and beyond, including cheminformatics and large assemblies.
Systems Biology	Methods and biological advances associated with an improved understanding of complete biological systems, for example, gene regulatory networks, protein-protein interaction networks, metabolic pathways, whole cell simulation and beyond.
Human Health	Methods and associated biological advances specifically targeted to the human conditions and human diseases.
Molecular and Supramolecular Dynamics	Methods and biological advances in the modeling of dynamic biological systems at any scale.
Special Sessions (by invitation from the Program Committee Chairs)	
PLoS: Bridging the Scales	Invited session from the best of PLoS journals and others describing the use of computational methods and their outcomes at other than the molecular scale and their potential impact on molecular biology, examples include advances in neurobiology, cell biology, organ physiology and population biology.
Latin American Bioinformatics	Developments in Latin America of interest to a wider audience and designed to promote further collaboration in the region.
New Frontiers	Panel discussion with invited speakers and audience participation on the vision for the field of computational biology and what we should do now to meet that vision.
Late Breaking Research	A set of parallel sessions mapped to topic areas 1-13 which are invited oral presentations taken from the submitted poster abstracts.

The ISMB conference kicks off each year with two days of Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and a day of tutorial sessions. The SIGs are now confirming plans and organizing their scientific programming, and Shoba Ranganathan is again chairing the Tutorial sessions for 2006. A line-up of 12 half-day tutorials will serve an educational function by providing a focused perspective on the presenter's field of research. The [call for tutorial proposals](#) opened in November and will close on January 9, 2006. Nearly immediately thereafter, on January 13th, the call for papers and posters for presentation during the main conference days will open with a paper submission deadline of March 1st, and a poster submission deadline of May 8th.

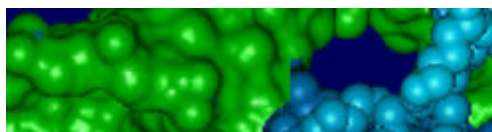
It is also a distinct pleasure for us to see that our initiative to organize a Nobel Laureate keynote address for each of the four days of the congress has had such a positive response from invited Nobel Laureates. We have three such talks confirmed and are currently in contact with another Nobel Laureates in order to complete our program.

We are confident that this exciting program in such a wonderful, tropical destination will attract the attention of researchers thought the globe and result in a gathering in keeping with the tradition of excellence of the ISMB conferences. The ISMB 2006 organizing committee is also pleased to work together with the organizers of the event which is to mark 20 years of

SwissProt operations. This event will take place just before the ISMB 2006, making Fortaleza a world's capitol for the Computational Biology and Bioinformatics communities for two full weeks.



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New ISCB Membership Site Now Open

ISCB has opened its annual membership registration site to begin taking memberships for the next year. Please visit www.iscb.org/membership.shtml to enroll now!

The big change this time is that all memberships will be good for 12 full months from the date of registration or renewal, rather than tied to the calendar year as had previously been the case. Plus, a renewal made now on a current membership will effectively extend the membership through the end of 2006 at the current 2005 membership rates. Membership dues are subject to change on January 1, so enrolling now will lock in the current rate in the event of an increase.

ISCB makes every effort to provide services and benefits that keep pace with changing times and are directly relevant to our members. Please tell us if the membership benefits listed below are serving your personal needs, and let us know if there are others that would help us retain or entice you as a member in the years ahead.

Membership Benefits include:

- ISCB associated with the Public Library of Science in 2005 to publish the Society's official journal, *PLoS Computational Biology*, an open-access journal freely available to everyone, everywhere. One author from every research paper published in the journal is entitled to a complimentary 12-month ISCB membership.
- ISCB members enjoy reduced rates on additional journals published under the traditional subscription-based model, which include: *Bioinformatics*, *Briefings in Bioinformatics*, *Briefings in Functional Genomics & Proteomics*, *Computers in Biology and Medicine*, *Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine*, *Human Genomics*, *Human Molecular Genetics*, *Journal of Biomedical Informatics*, *Journal of Computational Biology*, and *OMICS: A Journal of Integrative Biology*.
- Reduced registration fees at the annual conference of the ISCB, *Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB)* being held in Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil, August 6-10, 2006, as well as the annual *Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing (PSB)*, the annual *RECOMB conference*, the annual *European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB)*, several conferences of the Cambridge Healthtech Institute (CHI), and other regional and commercial conferences. See [upcoming conferences](#) page for more information on these and many more related conferences.
- Travel fellowship eligibility for students and postdoctoral fellows to select meetings as announced throughout the year. See [travel fellowships](#) page for application form.
- Access to current developments in the field via the Website, quarterly newsletter and letters from the President.
- A *Board of Directors*, *Student Council*, and several active *committees* of individual members working together to raise the level of membership excellence and the awareness of our science among other scientists, governments across the globe, and the world community.

ISCB's mission is to advance the understanding of living systems through computation. This serves not only those members of the global bioinformatics community who choose ISCB as their professional membership society, rather our mission extends far beyond our individual members and also provides valuable

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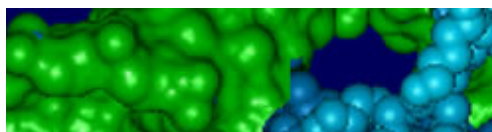
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information and resources to our affiliated regional groups and community-at-large. Examples of this are the online self-posting forms for sharing news about upcoming conferences and events, university degree/certificate programs, and announcements of new products, publications, and funding opportunities. Everyone is encouraged to utilize these self posting pages, members and non-members alike, as the information exchange helps ISCB and its membership in achieving our mission.

We hope if you are a current or past member that you will renew now, and encourage your peers to do the same. If you have never been a member we invite you to consider membership in the ISCB as a definitive statement and possible first step toward achieving a professional mission of your own.



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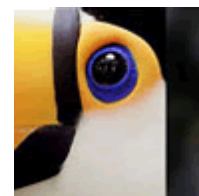
Call for ISMB 2006 Tutorial Proposals - Deadline January 9, 2006



ISMB 2006 will take place in beautiful Brazil next August. As has become tradition, the conference will be kicked off with a day featuring up to 12 half-day tutorial sessions (see [Call for Tutorials](#)), from

introductory to advanced levels, spread out into seven morning and seven afternoon options for attendees. The tutorials will be given on Sunday, August 6, prior to the ISMB scientific program which begins on the 7th and continues through the 10th. The purpose of the tutorial program is to provide participants with lectures and instruction, on either well-established or new "cutting-edge" topics, relevant to the bioinformatics field. It offers participants an opportunity to learn about new areas of bioinformatics research, to get an introduction to important established topics, or to develop higher skill levels in areas in which they are already knowledgeable. The list and descriptions of the final tutorials will be available on the ISMB website (www.iscb.org/ismb2006) after March 6, 2006. Tutorial registration fees are currently under review and will be announced on the site soon. Tutorial attendees should register using the on-line ISMB 2006 registration form when available in March. See Tutorials Key Dates at the bottom of this call for important dates to remember.

This call is an invitation for scientists and professionals working in the fields of bioinformatics and computational biology to submit proposals for high quality tutorials for ISMB 2006. Tutorials must be designed as half-day (four hour) sessions, including a 30 minute break at their midpoint. ISMB will offer up to 12 tutorials covering a range of topics reflective of the multi-disciplinary nature of our field.



Please submit proposals prior to January 9, 2006. Tutorial submissions MUST include a detailed 4 page (max.) description of what will be taught. Proposals should contain the following information:

- A brief description of the instructor(s) indicating the relevant qualifications and teaching experience.
- Based on feedback received from earlier years, please note that graduate students cannot participate as instructors or demonstrators.
- Each tutorial can have a maximum of two presenters.
- Title and expected goals, objectives and motivation of the tutorial
- Tutorial level: Introductory, Intermediate or Advanced.
- Intended audience: it should be clearly and precisely indicated to whom the tutorial is aimed and at which level it would be taught with respect to the different underlying scientific fields. In particular if any background (biology, algorithmics, statistics, etc) is expected, this should be very precisely described.
- Detailed outline of the presentation.

Proposals must be submitted in the MS Word or PDF templates provided at the [Call for Tutorials](#).

All submissions will be evaluated by a committee, which will consider the following criteria:

- Relevance, interest, and value of the topic to ISMB attendees
- Completeness, clarity, and quality of the tutorial proposal
- Expertise and experience of the presenters in the proposed topic



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- Expertise and experience of the presenters in delivering a successful educational experience
- Effectiveness of the proposed presentation approach.



Tutorials serve an educational function and are expected to provide perspective on a field of research. They are not to focus on the presenters' own research or software. Such presentations should be submitted as papers or demonstrations. Tutorial attendees often consider the reputation and standing of the presenters as one of their criteria for choosing particular sessions. Therefore, it is expected presenters listed on the

submitted proposal will be at the conference to present their tutorials.

Submitters of successful tutorial proposals will be notified of their acceptance by March 6, 2006. A maximum of 12 proposals will be accepted for presentation at ISMB 2006. ISMB tutorial presenters will also be invited to develop tutorials for publication in the journal PLoS Computational Biology.

A draft version of all tutorial handouts will be required prior to the final acceptance of a tutorial. The draft handouts must be received by May 1, 2006, and feedback on draft handout materials will be made by May 15, 2006. Final handouts for reproduction must be received by June 26, 2006. The slides should be submitted as PowerPoint files, and the handouts should be pdf files. ISMB will provide a conference template to be used by presenters.

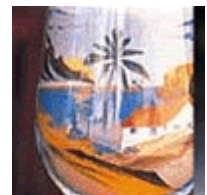
Tutorial Handouts

The tutorial presenters agree to provide participants with teaching materials that include:

- A detailed outline of the presentation and explanatory text, which will be a document equivalent to the oral component of the tutorial, in a standard template.
- Copies of the slides, in PowerPoint format.
- Copies of relevant articles/book chapters published by the tutors may be provided as Supplementary Information but cannot replace the text material of the handout. Presenters will have to obtain copyright permission from their publishers, as required.

Copyright

The authors will grant copyright to tutorial materials to the ISCB for a period to extend from acceptance through December 31, 2006, and they agree that their materials will be made available for sale through the ISCB to ISMB participants not attending the tutorial through December 31, 2006.



Each tutorial team will be provided:

- One honorarium of US\$500;
- One free registration for the tutorial presented;
- One free registration to the ISMB 2006 conference for the tutorial presenter.

Correspondence from prospective tutorial instructors should be sent to:

tutorials@ismbconf.org

Tutorials Key Dates

November 15, 2005 Call for Tutorial Opens

January 9, 2006 Tutorial Workshop (Instructor) Submission Deadline

March 6, 2006 Tutorial Acceptance Notification

March 15, 2006 ISMB Conference Registration Opens

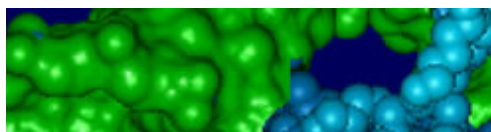
May 1, 2006 Tutorial Draft Handouts Due

May 15, 2006 Feedback Made on Draft Handouts

June 26, 2006 Final Tutorial Handouts for Production Due
Early Conference Registration Discount Cut-off Date



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RECOMB 2006 Registration Opening This Week



Research in Computational Molecular Biology (RECOMB), is preparing to unveil a new level of distinction for its tenth anniversary conference on the fabled resort island of Lido in the enchanting Italian city of Venice. The 2006 conference is being sponsored by the Università degli Studi di Padova, and the Department of Information Engineering at the University of Padova, Italy. The conference is being chaired by Concettina Guerra, while Alberto Apostolico is serving as Program Chair; both chairs are affiliated with Georgia Tech in the USA and University of Padova in Italy.

The RECOMB series focuses on theoretical advances in computational biology and their applications in molecular biology and medicine. The origins of the conference came from the mathematical and computational side of the field, and there remains to be a certain focus on computational advances. The 2006 conference promises to be the biggest RECOMB yet, with over 700 attendees expected for the four day affair, and the Lido of Venice is sure to be as much of a draw as the exceptional science itself.

The meeting will feature up to eight impressive keynote speakers and although the paper notification date is not until December 9, the organizers anticipate an acceptance rate of about 1 in 6 from the 220 submissions received. The poster submission page will open after paper notification, so start watching the RECOMB 2006 website from December 10th for full instructions on poster submissions and related deadlines.

ISCB is pleased to announce that members are offered an exclusive registration discount due to our long standing affiliation and mutual support of the RECOMB conference series. We are also once again sponsoring travel fellowship funds to enable a select number of ISCB student and post doc members to attend RECOMB 2006. Members wanting to be considered for ISCB funding must apply directly through the RECOMB site. As travel fellowship resources are very limited, not all applicants are guaranteed funding.

See the conference website at <http://recomb06.dei.unipd.it/home.html> for full conference information, including online registration. Early registration closes April 4, 2005, and pre-registration closes May 1st. So, sign up now to make plans to join 700 of your colleagues at of the premier international computational biology conferences around.

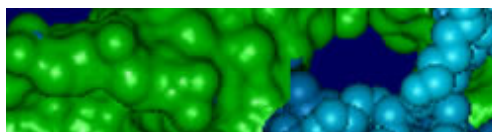


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ISMB 2005 Special Interest Groups Meeting Recaps

Seven Special Interest Groups (SIGs) met in conjunction with ISMB 2005 in Detroit, Michigan, this past summer. Each year ISCB invites select SIGs to share a summary of their meetings with our readers as a means of potentially expanding awareness of their work both during the conference and throughout the year. Below is a recap of three such SIGs from 2005.

Automated Function Prediction 2005 SIG Summary

Submitted by Iddo Friedberg, Martin Jambon and Adam Godzik

Automated function prediction is maturing into a sub-field of its own within computational biology. On the one hand, with all the data coming in from various genomics projects, there is a dire need for annotation of genes and gene products. On the other hand, the computational biology community has just begun to recognize the need for bona fide automated annotators: algorithms that are capable of receiving sequence or structure data and producing a succinct function prediction, and doing so not only by homology based methods. Furthermore, with the emerging predictors, comes the need for assessment: how well are the function predictors doing?

The first Automated Function prediction SIG meeting was set up as focal point for the various research groups involved in this new and exciting field. The 17 talks that were given discussed the various aspects of computationally predicting function from sequence, function from protein 3D structure, function from genomic context, and the ways and means of assessing the quality of function prediction programs. The response from leading researchers was extraordinary, with Michael Sternberg from Imperial College delivering a keynote talk, and Olivier Lichtarge (Baylor College of Medicine), Russ Altman (Stanford University), Patricia Babbitt (UC San Francisco) and Adam Godzik (The Burnham Institute) leading plenary sessions on predicting function from structure, context based predictions, analysis of function site, functional diversity, and challenging the servers. Server challenge was done by Martin Jambon and Iddo Friedberg from The Burnham Institute, and reported by Iddo Friedberg. A poster session and lively discussions on the various aspects of this emerging field served to enhance this exciting day.

With 89 registrants and a head count of over 100 attendees, the one day meeting was considered extremely successful. It was agreed that function prediction is indeed a distinct field, and that there is a scientific community which is interested in meeting regularly to discuss and develop it. Excerpts from the meeting will be published in Protein Science in early 2006. More information can be found at: <http://ffas.burnham.org/AFP>.

BioLINK 2005 SIG Summary

*Submitted by Christian Blaschke, Kevin Cohen, Lynette Hirschman and Hagit Shatkay:
BioLINK SIG co-organizers*

BioLINK SIG is concerned with the rapidly maturing field of biomedical text mining: using techniques from natural language processing, information extraction and information retrieval to automate knowledge discovery from the biomedical literature and free text.

This was the fifth consecutive BioLINK SIG at ISMB, and the first time that it was held jointly with the Workshop on Linking Biological Literature, Ontologies and Databases of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), whose annual

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conference took place in parallel to ISMB in neighboring Ann Arbor. The joint meeting was the largest BioLINK SIG so far (about 100 people in the audience), and attracted many excellent full-length and short papers, posters and talks. All papers, both long and short, went through a full peer-review process. Eight full-length papers were accepted out of 18 full-paper submissions; these were presented and published in the ACL Workshop proceedings. Additionally, 9 short papers were accepted out of 21 short submissions and included in the SIG handouts; 5 of them were selected for presentation during the workshop as short talks, for a total of 13 research talks.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Judith A. Blake, who is one of the leaders of the Mouse Genome Informatics Group at the Jackson Laboratories and a co-founder of the Gene Ontology Consortium. She presented a fascinating talk about the current challenges of integrating biomedical literature with bioinformatics and genomics information, to support curation of model organism databases. This successful meeting concluded with a lively poster session of 22 selected posters, followed by dinner at Detroit's Greek Town. We would like to thank the many people who helped in organization and review, and particularly Steven Leard for his outstanding organizational support for the SIGs. We are looking forward to next year's meeting in Brazil.

Bioinformatics Open-Source Conference SIG Summary

Submitted by Darin London

The Bioinformatics Open-Source Conference (BOSC) is held annually as a Special Interest Group with the Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB) conference, hosted by the Open Bioinformatics Foundation (www.open-bio.org). The aims of the conference are: to showcase the work of projects devoted to creating open-source bioinformatics software, or open standards of communication and information management; to facilitate communication and interaction between developers working within projects, and between project members and members of the wider community interested in their projects; and educate the research community on the value of open-source software and open standards. The meeting consists of keynote speakers invited by the BOSC organizing committee for outstanding achievements in Bioinformatics, Open-Source development, or overall research skill; twenty-minute presentations selected from a competitive pool of abstracts submitted for consideration; five-minute lightning-talks and software demonstrations; and Birds of a Feather meetings on specific projects or areas of interest.

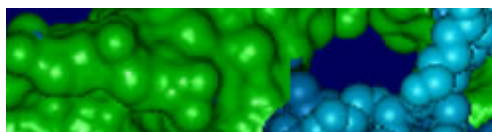
BOSC 2005 included two keynote speakers: Jason Stajich, a key developer of the very popular BioPerl software package, and Hilmar Lapp, speaking on behalf of the Open Bioinformatics Foundation. Mr. Stajich's talk, 'Building Bioperl: lessons for Open-Source and Bioinformatics', presented an historical summary of the development of the BioPerl system, demonstrating the evolution of typical open-source software projects, and the challenges they face. Dr. Lapp presented the new organizational structure of the Open Bioinformatics Foundation as a not-for-profit organization with memberships open to all those who support their mission at no charge. All participants of BOSC 2005 were given the opportunity to become members, and participate in shaping the future direction of the foundation.

The full length talk lineup included 15 speakers whose abstracts were chosen from a very competitive group. They demonstrate the diversity and quality of work being done in the open-source bioinformatics community. Highlights include talks on a variety of new tools for managing bioinformatics analyses, and result visualization; discussions of a number of powerful data-mining systems; and many tools designed to use or manage an ever expanding list of web services for bioinformatics. The schedule for BOSC 2005, including links to abstracts, images, and slides, can be accessed at <http://open-bio.org/bosc2005/finalProgram>.

Preparation for BOSC 2006 in Brazil is already underway. Check the OBF website (www.open-bio.org) for more details.



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Israeli Bioinformatics Symposium 2005 ... A Prelude to ECCB'06

Submitted by Hershel Safer, Secretary of the Israeli Society for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, and ibs2005 Program Committee member

The 8th Israeli Bioinformatics Symposium (www.cs.bgu.ac.il/~ibs05/) was held on May 22nd at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU). Approximately 500 people attended the meeting, which was chaired by Chen Keasar of BGU and Ron Shamir of Tel Aviv University.

David Sankoff, University of Ottawa, gave the opening keynote speech: "Rearrangements of partially ordered genomes." Rivka Carmi, BGU, spoke about "Mapping genes in isolated populations" to close the day. Other speakers included Michael Levitt of Stanford and Israeli researchers Roded Sharan, Naama Barkai, Zohar Yakhini, Yael Mandel-Gutfreund, and Danny Barash.

Prizes were awarded for the two best student posters of 70 that were exhibited: Yuval Tabach, Michael Milyavsky, et al., Weizmann Institute, "A promoter architecture of human cell cycle genes implements a fuzzy-logical integration of two tumor suppressive pathways during in-vitro transformation"; and Avraham Ben-Shimon et al., Weizmann Institute, "Looking at enzymes from the inside out: The proximity of catalytic residues to the molecular centroid can be used for identification of active sites."

Ron Unger of Bar Ilan University was chosen president-elect of the Israeli Society for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology.

The 2006 Symposium will be part of the 5th European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB, www.eccb06.org) in the resort town of Eilat, Israel.

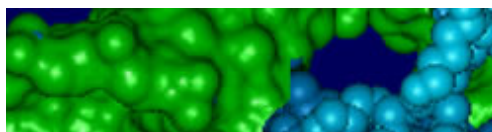


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Advertising and Corporate Membership Opportunities

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 have the choice to exclusively sponsor all of the newsletter, or partially sponsor just a portion of it. ISCB newsletters for 2006 will be distributed within the periods of January/February, April/May, July/August, and October/November, 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.

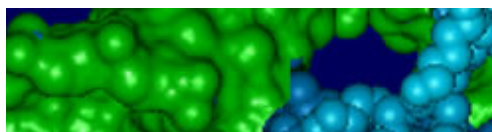


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Post Your Events & News on the ISCB Website

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/event_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/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.

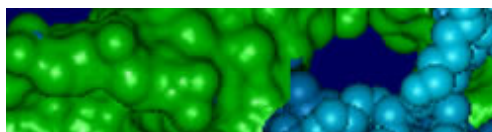


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Upcoming Conferences & Events

ISCB Annual Conferences

Rocky '05 - Rocky Mountain Regional Bioinformatics Conference

United States - CO - Aspen/Snowmass

Dates: Dec 09, 2005 through Dec 11, 2005

ISCB Member Discount: 50 USD

Event URL: <http://www.iscb.org/rocky05>

ISMB 2006 – Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology

Call for Tutorials open now through Jan 9, 2006

Call for Papers and Posters will open Jan 13, 2006

Conference Registration will open March 15, 2006

Brazil - Ceara - Fortaleza

Dates: Aug 06, 2006 through Aug 10, 2006

ISCB Member Discount: TBA

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

ISCB Co-Sponsored Conferences & Affiliated Conferences

Joint RECOMB Satellite Workshops on Systems Biology and Regulatory Genomics

United States - CA - La Jolla

Hosted By: University of California, San Diego and Calit2

Dates: Dec 02, 2005 through Dec 04, 2005

Event URL: <http://research.calit2.net/recomb-workshop05>

PSB - Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing 2006

Registration Now Open Now

United States - HI - Wailea, Maui

Hosted By: Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing

Dates: Jan 03, 2006 through Jan 07, 2006

ISCB Member Discount: 75 USD

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

The Fourth Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Conference

Registration Now Open Now

Taiwan - Taipei

Hosted By: Bioinformatics Society, Taiwan

Dates: Feb 13, 2006 through Feb 16, 2006

ISCB Member Discount: 10% Off

Event URL: <http://binfo.ym.edu.tw/apbc2006/>

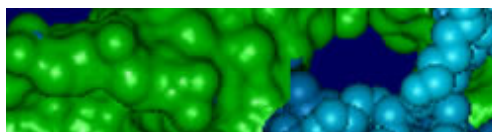
RECOMB 2006

Registration Now Open Now

Italy - Venice Lido

Hosted By: DEI - University of Padova

Dates: Apr 02, 2006 through Apr 05, 2006



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News from the Field

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), Executive Director Search

Nov 3, 2005

FASEB (a coalition of 23 independent Member Societies located in Bethesda, MD, USA, and representing the interests of biomedical and life scientists) seeks an Executive Director to report directly to the President/Board and serve as the chief operating officer of the corporation, responsible for implementing business, financial, publication, advisory, public relations, educational, and other program and policies approved by the Board. He/she provides leadership and direction to approximately 90 professional, technical and clerical support staff and manages an annual operating budget of \$15.5 million.

Qualified applicants should have executive/administrative experience with a record of achievement and leadership in academic, association or other non-profit organizations. Candidates will have proven administrative and leadership capabilities, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, knowledge and understanding of the legislative process, public policy, knowledge of current trends/issues facing the biological and life sciences, and a strong sense of diplomacy. An advanced degree (Ph.D., M.D., M.B.A.) is highly desirable.

FASEB is an Equal Opportunity Employer. To view a complete job description visit our web site at: <http://www.faseb.org/hr/employ.html>.

Search Tool for Life Sciences Researchers

Oct 21, 2005

A community based search tool for life scientists was recently launched and can be found at www.siphs.com. Siphs aims to simplify the process of searching for relevant scientific content by leveraging the combined knowledge of researchers world wide. Traditional information search tools rely upon cataloguing, indexing, and ranking a wide variety of scholarly sources found on the web. Unlike traditional search engines, Siphs search queries are tagged with "areas of expertise" and then distributed to scientists who are members of the Siphs community for review. The tool was designed by taking a clue from the offline world in that the most relevant search results can be found by asking the people with the right set of experiences.

Bioalma and EMBL Sign Agreement to License AlmaKnowledgeServer (AKS) as Part of Joint Research Project

Sep 08, 2005

bioalma has announced that EMBL has licensed almaKnowledgeServer (AKS) for an initial period of three years. Under this agreement, researchers based at EMBL headquarters in Heidelberg as well as those based at outstations will have access to the system as part of their daily research activities. bioalma and EMBL are also pleased to announce a joint development project to tailor almaKnowledgeServer (AKS) features to the needs of the EMBL organization. Read the complete press release: www.marketwire.com/mw/release_html_b1?release_id=089299.

ISMB2005 Proceedings Now Available

Sep 06, 2005

ISMB2005 Proceedings are now available for purchase on-line at www.iscb.org/proceedings.shtml. If you have any questions please contact Suzi



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Smith, ISCB Administrative Support, at admin@iscb.org.

Bioinformatics Optional Open Access

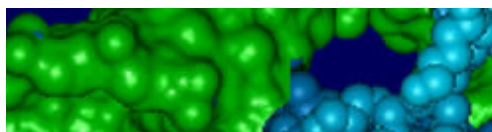
Aug 23, 2005

Bioinformatics open access offers you the chance to have your work made available free online immediately upon publication. This means that anyone with Internet access can read and cite your published paper regardless of whether they have a subscription to the journal. The standard charge for open access publication is £1,500 / US\$2,800 but if your institution has a current online subscription to the journal, this will be reduced to £800 / US\$1,500. Lower charges apply when you publish in the Application Notes section of the journal, and for authors based in low-income countries. THE CHOICE IS YOURS Because open access is optional, you can still publish in Bioinformatics free of charge. If you choose not to pay for open access your work will be made available free online after one year. All authors are also entitled to make a post-print of their paper publicly available in repositories such as PubMed Central twelve months after online publication, while those choosing to publish their paper under the open access model can make their post-print freely available immediately.



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Bioinformatics Books Available 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. With the holiday shopping season now upon us, this could be a great way to shop for yourself and your loved ones online, and give something back to the Society 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.

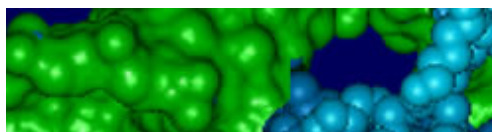


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Acknowledgements and Contributors

This newsletter was produced by the following individuals:

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BJ Morrison McKay, *ISCB Executive Officer/Newsletter Editor*

Edna Nerona, *ISCB Webmaster/Newsletter Layout and Design*

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