



FOCUS ISSUE

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A NOTE FROM ISCB PRESIDENT

Michael Gribskov

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This year the Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB) conference travels to Brazil, and for the first time, to South America. ISMB 2006, organized by chair Goran Neshich and vice-chair Ana Vasconcelos, and program committee chairs Phil Bourne and Søren Brunak includes the best features of past ISMB conferences and adds new tracks that expand the scope of the conference. I thank everyone involved in producing this conference, including the many volunteer committee members, the hundreds of reviewers, the Brazilian-based professional conference organizers and the ISCB staff for their efforts.

Planning for conferences such as ISMB is increasingly complicated by tighter government funding. Tighter funding results in restrictions on travel and, in turn, in reduced attendance at international meetings such as ISMB, RECOMB and ECCB. ISCB is exploring improving outreach to the computational biology community by increasing local conference/meeting/workshop activities. Recent events include ISCB co-sponsorship of educational workshops in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and India. In addition, we have donated student travel fellowship funds and had a presence in the exhibition areas of BIOINFO 2005 (South Korea), PSB 2006 (Hawaii), ECCB 2005 (Spain) and RECOMB 2006 (Italy). We are providing organizational support to the organizers of the RECOMB Satellite Conferences on Systems Biology and Computational Proteomics to be held in San Diego this December, and will host the Rocky Mountain Bioinformatics Conference in December. We are in the planning stages for once again joining with ECCB to host a joint ISMB/ECCB 2007 Austria next July. In addition, the ISCB Student Council has hosted their own events, organizing Student Council Symposia at both ECCB 2005 and ISMB 2006, and the first BioMeet regional conference, which was held at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in April.



As we begin our tenth year as a professional society, I see that ISCB has accomplished part of what we set out to do a decade ago, but has yet to provide the substantial, tangible, lasting benefits that I believe it should. In my tenure as president, I have continually felt we fail to harness the volunteer energies of members. And yet, the range of activities noted above gives me hope that we are getting on the right track.

At our board of directors meeting in Brazil I will be leading a discussion about how to improve the effectiveness of ISCB as an organization, using results from a recent questionnaire to build upon our strengths and reduce our weaknesses. Community contributions to ISCB and improved membership benefits are generally launched in committees; committee effectiveness is vital to our success and growth. Your current or future service on an ISCB committee will leave a lasting legacy for the benefit of members now and in the future.

Until then, see you in Brazil!
Michael Gribskov,
President, ISCB

WELCOME TO ISMB 2006



To orchestrate a conference of this magnitude is no small feat. Feat,

as defined by Dictionary.com, is "An act of skill, endurance, imagination, or strength; an achievement." Everyone involved in ISMB 2006, from the site selection committee all the way through to the local organizing committee, employed each of those qualities along the way, and all can be enormously proud of their significant achievements.

But what exactly are those so-called achievements?

Well, the road to Brazil began with a bid to host the conference over three years ago, and at long last the full ISMB delegation arrived (albeit a smaller delegation than ISMBs of the recent past). This journey was significant for several reasons: it is only the second time ISMB has been held outside North America and Europe in the 14 year history of the conference; it is ISCB's first conference event in South America; it is a testament to Brazilian scientists that their work is now showcased on the world stage by hosting this important conference; and it is an exceptional experience for all delegates to travel off the beaten path to learn more than just science by also gaining an understanding of different cultures, cuisines, languages, and the colorful hospitality of local hosts. Surely Brazil does not disappoint in any of these opportunities!

Scientific achievements, as noted by the program chairs in the proceedings editorial, include another first, such that the ISMB 2006 papers are open access and were made freely available to the worldwide community ahead of the conference and subsequently through an online-only version of the journal *Bioinformatics*, volume 22, issue 14. Of 404

submitted papers addressing 13 topic areas, a total of 67 were selected for oral presentation, resulting in a 16.6% acceptance rate. Separately a review of submitted abstracts drew 212 submissions resulting in 23 full-length talks in the first-ever PLoS Track of Oral Presentations accommodating of more biologically focused research talks without the requirement of publication in the conference proceedings. The poster session drew more than 600 submissions, including those for the late-breaking posters of particularly recent research results and works in progress. And over 30 technical demonstrations, 12 tutorial sessions, four special interest group meetings and one satellite meeting rounded out the scientific agenda for a full week of learning and exchange on the beautiful northeastern coast of Brazil. To top it all off, the 20th anniversary of SwissProt, the manually curated section of the UniProt Knowledgebase, descended upon Fortaleza in the week preceding ISMB 2006, enabling a full 12 days of science for those fortunate enough to attend both events.

At the time of this writing, ISMB 2006 is just days away. By the time you read this, however, ISMB may be a thing of the past. Wherever you may be, mark your calendar now for ISMB/ECCB 2007, a joint conference in Vienna, Austria, July 21-25, 2007. Several committees and endless hours of volunteer effort over the months ahead will coalesce into more acts of skill, endurance, imagination, and strength to once again achieve a bioinformatics conference not to be missed. Another feat ahead, if we do say so ourselves, and we hope to see you there.



STUDENT COUNCIL EVENTS AT ISMB 2006

Submitted by Nils Gehlenborg

The Student Council has once again organized a series of events and activities at ISMB. The major event will be the 2nd ISCB Student Council Symposium, to be held on August 6th. The symposium will be followed by a social event with dinner and plenty of networking opportunities in one of Fortaleza's fine traditional Brazilian restaurants.

During the ISCB Open Business Meeting on Monday the Student Council will present the winners of the symposium's "Best Poster" and "Best Paper" awards. A Student Council representative will also give a brief overview of the Student Council's mission and activities.

An in-depth discussion of these issues will follow on Tuesday during the Student Council Open Meeting. All ISMB delegates are welcome to attend this meeting to hear about the Student Council leadership's plan for the future. Everyone is invited to present their ideas, views and opinions about the Student Council.

Daily during lunchtime tables will be reserved in the restaurant at the convention center for Student Council members and everyone else interested. Student Council representatives will be available to answer any questions.

All details on the Student Council's ISMB activities can be found at <http://www.iscbsc.org>.

DR. MATHIEU BLANCHETTE NAMED AS ISCB 2006 OVERTON PRIZE WINNER!

Dr. Mathieu Blanchette



*Submitted by Merry Maisel,
freelance science writer*

The International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB) awards the 2006 Overton Prize to Mathieu Blanchette, assistant professor in the School of Computer Science at McGill University in Montréal. The prize is awarded at the ISCB annual meeting, Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology, held in Fortaleza, Brazil, on August 8, 2006 when Blanchette delivers the annual Overton keynote lecture entitled "What mammalian genomes tell us about our ancestors, and vice versa."

"Mathieu Blanchette is responsible for fundamental, highly cited contributions in several areas of bioinformatics," says Professor Thomas Lengauer of the Max-Planck-Institut für Informatik, who is chair of the ISCB Awards Committee.

"His doctoral thesis contained perhaps the first reasonable algorithm for gene-order phylogeny, based on a solution to the breakpoint median problem, and it also elaborated the now-famous concept of phylogenetic footprinting. As a postdoctoral researcher, he played a central role in working out algorithms for reconstructing ancestral mammalian genomes. His most recent work continues his interest in the inference of evolutionary scenarios and gene regulation. And he has been active in the bioinformatics community since his student days, presenting papers at the Computing and Combinatorics conferences and the Research in Computational Molecular Biology meetings, among others. He is currently organizing several workshops and conferences, has attracted many students to his new lab, and has been highly successful in obtaining funding in a competitive environment."

From 1994 through 1997, Blanchette was an undergraduate in the Mathematics and Computer Science departments of the Université de Montréal. After graduating, he did an M.Sc. there as well, writing a thesis on breakpoint phylogeny under the direction of David Sankoff. He then went to the University of Washington, obtaining a Ph.D. in Computer Science (2002) under the supervision of Martin Tompa. He spent the next year as a

postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Biomolecular Science and Engineering of the University of California at Santa Cruz, where he worked with David Haussler. He took up his current position at McGill in 2003.

Blanchette says, "Chris Overton was one of the first explorers of the world of bioinformatics, before the name even existed, and he opened the area to young people like me. I am immensely grateful for the work he did and greatly honored to receive this award, created in his memory after his untimely death in 2000." The award is given annually to a scientist in the early to middle stage of his or her career who has contributed significantly to computational biology through research, education, service, or a combination of the three.

For an abstract of Blanchette's keynote address, please see ismb2006.cbi.cnpia.embrapa.br/keynotes.html#blanchette.

**PROFESSOR MICHAEL WATERMAN RECOGNIZED AS 2006
ISCB SENIOR SCIENTIST ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD WINNER**

Michael Waterman

*Submitted by Merry Maisel,
freelance science writer*

Dr. Michael S. Waterman, Professor of Biological Sciences, Computer Sciences, and Mathematics at the University of Southern California, is the 2006 recipient of the Senior Scientist Accomplishment Award of the International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB).

Waterman is best known as the developer, with Temple F. Smith, of the Smith-Waterman algorithm for determining the degree of similarity (homology) of amino acid sequences from DNA, RNA, or proteins. In their famous three-page paper in the *Journal of Molecular Biology* in 1981, Waterman and Smith changed the face of molecular biology and helped launch the bioinformatics revolution.

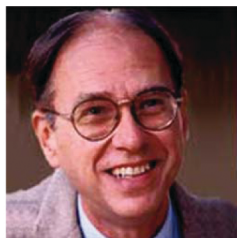
"Ever since, Mike Waterman has contributed work of prime importance in half a dozen fields of computational biology," says Professor Thomas Lengauer of the Max-Planck-Institut für Informatik and chair of the ISCB Awards Committee. "In addition to the Smith-Waterman algorithm and its follow-ons, Waterman introduced the dynamic programming approach to RNA structure prediction; and he supplied the mathematical, probabilistic, and statistical underpinning that

supports BLAST and similar alignment search and evaluation tools. In 1988, he and Eric Lander derived the fundamental formulae to enable the correct assembly of genome sequences. His recent software for genome assembly, written with computational scientist Pavel Pevzner of UCSD and mathematician Haixu Tang of USC, promises to become the standard for the field."

Lengauer adds, "Waterman has had enormous impact on the fields of bioinformatics, computational genomics, and phylogeny, combining vision with technical depth, and his influence goes beyond research." Waterman has trained many prominent computational geneticists, has served on virtually all the panels and committees advising government and evaluating major grants and fellowships, and has generally guided the development of computational biology. "He wrote one of the first textbooks in this field," Lengauer says, "and his latest text, *Computational Genome Analysis: An Introduction*, written with Richard C. Deonier and Simon Tavaré, is unique in successfully addressing the needs of students with very little background in either biology or computing. With Pavel Pevzner and Sorin Istrail, Waterman founded RECOMB, the conference on research in computational molecular biology, which held its tenth conference in April 2006."

Waterman is a founding editor of the *Journal of Computational Biology* and serves on the editorial boards of six other journals. He was named a Guggenheim Fellow (1995), was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1995) and to the National Academy of Sciences (2001), and is a Fellow of AAAS and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. In 2005, he was elected to the French Académie des Sciences. In addition to his posts as University Professor and USC Associates Chair in Natural Sciences, he is professor-at-large in the Keck Graduate Institute of Life Sciences and master of USC's Parkside International Residence College.

The Senior Scientist Achievement Award will be presented to Professor Waterman on August 10 at the ISCB annual meeting, Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology, in Fortaleza, Brazil. Waterman will deliver the final keynote lecture, "Whole genome optical mapping," for the conference.





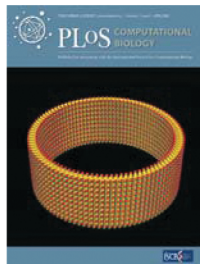
ONE YEAR OF PLOS COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

Submitted by Philip E. Bourne, Editor in Chief

The Public Library of Science (PLoS) open access community journal *Computational Biology* is published in partnership with the International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB). As this is written there have been twelve monthly issues of this new journal published. How is the journal doing and what does this mean to the Society?

While it is too early to formally assess the impact of the journal, it is worth reflecting on what has been achieved in the first year of publication. Twelve monthly issues actually reflects eighteen months of submissions, given that we have been considering papers since January of 2005. At the end of June 2006, 631 research articles have been submitted to the journal, 110 have been published and 64 (48 new submissions and 16 revisions) are currently under review. We estimate that our acceptance rate is currently around 30%, increasing in recent months from less than 20% as authors become more familiar with the expectations of the journal and do not submit papers that have little chance of being published. We are now publishing about 15 research articles per month. Accompanying these research articles over the year have been 3 editorials, 6 reviews, 5 perspectives, and the Education Section just published its first tutorial. From acceptance to publication is 5-6 weeks, although authors have the option of having their manuscripts posted as soon as they are accepted. Submissions have been received from 41 countries (based on the location of the corresponding author).


Interest in the journal can be gauged by the number of people who have signed up to receive an electronic alert of journal contents (eTOC) and by the number of downloads of journal articles. Currently 7,125 people are signed up to receive an eTOC, a number that grows by several hundred each month and since the launch, there has been a total of 262,268 articles download. Two of the top ten papers are in the area of neuroscience and two others form part of the on-going "Ten Rules" series of editorials to aid our less experienced readers. Of the Remainder, one is a perspective discussing team versus individual science and the rest are in the realm of



computational molecular biology. Demographics of materials downloaded show North America and Europe account for 60-70% of the usage of the site, but there is significant usage from the developing world, a testament to open access.

Overall, we are well on the way to meeting the original editorial goal of the journal – to establish a high-quality knowledge resource serving a community interested in advancing our understanding of living systems through the use of computational techniques. While reported advances have been predominantly at the molecular level, there is a growing body of work being submitted that covers different levels of biological organization. This reflects our goal to publish great work involving computational analyses at all biological scales. We want to make the connections between researchers who are using conceptually related approaches to tackle diverse issues in biology.

What does this first successful year mean to the Society? There is a healthy and growing relationship between the two organizations. A number of ISCB Directors are members of the journal's Editorial Board, Fran Lewitter, the journal's Education Editor, is part of the ISCB Education Committee which has led to, for example, solicitation of ISMB tutorials for publication by the journal. ISCB representatives, including the Chair of the ISCB Publications Committee, are invited to weekly PLoS teleconferences and PLoS reports to the ISCB on journal matters relating to the Society. One author of each accepted paper gets a free one year membership to the Society and hopefully will renew their membership in later years. Finally, articles about ISCB activities are a regular feature of the journal.



There is clearly great interest from other scientific communities in how the relationship between a scientific society and an open access journal develops. I am proud to report that after one year the relationship is strong and mutually beneficial. I am hopeful that next year I will be able to report that we have proven ourselves an exemplar and groundbreaker for such society-journal relationships. None of this would be possible without highly dedicated staff in both organizations. I thank the staff at PLoS, notably Catherine Nancarrow and Emily Stevenson, and BJ Morrison McKay, the Executive Officer of ISCB for getting us this far. The rest is up to you. Please submit your best work and continue to make *PLoS Computational Biology* a showcase for our science.

PLoS CB EDUCATION COLUMN – CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Submitted by Fran Lewitter

The Education column of *PLoS Computational Biology* was launched in January 2006 (see *PLoS Comput Biol* 2(1): e7.). The main goal of the column is to provide both practical and background information on important computational methods used to investigate interesting biological questions. A second goal is to provide information in the column that may be used at your institution for training others. Finally, we hope to stimulate widespread interest in an expanding field. To begin to meet these goals, we will focus initially on providing both historical reviews and tutorials.



The first contributed article, “Practical Strategies for Discovering Regulatory DNA Sequence Motifs”, published in the April issue was written by Kenzie MacIsaac and Ernest Fraenkel. This work was inspired by a tutorial given by the authors at a Systems Biology meeting. The June 2006 issue contained an article written by Duncan Brown and Kimmen Sjölander titled “Functional classification using phylogenomic inference”. This was stimulated by ongoing research in their lab.

The Education column is just taking shape and you are invited to contribute to it. The basic approach of an article should be to motivate a topic and then provide sufficient background and information to enable someone to begin using this approach. I believe that the tutorials should concentrate on biological questions, followed by a discussion that covers the relevant computational tools to help answer those questions. A review for the Education column could be an historical perspective (e.g. the evolution of sequence searching methods or when is dynamic programming useful to apply to biological problems).

As for length, about 2000 words with 2 or 3 figures/tables is what we are aiming for. The goal is to keep the reader engaged so we don't want articles that are too long. Submitted manuscripts will be peer reviewed.

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If you have ideas for articles you'd like to contribute, please send e-mail to ploscompbiol_education@plos.org.

We look forward to hearing from you.



BioLINK AND BioCreAtIvE: LINKING TEXT TO BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Lynette Hirschman^{1*}, Rolf Apweiler⁶, Christian Blaschke², Evelyn Camon⁶, Gianni Cesareni⁷, K. Bretonnel Cohen⁸, Marc Colosimo¹, Jeffrey Colombe¹, Martin Krallinger³, Alexander A. Morgan¹, Hagit Shatkay⁴, Larry Smith⁵, Lorraine Tanabe⁵, W. John Wilbur⁵, Alfonso Valencia^{3*},

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*Correspondence should be addressed to Alfonso Valencia (valencia@cnio.es) or Lynette Hirschman (lynette@mitre.org)

Text mining for biomedicine is a rapidly growing field with more than 200 papers published in 2005 and 100 systems available either online or for download. It is at this early stage in the life of a research area where it is important to set standards and evaluation criteria that pave the way for future progress, concentrating resources, focusing effort on key problems, and providing for shared data and infrastructure.

For the past five years, the BioLINK ISCB SIG has been discussing the linkage of the biomedical literature to other biological resources, particularly ontologies and biological databases. Today's biologists and bioinformaticians rely not only on access to the literature (through PubMed), but increasingly on curated biological databases, such as the model organism databases, protein sequence and structure databases, and protein interaction and gene expression databases. In 2006 BioLINK will be co-organized with the Bio-ontologies SIG (bio-ontologies.man.ac.uk/home.html).

BioLINK has focused on two factors: 1) the need of experimental biologists to obtain better access to the biomedical literature, and 2) the need of biological database curators for better tools to support curation of the literature. These discussions lead to the first BioCreAtIvE (Critical Assessment of Information Extraction in Biology), whose goal was to provide an assessment of the state-of-the-art for text mining applied to biological problems [1]. The first evaluation took place in 2003-2004 and attracted broad participation from the bioinformatics and

biomedical text mining community. There were two tasks; the first for extraction of gene or protein names from text and their mapping into standardized gene identifiers. The second task addressed the automatic extraction and assignment of Gene Ontology (GO) annotations to human proteins based on evidence from full text articles.

We are now launching the second BioCreAtIvE challenge, to be held during October of 2006, with the workshop expected to take place in Spring 2007 (see <http://biocreative.sourceforge.net>). It will consist of three tracks: Gene/Protein Mentions (GM), Gene/Protein Normalization (GN) and Protein-Protein Interaction (PPI). The PPI track of BioCreAtIvE II is new and will involve identifying protein-protein interactions from full text papers, including extraction of excerpts from those papers that describe experimentally derived interactions, for curation into one of two interaction databases: IntAct [2] and MINT [3]

References

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- [2] Hermjakob, H., Montecchi-Palazzi, L. (2004) IntAct - an open source molecular interaction database. *Nucl. Acids. Res.* 2004 32: D452-D455.
- [3] Zanzoni, A., Montecchi-Palazzi, L., et al. (2002) MINT: a Molecular Interaction database. *FEBS Lett.* 2002 Feb 20;513(1):135-40.

ISCB OFFICER AND STUDENT COUNCIL LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS



ISCB Officer and Student Council Leader elections for the next term will begin soon. All ISCB members are encouraged to participate in these elections. Remember, those elected will be serving YOU and regularly speaking on your behalf regarding Society matters. To view the candidate statements, please visit www.iscb.org/candidates06.php. A question and answer period will be open from September 1 through 21, and elections will be held online from September 22 through October 6. Please visit the above URL for further details and to link to the full statements of each candidate listed below.

Two Vice Presidential candidates:

Terry Gaasterland,
University of California, San Diego

Reinhard Schneider, EMBL

Secretary candidate:

Janet Kelso,
Max-Planck Institute for
Evolutionary Anthropology

Treasurer candidate:

David Rocke, University of California, Davis

Student Council Representative to the ISCB Board of Directors candidate

Vijaya Parthiban,
Cologne University Bioinformatics Center

Student Council Chair candidate:

Manuel J. Corpas, University of Manchester

Two Student Council Vice Chair candidates:

Sarah Janga,
Center for Genomic Sciences Office

Victor J. Weigman,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Two Student Council Secretary candidates:

Milana Frenkel,
Weizmann Institute of Science

Nils Gehlenborg,
Institute for Systems Biology

MentorNet News

As announced in May, 2006, ISCB recently joined the MentorNet E-Mentoring Network as an Affiliated Partner. In our ongoing effort to encourage ISCB professional and student members to sign up as Mentors and Protégés, we are pleased to share the following excerpt from the July issue of MentorNet News, reprinted with permission.

A Chance to Inspire-Why Long-Term Mentors Keep Coming Back

Since launching the One-on-One E-Mentoring program in 1998, MentorNet has matched nearly 16,000 pairs in 8-month mentoring relationships. Some mentors so enjoy the chance to help a student navigate the ups and downs of academic life that they continue to sign up for more matches. In fact, 180 mentors have been volunteers for five or more years! What keeps them coming back? Seven long-term MentorNet mentors share what they like about MentorNet and why they stay with the program year after year. A chance to inspire others and give back to the community and the opportunity to learn more about themselves and their own careers are just a few of the reasons. Seven mentors share their personal satisfaction as mentors at www.mentornet.net/news/newsart.aspx?nid=12&sid=2

MentorNet News is a monthly e-newsletter that goes out to all MentorNet Community members and friends. Use this link to subscribe and receive your own copy:

www.mentornet.net/community/public/subs.aspx



MentorNet®

The E-Mentoring Network for Diversity in Engineering and Science

ANNOUNCING ISMB/ECCB 2007

POST YOUR EVENTS AND NEWS

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, funding 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.

The board of directors of the International Society for Computational Biology, together with the steering committee of the European Conference on Computational Biology, take great pleasure in announcing ISMB/ECCB 2007 – a joint conference to be held in Vienna, Austria, July 21-25.



VIENNA•WIEN



21-25•JUL•07

Bringing together over 2000 inter-disciplinary, international scientists from the fields of computer science, molecular biology, mathematics and statistics, ISMB/ECCB 2007 will focus on the development and application of advanced computational methods for biological problems. The Austria Center will serve as the conference venue, providing extensive opportunities for multiple tracks and an unparalleled scientific learning, exchange, networking and collaborative environment.

ISMB/ECCB 2007 will be organized under the chairmanship of Thomas Lengauer, Max-Planck Institute for Informatics, together with Burkhard Rost, Columbia University, and Peter Schuster, Universität Wien, serving as conference co-chairs.

For further details please sign up for updates at www.iscb.org/ismbeccb2007, or write to info07@ismbconf.org.

We will count on seeing you there!



ECCB 2006, ROCKY'06 AND RECOMB SATELLITE CONFEENCENES ON SYSTEMS BIOLOGY AND COMPUTATIONAL PROTEOMICS



ECCB 2006

As of this writing some 500 scientists are expected to arrive in Eilat, Israel, by January 21, 2007 for the 5th Annual European Conference on Computational Biology. Israel enjoys a strong bioinformatics community, as evidenced by the accomplishments of ISCB's affiliated regional group, Israeli Society for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (www.weizmann.ac.il/ISBCB/), which holds the annual Israeli Bioinformatics Symposium (IBS) and has drawn as many as 600 attendees.

For 2006 IBS is hosting ECCB and the conference organizers look forward to providing you with new approaches, new and renewed contacts, and a fresh dose of inspiration to apply toward your research efforts.

Registration is still open at
www.eccb06.org/new_pages/registration

Rocky '06

ISCB is pleased to present the 4th Annual Rocky Mountain Bioinformatics Conference (Rocky '06), December 1 – 3, 2006 in Snowmass, Colorado.

The 'Rocky' conference series consists of invited keynote presentations by noted scientists within and outside the Rocky Mountain region, flash presentations from submitted abstracts, a poster session, and networking opportunities on and off the slopes of the spectacular Colorado Rocky Mountains.

Travel fellowship funding for minority and underrepresented students is available through the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) program (<https://ns2.faseb.org/marc/travel1.html>). Additional fellowships may become available through corporate sponsorships.

All levels of sponsorship opportunities are available, and registration is open to delegates from near and far. Full information can be found at
www.iscb.org/rocky06

RECOMB Satellite Conferences on: Systems Biology and Computational Proteomics

December 1 – 3, 2006 is also the date for the 2nd annual RECOMB Satellite Conference on Systems Biology; in conjunction with the biannual RECOMB Satellite Conference on Computational Proteomics. Both events are taking place on the campus of the University of California, San Diego, and ISCB is partnering in the overall organization of the combined conferences.

The scientific program includes invited talks and platform presentations selected from submitted abstracts. This year, papers accepted to the conference will be fast-tracked, along with their reviews, for publication in the journal *Molecular Systems Biology* (*Nature/EMBO*). All other papers will comprise the conference proceedings in a special issue of *Lecture Notes in Bioinformatics* (Springer).

The call for abstracts is now open, and full conference details are available at
<http://chianti.ucsd.edu/recombsysbio06/>

ISCB Student Travel Fellowships Offered

ECCB 2006

Through member donations and proceeds from past ISMB conferences, ISCB is pleased to award \$5,000 USD in travel fellowship funds to assist four ISCB student/post doc members to attend the European Conference on Computational Biology in Eilat, Israel, January 21-24, 2007. The ISCB funds, together with funds from other sources, are helping to bring over 50 students/post docs to ECCB, providing an influential experience at this early stage in their research careers.

PSB 2007 and RECOMB 2007

In fulfillment of the ISCB mission of advancing our science, we will once again support student travel fellowships to the Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing in January, and the conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology in April. Be sure to submit your applications for consideration of these limited funds.

PSB 2007 Application form available August 1, 2006. Check the website for updates: <http://psb.stanford.edu/>

RECOMB 2007 Application form available January 5, 2007. Check the website for updates: www.recomb2007.com/

ISMB/ECCB 2007

Once again, ISMB and ECCB will partner for a joint conference July 21-25, 2007 in Vienna, Austria, and a travel fellowship fund will be developed. Watch the conference website for details on submission procedures and deadlines.
www.iscb.org/ismbecb2007



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

NEWSLETTER COVER IMAGE COMPETITION

Announcing a competition for the cover image of the ISCB Newsletter open to all ISCB student/trainee members! Submitted images should be artistically effective and related to biology, computational biology or bioinformatics. The winning image will be selected by the ISCB Executive Committee.

Competition Open to: Registered ISCB Student/Trainee Members only
Deadline for first round of entries: October 1, 2006

Submission site:
www.iscb.org/image-competition (additional details available here)

Before submitting any image, please ensure that: a) you are the copyright holder of the image; or b) the image is in the public domain.

A biographical sketch of the winner will be published in the Newsletter, together with a short statement about his/her interests and future plans. This is your chance to show the world what you can do and make yourself and your CV known to the whole community!

By entering the competition, you grant ISCB the right to publicly display your image on its web site, newsletters, marketing materials such as, but not limited to, publications, books, magazines, newspapers, CDs and/or any other media for the ISCB organization and its members' promotion. Any 1st place winning image in a prior competition is not allowed entry again.

July 17, 2006

Call for Papers: RECOMB Satellite Conferences on Systems Biology and Computational Proteomics

<http://chianti.ucsd.edu/recombsysbio06/>
December 1-3, 2006
University of California, San Diego, USA
Submission Deadline: September 15th, 2006
Notifications to Authors: November 1st, 2006
Revised Papers Due to Molecular Systems Biology*: January 15, 2007
Final Decision for publication in Molecular Systems Biology: February 1st, 2007
*Papers accepted to the conference will be fast-tracked, along with their reviews, for publication in the journal *Molecular Systems Biology* (Nature/EMBO)

July 14, 2006

Molecular Systems Biology is now indexed in Medline

[www.molecularsystemsbiology.com](http://molecularsystemsbiology.com)
Launched in March 2005, MSB has earned a reputation for quality. The journal attracts some of today's top authors. As all content is made freely available to readers worldwide immediately on publication, MSB already reaches a large readership – indexing in MEDLINE will ensure that this audience continues to grow.

July 12, 2006

CALL for PAPERS on RNA in a Special Issue of

Journal of Mathematical Biology

<http://clavius.bc.edu/~clore/RNA/>
DEADLINE: 1 October 2006
RNA is a current leading topic in biology due to important applications such as gene knock-down by using small interfering RNA. This special issue of JMB will present computational and mathematical methods used in the study of RNA. Original research articles and reviews are welcome.

July 10, 2006

MentorNet Resume Database

www.MentorNet.net
MentorNet's Resume Database provides a job/internship search resource for students to post their resume for MentorNet's Leadership Circle, Strategic and Visionary sponsors to potentially view. To access the Resume Database, current members of the MentorNet Community from ISCB need to sign in and follow the links to the Resume Database. Other students and postdocs must first join the Community.

July 10, 2006

CALL FOR MENTORS

www.MentorNet.net/documents/about/programs/academic.aspx
We currently have more than 80 protégés from diverse fields seeking matches in the program, particularly in: Biological sciences; Physics; Computer sciences; Electrical/Electronics engineering; Biological/biomedical engineering, and Bioinformatics.

July 01, 2006

Call for Papers: RECOMB 2007

www.recomb2007.com/html/submission_submission_procedures.html
April 21-25, 2007, Oakland, CA, USA
Paper submission deadline: September 30, 2006, at 12:59 GMT
Notification of acceptance/rejection: December 10, 2006
Deadline for reception of files of final papers: February 1, 2007

June 20, 2006

NIPS: Call for Workshops and Call for Demonstrations

www.nips.cc
Neural Information Processing Systems Conference and Workshops, Vancouver and Whistler, BC, Canada, December 4-9, 2006.
The Call for Workshops and the Call for Demonstrations are now available online. The Submission deadlines are as follows:
Call for Workshops: August 4, 2006;
Call for Demonstrations: September 24, 2006.
NIPS Administration nipsinfo@salak.edu

June 13, 2006

Transnational Access Programme at RISC

www.risc.uni-linz.ac.at/research/projects/science/access/
RISC-LINZ, The Research Institute for Symbolic Computation at the Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria, offers opportunities to researchers to obtain access to its infrastructure and facilities. Access is free of charge and is provided through the project SCIENCE within the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission.

June 06, 2006

International Journal of Data Mining and Bioinformatics

www.inderscience.com/ijdbm
The inaugural issue of the IJDBM is now available for download. IJDBM publishes papers on bioinformatics, data mining and knowledge discovery, and the role of data mining techniques and methods in integrating and interpreting the bioinformatics data sets and improving effectiveness and/or efficiency and quality for bioinformatics data analysis.

May 17, 2006

Invitation to submit to Source Code for Biology and Medicine

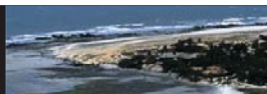
www.scfbm.org
Source Code for Biology and Medicine is an open access, peer-reviewed, online journal soon to be launched by BioMed Central. The journal will encompass all aspects of workflow for information systems, decision support systems, client user networks, database management, and data mining.

March 30, 2006

AFP 2006: Call for Participation

Automated Function Prediction 2006, Aug 30 - Sep 1, University of California, San Diego, USA, will feature discussions on computational function prediction in molecular biology, including plenary talks delivered by leading researchers in the field, a special discussion panel on gene and protein annotation and a poster session. Registration is still open.

KEY DATES FOR ROCKY'06, RECOMB SYS BIO, PSB 2007 AND RECOMB 2007



Make a note of the important upcoming Key Dates of the four ISCB and ISCB co-sponsored conferences below. Please visit the respective conference websites for updates to these key dates, as some may change without notice.

Rocky '06 – Snowmass, CO, USA – www.iscb.org/rocky06

Rocky Conference Dates	December 1 - 3
Registration Opens	September 1
- Early Registration Deadline	November 1
Abstract Submission Opens	July 31, 2006
- Abstract Submission Deadline	October 10
- Acceptance Notification	October 25
Housing Cut-Off Deadline	November 1

RECOMB Satellite Conferences on Sys Bio & Computational Proteomics San Diego, CA USA - <http://chianti.ucsd.edu/recombsysbio06/>

Conference Dates	December 1 - 3
Registration Opens	September 1
- Early Registration Deadline	November 1
Abstract Submission Opens	July 17, 2006
- Abstract Submission Deadline	September 15
- Acceptance Notification	November 1
- Revised Papers Due to Molecular Systems Biology	January 15, 2007
- Final Molecular Systems Biology Decision	February 1, 2007

PSB 2007 – Maui, Hawaii, USA – <http://psb.stanford.edu> (all dates are in 2006 unless otherwise noted)

PSB Conference Dates (tutorials presented day 1)	January 3 – 7, 2007
Registration Opens	August 1
Paper Submission Deadline	July 17
- Accepted Papers Notification	September 6
- Accepted Papers Final Version Due	September 25
- Accepted Papers Camera-ready Handouts Due	November 6
Accepted Tutorials Camera-ready Handouts Due	November 6
Posters Abstract Submission Opens	August 1
- Poster Abstract Submission Deadline	November 6
- PLoS Track Acceptance Notification	June 15
Travel Fellowship Application Opens	August 1
- Travel Fellowship Application Deadline	September 15
- Travel Fellowship Award Notification	Mid-October

RECOMB 2007 – San Francisco, California, USA – www.RECOMB2007.com (all dates are in 2007 unless otherwise noted)

RECOMB Conference Dates	April 21 - 25
Registration Opens	December 1, 2006
- Speaker Registration Deadline	March 15
- Early Registration Deadline	April 5
Paper Submission Opens	July 1, 2006
- Paper Submission Deadline	September 30, 2006
- Paper Acceptance Notification	December 10, 2006
- Accepted Papers Final Version Due	February 1
Posters Abstracts Opens	TBA
- Poster Abstracts Submission Deadline	March 1
- Poster Acceptance Notification	March 15
Travel Fellowship Applications Opens	January 5
- Travel Fellowship Application Deadline	March 15
- Travel Fellowship Award Notification	March 25
Housing Reservation Cut Off Date (Marriott Oakland City Center)	March 31

BIOINFORMATICS BOOKS ON ISCB WEBSITE

The selection of bioinformatics books listed at www.iscb.org/bioinformaticsBooks.shtml has grown! A new feature of this page is the ability to link directly to the full lists of titles from Taylor & Francis/CRC Press and John Wiley & Sons book publishers. Many ISCB members and elected leaders have authored and/or edited some of the most popular titles featured by these publishers, and we are pleased to make them readily available to our members and the bioinformatics community-at-large via direct links from the ISCB website.

If you would like to purchase one of the books featured on the ISCB site without linking to the T&F/CRC or Wiley sites, simply click the cover image or title to link to Amazon.com. Most featured books are listed alphabetically by author with links for more detailed information including the table of contents, number of pages, etc. A new featured section, however, highlights travel books and maps of Brazil to help you prepare for your attendance at ISMB 2006. And whenever you choose to link to Amazon.com you have the option to explore more than just the specific book of interest, and can navigate to any and all Amazon.com product categories.

If you buy from Amazon.com, T&F/CRC or Wiley during a session in which you linked in from the ISCB website, the Society earns a small referral fee, meaning you are actually helping to further support our science in the process of building your own library of educational and reference materials. ISCB thanks you in advance for your contributions by making purchases this way.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

ISCB Annual Conferences

Rocky '06
United States - CO - Snowmass
Dec 01, 2006 - Dec 03, 2006
ISCB Member Discount
www.iscb.org/rocky06

ISMB/ECCB 2007
Austria - Vienna
Jul 21, 2006 - Jul 25, 2007
ISCB Member Discount
www.iscb.org/ismbecb2007

ISCB Co-Sponsored Events

3Dsig: Structural Bioinformatics and
Computational Biophysics
Brazil - Fortaleza
Hosted By: ISMB
Aug 04, 2006 - Aug 05, 2006
www.weizmann.ac.il/3dsig/

ECCB '06 - 5th European Conference on
Computational Biology
Israel - Eilat
Hosted By: ECCB
Jan 21 - Jan 24, 2007
ISCB Member Discount: 25 Percent
www.eccb06.org

RECOMB Satellite Conferences on Systems
Biology and Computational Proteomics
United States - CA - San Diego
Hosted By: Calit2 - California Institute for
Telecommunications and
Information Technology
Dec 01, 2006 - Dec 03, 2006
ISCB Member Discount: TBA
chianti.ucsd.edu/recombsysbio06

PSB 2006 - Pacific Symposium on
Biocomputing
United States - HI - Maui
Hosted By: Stanford University
Jan 03, 2007 - Jan 07, 2007
ISCB Member Discount: \$75 USD
psb.stanford.edu

RECOMB 2007
United States - CA - San Francisco
Hosted By: qb3 - California Institute for
Quantitative Biomedical Research
Apr 21, 2007 - Apr 25, 2007
ISCB Member Discount: TBA
www.recomb2007.com

ISCB Affiliated Events

SwissProt20 - In-silico Analysis of Proteins:
Celebrating the 20th Anniversary
of Swiss-Prot
Brazil - Fortaleza
Hosted By: Swiss-Prot Group,
Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics
Jul 30, 2006 - Aug 04, 2006
www.swissprot20.org/

Total Microarray Data Analysis
and Interpretation
United States - D.C. - Washington
Hosted By: Cambridge Healthtech Institute
Aug 23, 2006 - Aug 25, 2006
ISCB Member Discount: 10 Percent
www.healthtech.com

The Second Automated Function
Prediction Meeting
United States - CA - San Diego
Hosted By: Calit2
Aug 30, 2006 - Sep 01, 2006
BioFunctionPrediction.org/AFP/afp06

6th Workshop on Algorithms in Bioinformatics
WABI'06
Switzerland - Zurich
Hosted By: Swiss Federal Institute of
Technology, Zurich (ETHZ)
Sep 11, 2006 - Sep 13, 2006
algo06.inf.ethz.ch/wabi/

Other Conferences & Events of Interest

Methods in Human Embryonic
Stem Cell Research
United States - ME - Bar Harbor
Hosted By: The Jackson Laboratory
Aug 06, 2006 - Aug 11, 2006
www.jax.org/courses/events/coursedetails.do?id=332&detail=scope

2006 LSS Computational Systems
Bioinformatics Conference
United States - CA - Palo Alto
Hosted By: The Life Science Society
Aug 14, 2006 - Aug 18, 2006
www.lifesciencesociety.org/CSB2006/

The 1st International Workshop on
Multi-Objective Cybernetics (MOC 2006)
Finland - Helsinki
Hosted By: IEEE-ICCC- 2006 and WSYS 2006
The 1st Int. Workshop on Systems
and Complexity
Aug 18, 2006 - Aug 19, 2006
plectics.org

Multi-Protein Complexes Involved in Cell
Regulation
United Kingdom - Cambridge
Hosted By: Keystone Symposia
Aug 18, 2006 - Aug 23, 2006
keystonesymposia.org/E6

6th SIGKDD Workshop on Data Mining
in Bioinformatics
United States - PA - Philadelphia
Hosted By: ACM SIGKDD Conference
Aug 20, 2006 - Aug 20, 2006
www.cs.rpi.edu/~zaki/BIOKDD06

Interactome Networks
United Kingdom - Cambridge - Hinxton
Hosted By: Cold Spring Harbor
Laboratory/Wellcome Trust
Aug 30, 2006 - Sep 03, 2006
www.cshl.edu/meetings

6th European Conference on
Computational Chemistry
Slovak Republic - Tale
Hosted By: Faculty of Natural Sciences,
Comenius University
Sep 03, 2006 - Sep 07, 2006
www.fns.uniba.sk/~euccc6/index.html

4th International Workshop on Biological
Data Management
Poland - Krakau
Hosted By: non
Sep 04, 2006 - Sep 08, 2006
www.dexa.org

Final CFP: 3rd Integrative Bioinformatics
Workshop
United Kingdom - Herts - Harpenden
Hosted By: Rothamsted Research
Sep 04, 2006 - Sep 06, 2006
www.rothamsted.bbsrc.ac.uk/bab/conf/ibiof/

Genomic Perspectives to Host Pathogen
Interactions
United Kingdom - Cambridge - Hinxton
Hosted By: Cold Spring Harbor
Laboratory/Wellcome Trust
Sep 07, 2006 - Sep 10, 2006
www.cshl.edu/meetings

2006 International Workshop on Multiscale
Biological Imaging, Data Mining
and Informatics
United States - CA - Santa Barbara
Hosted By: UC Santa Barbara
Sep 07, 2006 - Sep 08, 2006
www.bioimageinformatics.org/2006/

Dialogue on Reverse Engineering Assessment
Methods (DREAM) Workshop
United States - NY - New York
Hosted By: Gustavo Stolovitzky
and Andrea Califano
Sep 07, 2006 - Sep 08, 2006
dimacs.rutgers.edu/Workshops/ReverseEng/announcement.html

International Workshop Distributed,
High-Performance and Grid Computing in
Computational Biology (GCCB 2006)
Israel - Eilat
Hosted By: ECCB 2006
Sep 10, 2006 - Sep 10, 2006
gccb2006.ulster.ac.uk/Introduction-.html

2006 VLDB Workshop on Data Mining in
Bioinformatics
South Korea - Seoul
Hosted By: VLDB 2006
Sep 11, 2006 - Sep 11, 2006
bio.informatics.indiana.edu/VLDB06/

Genome Informatics
United Kingdom - Cambridge - Hinxton
Hosted By: Cold Spring Harbor
Laboratory/Wellcome Trust
Sep 13, 2006 - Sep 17, 2006
www.cshl.edu/meetings

Short Course on Complex Trait Analysis
United States - ME - Bar Harbor
Hosted By: The Jackson Laboratory
Sep 16, 2006 - Sep 22, 2006
www.jax.org/courses/events/courseDetails.do
?id=341&detail=scope

Fourth Annual RECOMB Satellite Meeting
on Comparative Genomics
Canada - QC - Montreal
Hosted By: Montreal, Canada
Sep 24, 2006 - Sep 26, 2006
www.crm.umontreal.ca/Genomics06/

CompLife06 - 2nd International Symposium
on Computational Life Science
United Kingdom - Cambridgeshire - Cambridge
Hosted By: Cambridge University,
United Kingdom
Sep 27, 2006 - Sep 29, 2006
www.complife.org

Integrative Approaches to Brain Complexity
United Kingdom - Cambridge - Hinxton
Hosted By: Cold Spring Harbor
Laboratory/Wellcome Trust
Sep 28, 2006 - Oct 01, 2006
www.cshl.edu/meetings

Genomes, Medicine, and the
Environment Conference
United States - SC - Hilton Head Island
Hosted By: J. Craig Venter Institute
Oct 16, 2006 - Oct 18, 2006
www.venterlinstitute.org/gme

International Conference Converging Sciences
2006.TRENTO - ITALY
Italy - Trento - Povo
Hosted By: The Microsoft Research
- University of Trento Centre for
Computational and Systems Biology
Oct 16, 2006 - Oct 17, 2006
www.msrl-unittn.it/events/consci06.php

International Conference on Computational
Methods in Systems Biology
Italy - TN - Trento - Povo
Hosted By: The Microsoft Research
- University of Trento Centre for
Computational and Systems Biology
Oct 18, 2006 - Oct 19, 2006
www.msrl-unittn.it/events/cmsb06.php

Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Symposium
(BIOT-2006)
United States - UT - Provo
Hosted By: Brigham Young University
Oct 20, 2006 - Oct 21, 2006
www.biotconf.org/

Computational Biology: Networks -
The Language of Life
Greece - Crete - Chania
Hosted By: International Conference on
Computational Methods in Science and
Engineering (ICCMSE 2006)
Oct 27, 2006 - Nov 01, 2006
www.iccmse.org/

9th Annual Computational
Genomics Conference
United States - MD - Baltimore
Hosted By: Virginia Bioinformatics Institute
Oct 28, 2006 - Oct 31, 2006
www.conted.vt.edu/genomics/

The 21st International Symposium on
Computer and Information Sciences
(ISCIS'06)
Turkey - Istanbul
Hosted By: Sabanci University
Nov 01, 2006 - Nov 03, 2006
http://fens.sabanciuniv.edu/iscis06/

Workshop on Surgical Techniques in the
Laboratory Mouse
United States - ME - Bar Harbor
Hosted By: The Jackson Laboratory
Nov 05, 2006 - Nov 10, 2006
www.jax.org/courses/events/courseDetails.do
?id=342&detail=scope

Crop Genomics, Trait Analysis and Breeding
United Kingdom - Hinxton, Cambridge
Hosted By: ESF/Wellcome Trust
Nov 08, 2006 - Nov 11, 2006
www.esf.org/esf_genericpage.php?section
=10&language=0&genericpage=2561

Progress in Systems Biology 2006
Canada - ON - Ottawa
Hosted By: University of Ottawa and the
National Research Council of Canada
Nov 09, 2006 - Nov 10, 2006
mededu.med.ottawa.ca/oisb
/sympindex.htm

Neural Information Processing Systems 2006
Canada - BC - Vancouver
Hosted By: NIPS Foundation
Dec 04, 2006 - Dec 09, 2006
www.nips.cc

GTCCbio's Systems Biology in
Drug Discovery Conference
United States - PA - Philadelphia
Hosted By: GTCCbio
Dec 04, 2006 - Dec 06, 2006
www.gtccbio.com

7th International Symposium on Biological
and Medical Data Analysis (ISBMDA 2006)
Greece - Thessaloniki
Hosted By: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Dec 07, 2006 - Dec 08, 2006
http://isbmda06.med.auth.gr/

American Society for Cell Biology
46th Annual Meeting
United States - CA - San Diego
Hosted By: ASCB
Dec 09, 2006 - Dec 13, 2006
www.ascb.org

Applications of Machine Learning in Medicine
and Biology (Special Session on ICMLA'06)
United States - FL - Orlando
Hosted By: Association for Machine Learning
and Applications, California State University
Bakersfield, University of Louisville, Florida
International University, IEEE SMC
Dec 14, 2006 - Dec 16, 2006
www.cs.csubak.edu/~icmla/icmla06
/CFP_SpecialSession1.html

International Symposium On Computational
Biology & Bioinformatics
India - Orissa - Bhubaneswar
Hosted By: Silicon Institute & Orissa
Information Technology Society
Dec 15, 2006 - Dec 17, 2006
www.silicon.ac.in/isbb06/bioinformatics.htm

IEEE ICDM 2006 Workshop on Data Mining
in Bioinformatics (DMB 2006)
Hong Kong - HK - Hong Kong
Hosted By: IEEE
Dec 18, 2006 - Dec 21, 2006
icdm06.biomap.org/

INCOB 2006 : 5th Intl. Conference on
Bioinformatics & Biotechnology
India - New Delhi
Hosted By: IIT D, JNU, Deptt of Biotechnology,
Govt of India
Dec 18, 2006 - Dec 20, 2006
www.incob2006.in

Fifth Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Conference,
APBC2007
Hong Kong
Hosted By: University of Hong Kong,
Department of Computer Science
Jan 15, 2007 - Jan 17, 2007
www.cs.hku.hk/apbc2007/

While ISCB provides for news, conference and event listings that may be of interest to members and bioinformaticians at large, ISCB is not responsible for the content provided by outside sources. Such listings are not meant as an endorsement by ISCB.

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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