# ISCB NEWSLETTER

## ISMB/ECCB 2007 FOCUS ISSUE & ISCB 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

VIENNA•WIEN ISMB ECCB 21–25•JUL•07

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## WELCOME TO ISMB/ECCB 2007!

On behalf of the International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB), I am pleased to welcome you to Vienna, Austria for the 15th International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB) being held jointly with the 6th European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB), July 21 through 25, 2007. If you are unable to come to Vienna and are reading this from afar, I am personally sorry you must miss this conference as it has shaped up to be the best ISMB and ECCB conference to date.

The ISMB conferences began in 1993 and have been the driving force for the founding of the ISCB in 1997, which has been organizing this conference ever since. ISCB is the only society representing computational biology on a worldwide scale and its flagship conference ISMB has become the largest conference on computational biology. ECCB has been organized annually since 2002 by a panel of European Computational Biologists and is the only pan-European conference series in this field. At Glasgow in 2004, ISMB and ECCB joined forces in a common meeting that was by many standards perceived as the most successful such meeting in computational biology.

ISMB/ECCB 2007 will present exciting advances in biology in ten keynote lectures. All other events will be given in eight parallel tracks: Two Paper tracks will present the top -66 papers that came through extremely rigorous reviewing of 418 submissions (16% acceptance); 41 Demonstrations will be given in parallel tracks; the PLoS Tracks will present 44 of the best unpublished works that continue a successful connection between ISMB and *PLoS Computational Biology*. New aspects this year are the six Special Sessions, the Industry Track, and two Highlights Tracks that will present 63 highlights from the last year's publications. More emphasis has also been put on the 1,000+ posters that will be up throughout the meeting. The main meeting is preceded by two days of seven Special Interest Groups/Satellite Meetings (SIGs/SMs), a day of 14 tutorials, and a Stud-ent Council Symposium. Over 30 exhibitors and sponsors will also be present during the entire meeting and we are grateful for their financial support of ISMB/ECCB.

Please join me in thanking conference chair Thomas Lengauer and my co-chair Peter Schuester, as well as the Scientific Organizing and Steering committee members, Mario Albrecht, Dietlind Gerloff, Ivo Hofacker, Janet Kelso, Michal Linial, Marco Punta, Shoba Ranganathan, David Rocke, Hershel Safer, and Alfonso Valencia. This conference has succeeded in strengthening the association between ISCB and ECCB. As ISCB President, I am extremely grateful to the immense efforts of Michal Linial (ECCB Steering Committee Chair), and her European colleagues.

The selection of scientific presentations for demos, papers, highlights, PLoS abstracts, posters, and special sessions, as well as the special interest groups/satellite meetings, tutorials tracks and travel fellowship applications, have been the result of an undertaking of hundreds of scientists led by session chairs and topic area chairs. There are too many to name in this limited space, but my gratitude for their contributions to the overall quality of the scientific presentations at this conference is immense.

Special thanks also to Steven Leard and BJ Morrison McKay for their excellent logistical work, to the local conference company Mondial, to the many local volunteers, and last but not least to the city of Vienna for welcoming and supporting us. If you are reading this in Vienna, I hope you find the meeting both enjoyable and illuminating, and I urge you to express your congratulations to the organizers on a fine effort. If in Vienna or not, please mark your calendar now for ISMB 2008 July 19-23, and ECCB 2008 September 22-26.

# ACCOMPLISHMENT BY A SENIOR SCIENTIST AWARD

# Temple F. Smith

*Submitted by Merry Maisel, freelance science writer*

The International Society for Computational Biology is pleased to honor Temple F. Smith of Boston University with the 2007 ISCB Accomplishment by a Senior Scientist Award. The award recognizes senior members of the computational biology community who have made major contributions to the field through research, education, service, or a combination of the three.

"Professor Smith's contributions go well beyond those for which he is best known," says Thomas Lengauer, chair of the ISCB Awards Committee. Lengauer continued, "He is a towering figure in bioinformatics, one of the founders of the discipline. In addition to starting GenBank and being the Smith of the Smith-Waterman algorithm, he has done seminal work on the entropy of the genetic code and on pattern-directed protein structure prediction." Other influential work includes research on gene prediction, molecular phylogenies, multiple sequence alignments and the analysis of sequence patterns." His results have had a tremendous impact on the field. And his BioMolecular Engineering Research Center at the Boston University College of Engineering is a superlative resource for a wide variety of endeavors."

Smith obtained his doctorate in nuclear physics from the University of Colorado in 1969 and was at NIH as a postdoctoral fellow with Stanislaw Ulam, T. T. Puck, and John R. Sadler, studying bacterial genetic regulation. He then took an appointment as professor of physics at Northern Michigan University, spending summers as a visiting staff member in applied mathematics and theoretical biology at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory where he helped to organize GenBank.

Moving to Boston University in 1991, Smith became a professor in the departments of bioengineering and pharmacology and director of The BioMolecular Engineering Research Center (BMERC) . His center is currently working under NIH and NSF grants on activation of inflammation stress response pathways, cellular signaling problems (with the Alliance for Cellular Signaling), the generation of automated models of protein folds, and the core genomics of the origin of eukaryotes.

A science writer at Boston University, Michael Seele, writes of how Smith and Michael Waterman came to write his only geology paper as follows:

"As the pair walked to lunch, they passed through the geology department lobby, where two large core samples on display stopped them in their tracks. Similar sequences of strata on different columns were connected by strings. Smith and Waterman immediately saw the columns as strands of DNA and the comparable strata as the short protein sequences they were trying to align. "We now faced the possibility that a geologist had solved the problem before us," Smith said. Resigned, Smith and Waterman visited the geology chairman and asked how the sequence alignment had been done. Their mood elevated when the chairman informed them that visual observation and string were as far as anyone had advanced with a solution. "Lo and behold! This was an unsolved problem in geology," Smith said. "This resulted in our first geology paper, basically written over the next couple of days." With a fresh perspective, the team returned to bioinformatics work and published the Smith-Waterman sequence alignment algorithm the following year. It remains one of the most referenced papers in molecular biology.

Of his award, Smith says, "I'm truly honored to join my longtime friend and colleague Mike Waterman, who preceded me in winning this award last year, as well as the distinguished company of previous winners."

The Accomplishment by a Senior Scientist Award will be presented in Vienna followed by a keynote address, titled "Computational Biology. What's next?" to close the conference on July 25, 2007. To read additional biographical information and an abstract of Smith's keynote address see www.iscb.org/ismbeccb2007/keynotespresentations/#smith.

**Citation:** Maisel M (2007) ISCB Honors Temple F. Smith and Eran Segal. *PLoS Comput Biol* 3(6): e128 doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.0030128

# DR. ERAN SEGAL NAMED AS ISCB 2007 OVERTON PRIZE WINNER

## Dr. Eran Segal

*Submitted by Merry Maisel, freelance science writer*

The International Society for Computational Biology is pleased to award the 2007 Overton Prize to Eran Segal of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel.

ISCB established the Overton Prize in 2001 in memory of G. Christian Overton, who was director of the Center for Bioinformatics at the University of Pennsylvania and a major contributor to the field. The award acknowledges community members who are less than 12 years post-degree and have already made majorcontributions to the field through research, education, service, or a combination of the three. “He [Overton] was a member of the ISCB Board of Directors, and his sudden death in 2000 was a shock to the community,” said Thomas Lengauer, chair of the ISCB Awards Committee. “Those of us who remember Chris Overton remember the kind of work he did—however laborious it was, it was always exciting and thought provoking, dominated by an innovative spark. Eran Segal seems to me to be especially deserving of this award in Chris's memory."

In the summer of 2006, Eran Segal and colleagues published a study in *Nature* (442, 772-778, 17 August 2006) hypothesizing that the instructions for wrapping DNA around nucleosomes are contained in the DNA itself, using a statistical computational model to predict exactly how that is done, and completing the proof by verifying the predictions with experiments in yeast.

"This important paper brought Segal and his main collaborator, experimentalist Jonathan Widom of Northwestern University, a lot of attention," says Lengauer. "It was featured in *Nature's* 'News and Views' section in an article by Tim Richmond, and the work was also described in a 'Making the Paper' section. And it made *The New York Times* on July 25, 2006.

Segal obtained his B.Sc. (summa cum laude) in computer science from Tel-Aviv University in 1998. He did his doctoral work in computer science and genetics at Stanford University, obtaining his Ph.D. in 2004. His advisor, Daphne Koller, remembers him vividly. "One of Eran's most impressive qualities," she says, "is his ability to get things done effectively and extremely well. He would be working on five projects, and I would be sure that at most one would get done. But not with Eran—he just kept producing idea after idea, result after result, paper after paper.”

Segal spent a year as a research fellow at the Center for Physics and Biology at Rockefeller University before joining the Weizmann Institute in 2005. "My lab develops quantitative statistical models aimed at understanding how molecular components interact in performing complex biological functions," Segal says. "We are interested in the control of transcription and translation and the structure of chromatin as it contributes to these. We are currently applying our ideas to the transcriptional network of the Drosophila embryo, in an attempt to develop thermodynamic models that will explain how cells compute the expression patterns of the system from the cis-regulatory DNA sequence and binding-site preferences of the participating transcription factors. We're also continuing our work on the DNA sequence preferences of nucleosomes and the way in which they specify the overall nucleosome organization."

Of his award, Segal says, "I'm very honored to be singled out, and I must thank my mentors, Daphne Koller and Nir Friedman, and my students, colleagues, and collaborators, people without whose efforts no progress could be made. In particular, I am enjoying close collaborations with several experimentalists like Jon Widom, Ulrike Gaul, and Howard Chang, and I'm extremely appreciative of their ability to confirm or refute in vivo the results that emerge from our lab's efforts in silico. We, in turn, take cues from their results in revising or adjusting our models. This prize affirms the value of our process."

Eran Segal will be presented with the 2007 ISCB Overton Prize in Vienna and give a keynote address on July 23, 2007. To read additional biographical information and view an abstract of his talk, “Quantitative Models for Chromatin and Transcription Regulation,” see www.iscb.org/ismbeccb2007/keynotespresentations/#segal.

**Citation:** Maisel M (2007) ISCB Honors Temple F. Smith and Eran Segal. *PLoS Comput Biol* 3(6): e128 doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.0030128

## THIRD STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

The 3rd ISCB Student Council Symposium is being held Saturday, July 21st, in parallel to the ISMB/ECCB 2007 tutorial sessions in Vienna. Manuel Corpas and Nils Gehlenborg serve as Chairs, with Sarath Chandra Janga serving as Program Chair. Together with a program committee of 29 ISCB-SC members, they have created this event especially for students and young researchers in the field of computational biology. The program consists of:

- Keynote presentations by Janet Thornton and Anna Tramontano;
- Talks by 9 students/post docs selected from among 69 peer reviewed abstracts;
- A panel discussion with Rita Casadio, Thomas Lengauer and Tan Tin Wee;
- A poster session of over 40 posters;
- And closing remarks by Reinhard Schneider

The symposium presents a unique opportunity for students/post docs to present their work to an international audience, build a network within the computational biology community and develop important soft skills in an environment that fosters exchange of ideas and knowledge.

Over 100 delegates have already signed up, and on-site registration is allowed on a first come first served basis, space permitting. Additional details about the SCS3 can be found at www.iscbsc.org, and online registration is available at www.iwcb.org /ismbeccb2007/registration.


### STUDENT COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM REVIEW

*Submitted by Nils Gehlenborg, Active Leader of the ISCB Student Council*

As of this writing, the SCS3 (see column to the left) has achieved the following pre-symposium statistics:

- More than 100 delegates are registered .
- Approximately $7500 has been raised from 5 sponsors.
- 3 awards have been secured for best presentation (1), and best poster (2).
- 69 abstracts were received through the submission system for review (68 accepted, 1 rejected).
- 8 student abstracts have been selected and confirmed for oral presentation.
- 15 people have served on the organizing committee.
- 29 people have served on the program committee.
- More than 4 months of preparation has gone into organizing the event.

What's new this year for SCS3?

$780 in travel fellowship funds have been awarded to each of 5 European undergraduate/masters students based on abstract, merits and community involvement.

- A survey identified popular keynote speakers.
- A panel discussion has been organized with 5 high-profile scientists.
- The program booklet includes 34 pages, including all 68 abstracts.
- The symposium series now has its own logo.
- Publication of top 10 abstracts is very likely as sufficient funds have been raised for this.

Other noteworthy news:

- The ISCB-SC is an Event Ambassador for The Source Event (www.thesourceevent.com), a science and career fair in London.
- A letter written by people at the Sanger Institute that will appear in *Nature Reviews Genetics* mentions the Student Council Symposium as an example for student-run conferences.

All in all, the entire SC Leadership is very excited and extremely proud of what we have already accomplished for our event at ISMB/ECCB 2007, and look forward to a these months of effort come to a successful conclusion in Vienna. Of course, that simply marks the time to start planning for the next one, building a better program with each passing year. We hope you will join us.

# SHARING SOFTWARE AND DATA

*Submitted by Barbara Bryant, Chair of ISCB Public Affairs & Policies Committee*

In 2002, ISCB developed a policy statement on bioinformatics software availability (www.iscb.org/policy_statements.shtml). At the time, there was concern that grant applications did not clearly state whether, and how, software developed using grant money would be available to other researchers. Moreover, it was felt that granting agencies were not clear enough about what was expected. The ISCB policy statement defined 5 levels of software availability and made the following recommendations:

1. Given the variety of meanings of "open source", that people define what they mean when they use the term.

2. That government funding agencies encourage grant proposals to specify the availability of software using at least the ISCB-defined levels.

3. That government funding agencies not mandate that all software created with grant money be available via an open-source license.

4. That government funding agencies require that all software created with grant money be available at a minimum in binary form, and free to non-commercial users.

This policy was developed without enough input from ISCB members, and the Public Affairs committee is revisiting this topic. We will distribute relevant educational materials and opinion pieces, hold a meeting at ISMB/ECCB 2007 (Tuesday, July 24, 12:15 pm), gather input on a blog (http://iscbdiscussion.blogspot.com/2007/06/data-and-software-sharing-policy.html), and otherwise gather feedback from the community. We hope to develop a revised policy statement, or guidelines, that will be useful to the community as well as to government funding agencies and scientific journals.

Please visit iscb-discussion.blogspot.com/2007/06/data-and-software-sharing-policy.html for useful reference material, including recommendations and guidelines developed by various organizations.

Our questions to you (please answer in the blog comments or by email to policy@iscb.org):

1. Is there a problem?

- Is there a need to define software availability clearly?
- Should we expand the scope from government funding agencies to publications? Or beyond? Should we expand the scope to include data sharing?
- What should government agencies and journals require in terms of software availability? Should ISCB make a recommendation?
- Should authors and grant-writers be required to clearly define the availability of their software?
- Is there a problem currently with published articles, in that it is difficult to reproduce the results due to lack of access to data or software? Have you had personal experience with this?
- Does it make sense to allow researchers at companies to be charged a fee for software but require that it be provided to academics at no charge?
- If you have terabytes of data, how does that affect your ability to share it?
- Are there privacy concerns with sharing of human genomic data?
- What sharing is needed to allow results to be verified and built upon?

2. If a problem exists, what should be done to address it?

- Do you agree or disagree with the 2002 ISCB policy statement, and why?
- When you publish a paper or develop software for a grant, how do you make your software and data available?
- What should ISCB do in addition to, or instead of, releasing a policy statement? (Has the previous policy statement had any effect?)
- What would YOU be willing to do to help ISCB address this issue?

# 16th Annual International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology


## Mark Your Calendar!

Burkhard Rost, Conference Chair
*Columbia University, New York, USA*

Michal Linial, Conference Co-chair
*The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel*

Jill Mesirov, Conference Co-chair
*Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, USA*

Thomas J. Hudson, Honorary Conference Chair
*Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Toronto, Canada*

**www.iscb.org/ismb2008**

**The Annual Meeting of the International Society for Computational Biology**

# THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY: OUR FIRST TEN YEARS

*Written by:*

Lawrence Hunter,
ISCB Founder and President
1997 – 2000

Russ B. Altman,
ISCB President
2000-2001

Philip E. Bourne,
ISCB President
2002-2003 and
Editor in Chief of *PLoS CB*

*PLoS Computational Biology* is the official journal of the International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB), a partnership that was formed during the journal's conception in 2005. As the only international body representing computational biologists, it made perfect sense for *PLoS Computational Biology* to be so closely affiliated with ISCB. The Society had to take more of a chance, stepping away from an existing financially beneficial subscription journal in order to align with an open access publication as a matter of principle. ISCB was the first major international scientific society to do so.

Now, as *PLoS Computational Biology* reaches its two year mark, ISCB simultaneously celebrates its tenth anniversary, having formed officially on June 18, 1997. We early presidents of ISCB reflect on the state of computational biology ten years ago, how far we have come since, and what thought provoking future challenges might lie ahead with regard to innovations in publishing technologies.

## The State of Computational Biology at the Founding of ISCB

It's hard to imagine how much the computational bioscience world has changed in just 10 years. In 1996, there was no journal that had the word "bioinformatics" in its name, GenBank contained fewer than 200,000 DNA sequences (core genomic DNA/RNA, excluding mitochondria, ESTs, etc.), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) had yet to fund any institutional training programs in bioinformatics or computational biology. By 1996, however, high throughput molecular biology and the attendant need for informatics had clearly arrived. In addition to the founding of ISCB, 1996 saw the sequencing of the first genome of a free-living organism (yeast), and Affymetrix's release of its first commercial DNA chip.

The hot topics in bioinformatics circa 1996, at least as reflected by the conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB) at Washington University St. Louis, included issues which have largely been solved (such as gene finding or sequence assembly), as well as ones which have proven richer than all expectations (such as ontological foundations for knowledge models). Although not yet as global as the current society, attendees in 1996 came from Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. ISMB '96 attendees also included all of the presidents of the ISCB so far.

By the time the Society was founded, bioinformatics was gaining notice in the broader scientific community. In June of 1996 *Science* published a News and Comment piece entitled "Hot Property: Biologists Who Compute" suggesting that competition among drug " companies and other industrial concerns for the relatively few people skilled in bioinformatics was so intense that universities would not be able to attract enough faculty to teach the field to new students. While perhaps not quite as dire as all that, in 1996 there were fewer than half a dozen training programs that offered Ph.D.'s in bioinformatics or computational biology.

## ISCB Conferences: Join the Leaders in Your Field

More than most scientific societies, ISCB is closely tied to its conferences. A significant part of the original motivation for founding the Society was to provide a stable financial home for the ISMB conference. The first few conferences were sufficiently successful to create a financial nest egg that was used each year to start the

process of planning and executing the next year's meeting. Initially, relatively modest checks were cut and sent from one organizer to another informally. As the size of these checks increased, the organizers (and their home institutions) became increasingly uncomfortable exchanging them informally, and decided that they needed an organization–thus the ISCB.

The basic rules and goals for ISCB were hashed out in an unforgettable late-night dinner on the beaches of Halkidiki, Greece, at ISMB 1997. Not surprisingly, the idea of an organization brought much more than the convenience of a bank account for the conferences. There were formative discussions about advocacy, education, travel support, and other activities. However, the role of conferences remained central. It was clear that the ISMB meeting was the primary "product" of the new society. That dinner also paved the way for the current relationship between ISCB and two of the other premier meetings in computational biology: Research in Computational Molecular Biology (**RECOMB**) and the Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing (**PSB**), many of whose organizers were present on that Greek beach.

In subsequent years, the society has formed alliances with other conferences as well, most notably the European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB) and the Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Network (APBioNet) International Conference on Bioinformatics (InCoB). When **ISMB** is held in Europe, as it will be this summer, ISMB and ECCB are held jointly. More recently, the ISCB has begun organizing smaller regional or specialty meetings such as the **Rocky Mountain Bioinformatics Conference**.

Merging the conference cultures of molecular biology (where conferences provide an unpublished way to share recent research results and speakers are largely invited) and computer science (where conferences are the primary publication venue for new results, and speaking slots are based on peer-reviewed submissions) has not always been easy. Today's meetings are a remarkable blend that offer a snapshot of the latest, most important results, are published in Medline-indexed proceedings, and balance invited and reviewed talks.

This really makes perfect sense–bioinformatics and computational biology are fundamentally collaborative, interdisciplinary fields where high-bandwidth two-way communication is critical. Of course such a group of scientists would base their professional society on opportunities to meet in person, interact, tutor and present work! Our financial dependence on meetings is also rational in the face of our relationship to PLoS. To rest primarily on income from journals, as most scientific societies do these days, appears to trade short-term windfalls for long-term uncertainty, not to mention failing to address the important issues of open access and dissemination. To rest our Society's finances more on the health of its meetings may turn out to be a more robust strategy. When funding is good, the meetings flourish and attract many newcomers and the curious, allowing us to build a nest-egg. Even when times are hard, meetings provide a critical lifeline for essential scientific communication, and are hard for practicing scientists to skip. A high quality meeting is much more likely to yield value to the individual scientist in terms of ideas, scouting the competition and offering collaborative o pportunities, than a personal journal subscription.

ISCB's conference strategy also aims at creating a truly global community for bioinformatics and computational biology. ISCB conference venues have included not only North American and European sites, but also Hawaii, Australia, Japan, and most recently Brazil. The policies of moving the conference around the world in a regular, judicious manner have

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SARDEGNA ECCB'08

Joint meeting with the Bioinformatics Italian Society BITS

# ECCB'08 European Conference on Computational Biology

**September 22nd - September 26th**

Cagliari, Sardinia-Italy


## Keynote speakers

**Eric Davidson**
California Institute of Technology, USA

**Trey Ideker**
University of California San Diego, USA

**Christine Orengo**
University College London, UK

**Svante Pääbo**
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany

**Alfonso Valencia**
Spanish National Cancer Research Centre, Spain

**Marc Vidal**
Harvard Medical School, USA

## Steering Committee

Anna Tramontano (Chair, Italy)
Sören Brunak (Denmark)
Rita Casadio (Italy)
Manuela Helmer-Citterich (Italy)
Janet Kelso (Germany)
Thomas Lengauer (Germany)
Michal Linial (Israel)
Alfonso Valencia (Spain)

The ECCB conference series is partially supported by the BioSapiens and EMBRACE Networks of Excellence

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# THE 5TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY: CONFERENCE REPORT

*by Milana Frenkel-Morgenstern, Weizmann Institute of Science*

The 5th European Conference on Computational Biology (www.eccb06.org) was held on January 21-24 in Eilat, Israel. Approximately 400 delegates from 35 countries attended the meeting, which was chaired by Hershel Safer of the Weizmann Institute of Science and Haim Wolfson of Tel Aviv University.

Tom Blundell, University of Cambridge, gave the opening keynote speech: "Structural Bioinformatics, Cancer and Drug Discovery." Martin Vingron, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, spoke about "Markov Models in Protein Evolution: The Resolvent Method and Family-Specific Rates" to close the conference. The other keynote lectures included Naama Barkai of the Weizmann Institute of Science on "Principles of Gene Expression Evolution"; Richard Karp of the University of California, Berkeley, on "Combinatorial Algorithms for Regulatory Network Analysis and Pathway Reconstruction"; Burkhard Rost of Columbia University on "Evolution Teaches Protein Function Prediction"; and Jeffrey Skolnick of the Georgia Institute of Technology on "Prediction of Protein Structure, Function and Druggability on a Proteomic Scale."

The conference included 41 additional oral presentations and a selection of software demos. The first day of the conference was devoted to workshops and tutorials.

The papers and posters were organized into 15 topical areas. Systems Biology was highly represented, with presentations under Transcriptomics; Pathways, Networks and Systems; and Simulations and System Dynamics. Other popular topics included Structural Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics. Newer topics included Biomedicine, Computer-Aided Drug Design, and Metabolomics.

The welcome reception took place on the Dan hotel's pool terrace; it featured a great food and live music. The festive dinner on final evening started with a bus and walking tour of Timna Park, the site of the world's most ancient copper mines. The area's extraordinary natural formations were spectacularly lighted for the nighttime visit. The tour was followed by a classic Bedouin-style dinner at the Enchanted Lake, with a variety of grilled meats and traditional accompaniments, as well as entertainment by a band playing desert music. That same evening, the students organized a dancing party at Eilat's hottest dance spot, The Three Monkeys Pub.

Prizes were awarded to the three best papers and the three best student papers. The lead authors of the winning papers in the first group were Ariel Schwartz of the University of California, Berkeley, USA; Andreas Hildebrandt of Saarland University, Germany; and Daniel Merkle of the University of Leipzig, Germany. The second group included Fabian Birzele of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Germany; Barak Raveh of the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel; and Jennifer Listgarten of the University of Toronto, Canada.

Prizes were also awarded for the five best posters of the 200 that were exhibited: Irena Artamonova of Technische Universitat Munchen, Oranit Dror of Tel Aviv University, Yonit Halperin of Tel Aviv University, Orna Man of the Weizmann Institute of Science, and Israel Steinfeld of Tel Aviv University.

# FASEB UPDATE

*Submitted by Barbara Bryant, ISCB representative to the FASEB Board of Directors*

ISCB is a member society of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). We joined FASEB in order to provide our members with a voice in the US Government on issues relating to science policy. The ISCB Public Affairs Committee is seeking people to help develop similar arrangements in other countries.

FASEB has had a significant impact on US science policy in the past year, thanks to an excellent staff, the mobilization of thousands of FASEB scientists, and the respect the federation is given on Capitol Hill. The NIH Reform Act was passed in December 2006, and FASEB played a role in shaping the legislation to meet the concerns of scientists. FASEB mobilized scientists to support increased funding for science; In early 2007 this paid off when Congress passed the FY 2007 Joint Funding Resolution that contained a $619 million increase for the NIH plus major increases in funding for NSF and DOE. A *Nature* editorial cited FASEB's advocacy efforts as a major factor contributing to this outcome.

FASEB is supporting the Genetic Information Nondescrimination Act. The organization also has a focus on conflict of interest, and is producing a white paper about the issue across academia, government and industry. FASEB took a number of actions in support of peer-reviewed, investigator-initiated research. A subcommittee of the FASEB Science Policy Committee has been very active in the past couple of years in support of evolution education in primary and secondary school.

FASEB provides tools to help each of us advocate for scientific research and science policy. See opa.faseb.org for information.

FASEB administers a large grant to help U.S. citizen and permanent resident minority students with the costs of attending conferences, including ISMB and Rocky. See marc.faseb.org/pages/page2a.htm for information.

## MentorNet Report Card

ISCB joined the MentorNet E-Mentoring Network as an Affiliated Partner in April, 2006 in an ongoing effort to enable ISCB professional members to serve as mentors, and student members to enroll as protégés through this award winning program. After our first year, although the uptake among all ISCB members has been somewhat slow, ISCB mentors have been in high demand. We are pleased to share the following data as a bit of a first report card.

- 22 ISCB student and junior scientist members have signed up as protégés.
- 28 ISCB professional members have signed up as mentors.
- 8 ISCB protégés have been specifically matched to ISCB mentors upon request.
- 11 ISCB student member protégés requested to be matched with an ISCB mentor but were matched instead with a non-ISCB mentor due to unavailability of sufficient ISCB mentors.
- 93 of all MentorNet protégés requested to be matched with an ISCB mentor.

The above numbers indicate a very small ISCB member enrollment in MentorNet to date. Overall, MentorNet reports that there is a shortage of mentors in the bio fields, which contributes to the high demand for ISCB mentors. It is our hope that with time the ISCB participation in this program will grow to become a valuable benefit for many of our members.

As of this writing, the annual evaluations of MentorNet program participants have not yet been distributed, so a report on satisfaction levels among ISCB member mentors and protégés cannot yet be commented on. For all members who have participated this past year, we encourage you to complete the evaluation form when received, in order that all future participants might benefit from your comments and suggestions.

If you would like to sign up as a mentor or protégé please visit www.mentornet.net to join the MentorNet community. Be sure to indicate your affiliation as an ISCB member and your preference (requirement, even) for an ISCB mentor or protégé match in your member profile.

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The E-Mentoring Network for Diversity in Engineering and Science

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allowed the field to promote its importance and vitality in multiple venues. There is sometimes a cost in terms of total attendance figures. These must certainly be strategically considered in light of our financial dependence on meetings, but the benefits of engaging new regions and new groups of scientists are quite significant.

Finally, the ISCB conferences play an important role with respect to publication. More than any other biological meeting, ISCB conference proceedings are an important part of the archival literature in bioinformatics and computational biology. These proceedings are peer-reviewed at a level rivaling some journals, and some are indexed in Medline and PubMED. References to these often seminal papers frequently appear in more traditional archival journals, and this should be a point of pride. Our conferences are previewing work that is of high and lasting impact. *PLoS Computational Biology* contains several examples of work that was first presented at an ISCB conference in the form of an oral abstract, and then published in expanded form in the journal. PLoS is also experimenting with the publication (in revised form) of tutorials presented at the meetings as well. This is a two-way relationship: the PLoS Track at ISMB facilitates presentation of some of the most important work published in the journal in the previous year as well as features early results of journal articles yet to be published. We believe that the unique relationships among the Society, its conference and *PLoS Computational Biology* are an important strength for all of us, and invite you to ISMB/ECCB 2007 in Vienna to see this synergy first hand.

**ISCB and PLoS Computational Biology: Leaders in Open Access Publishing**

ISCB has changed a great deal in the ten years since it began – but so has scientific publishing. Societies and journals are often intimately linked, such as the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, although of course there are both societies and journals without such links. The current relationship between ISCB and the Public Library of Science through *PLoS Computational Biology* journal falls somewhere in the middle. Both ISCB and PLoS exist as separate organizations and formed a partnership through a letter of agreement. In reality this means each disseminating the work done by the other. It would be easy to stop there, but the relationship is much more than that. With such a partnership the journal becomes a collective voice for the scientific community it represents. *PLoS Computational Biology* should represent the best work and interests of ISCB members.

The need for a relationship between ISCB and journals was recognized early. In 1998 Russ Altman forged a relationship between the Oxford University Press (OUP) establishing the journal *Bioinformatics* as the official journal of ISCB. This was very valuable for increasing the visibility of both a fledgling society and a fledgling journal as well as having financial incentives. The majority cost of being a member of ISCB went to OUP in return for a subscription to *Bioinformatics*; royalties went back to ISCB based on overall journal subscription sales. A publications committee was established in 2000 to oversee these activities.

In 2004, when this contract was up for renewal, a very bold initiative was undertaken. With much heated debate, and with a narrow margin, the ISCB Board of Directors chose *PLoS Computational Biology* as the official journal of ISCB. Why the controversy? PLoS is an open access publisher and is not likely to provide such large profit margins as a subscription-based publisher and so the society is likely to benefit less financially from the arrangement. There is no income to ISCB other than one PLoS sponsored membership for each published research article, and authors

(*continued on page 14)*

## ISCB: FIRST TEN YEARS

*continued from page 13*

must pay to publish their work, although they can request a fee waiver if they do not have access to sufficient funds. The good news is that more and more funding agencies are helping to provide funds to cover open access publishing fees and most important of all anyone can read a paper for free and reuse it without restriction. One could think of this as ISCB underwriting part of the cost of disseminating our science to the broadest audience.

We former presidents (including PEB, now the Editor in Chief of *PLoS Computational Biology*) believe that it is incumbent on the Society to be an "early adopter", particularly of computational technologies that have the potential to transform the conduct of our science. The Society has long supported Open Source approaches to distribution of scientifically significant computer code (leaving room for other means as well), and the Board of Directors felt that Open Access was similarly important to our field, despite the financial cost to this far-from-wealthy scientific society.

Being the first among scientific societies to officially adopt an open access journal was a bold move. Ten years hence, it will be fascinating to look back and see what came of this experiment, how the Society weathers the financial storms of middle age, and whether other societies have followed our lead.

The world of scientific publishing will continue on its path of radical change, driven in part by developments in information technology. The members of ISCB are makers and users of those developments and PLoS is a dynamic organization willing to work with those making change. What can we do together?

**Looking Ahead: The Next Ten Years**

Here is a challenge to future ISCB presidents: Journals are becoming more like databases and databases are becoming more like journals; can we not capitalize on that to further scientific comprehension? How a paper's impact is measured (in the future perhaps as a knowledge blob in cyberspace) is changing. Beyond traditional citations, downloads are becoming important, as is how collaborative the work is. How can we capitalize on this to further highlight the work of Society members? Then there is the content as a subject of scientific study. ISCB includes members who are experts in ontologies, semantic content, data and literature mining; how can these technologies be applied to our own journal to make it more valuable to scientists? Can we bring further recognition to the journal and ISCB as leaders of innovation in scientific publishing? ISCB has the expertise and the motivation to make this happen, so stay tuned.

Meanwhile, we are pleased to report that ISCB has reached its 10th anniversary with a commendable list of achievements in conferences, affiliations, partnerships and services to our ever-growing membership. Likewise, upon concluding its 2nd year of publishing, *PLoS Computational Biology* has grown by leaps and bounds in the areas of submissions, published research articles per issue, and the size and scope of the editorial board. The journal is also on track to becoming financially s elf-sustaining, which will demonstrate the viability of the open access model to the publishing community and ensure its permanence among scientific journals. Ten years from now as ISCB celebrates its 20th anniversary we look forward to being equally proud of our continued association with *PLoS Computational Biology* as an official journal of the ISCB.

**Citation:** Hunter L, Altman RB, Bourne PE (2007) The International Society for Computational Biology 10th Anniversary. *PLoS Comput Biol* 3(6): e135 doi:10.1371 /journal.pcbi.0030135

# 5th Annual Rocky Mountain Bioinformatics Conference

November 30 – December 2, 2007

Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado

Silvertree Hotel

Rocky '07 is an official conference of the International Society for Computational Biology

ISCB is sponsoring the fifth Rocky Mountain Bioinformatics Conference (Rocky '07) in Snowmass/Aspen, Colorado from November 30 - December 2, 2007. The meeting brings together computational scientists from around the world to share research results and build community.

A mixture of invited lectures, discussions on topics of special interest and short talks from many research groups will make up the scientific program. Informal community building opportunities include discounted lift tickets and a catered dinner.

The conference will feature keynote speakers, flash presentations and posters. We are accepting applications for presentations for the conference starting July 31 until October 12, 2007.

## Conference Chair

**Lawrence Hunter, Ph.D., Director**
Center for Computational Pharmacology
University of Colorado School of Medicine
http://compbio.uchsc.edu/hunter

## Contacts

*Rocky Conference Coordinator*
Stephanie Hagstrom
rocky@iscb.org
360-239-9177

*Registration Coordinator*
Suzi Smith
admin@iscb.org

## Key Dates 2007

| | |
|---|---|
| Registration opens | September 1 |
| - Early Registration deadline | October 29 |
| Abstract submission opens | July 31 |
| - Abstract submission deadline | October 8 |
| - Abstract notification | October 22 |
| Housing Cut-off deadline | November 1 |
| Rocky Conference Dates | November 30 - December 2 |

## Sponsorship Opportunities

A key part of the success of this event is the financial support and active involvement of our industry sponsors. This is a great opportunity to meet the key individuals in the field of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology from the Region and beyond, and gain international exposure to your products or services through the ISCB marketing efforts. For more information on sponsorship opportunities visit http://www.iscb.org/rocky07/industry.htm

**www.iscb.org/rocky07**

## *PLoS COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY*: TEN SIMPLE RULES

If you have not yet seen the very popular "Ten Simple Rules" editorial series in ISCB's official journal, *PLoS Computational Biology*, you have some reading to catch up on. The first in the series, "Ten Simple Rules for Getting Published," was the result of putting in writing an invited talk Phil Bourne, *PLoS CB* editor-in-chief, gave to an ISCB Student Council organized event during ISMB 2005 in Detroit. Each new release in the series has become a top download of the journal for that issue, and that first one remains among the top ten downloads of the journal overall. The full series to-date is well worth the read as great information for students, young researchers, and established scientists alike.

1) Ten Simple Rules for Getting Published Bourne PE *PLoS Computational Biology* Vol. 1, No. 5, e57
2) Ten Simple Rules for Getting Grants Bourne PE, Chalupa LM *PLoS Computational Biology* Vol. 2, No. 2, e12
3) Ten Simple Rules for a Successful Collaboration Vicens Q, Bourne PE *PLoS Computational Biology* Vol. 3, No. 3, e44
4) Ten Simple Rules for Selecting a Postdoctoral Position Bourne PE, Friedberg I *PLoS Computational Biology* Vol. 2, No. 11, e121
5) Correction: Ten Simple Rules for Selecting a Postdoctoral Position Bourne PE, Friedberg I *PLoS Computational Biology* Vol. 2, No. 12, e181
6) Ten Simple Rules for Reviewers Bourne PE, Korngreen A *PLoS Computational Biology* Vol. 2, No. 9, e110
7) Ten Simple Rules for Making Good Oral Presentations Bourne PE *PLoS Computational Biology* Vol. 3, No. 4, e77
8) Ten Simple Rules for a Good Poster Presentation Erren TC, Bourne PE *PLoS Computational Biology* Vol. 3, No. 5, e102

An excerpt from the latest in the series, "Ten Simple Rules for a Good Poster Presentation," which is particularly relevant for a conference such as ISMB/ECCB 2007, reveals the following tips:

*Posters are a key component of communicating your science and an important element in a successful scientific career. Posters, while delivering the same high-quality science, offer a different medium from either oral presentations or published papers, and should be treated accordingly. Posters should be considered a snapshot of your work intended to engage colleagues in a dialog about the work, or, if you are not present, to be a summary that will encourage the reader to want to learn more. Many a lifelong collaboration has begun in front of a poster board. Here are ten simple rules for maximizing the return on the time-consuming process of preparing and presenting an effective poster.*

***Rule 1: Define the Purpose***
***Rule 2: Sell Your Work in Ten Seconds***
***Rule 3: The Title Is Important***
***Rule 4: Poster Acceptance Means Nothing***
***Rule 5: Many of the Rules for Writing a Good Paper Apply to Posters, Too***
***Rule 6: Good Posters Have Unique Features Not Pertinent to Papers***
***Rule 7: Layout and Format Are Critical***
***Rule 8: Content Is Important, but Keep It Concise***
***Rule 9: Posters Should Have Your Personality***
***Rule 10: The Impact of a Poster Happens Both During and After the Poster Session***

*Good posters and their presentations can improve your reputation, both within and outside your working group and institution, and may also contribute to a certain scientific freedom. Poster prizes count when peers look at your resume.*

For the complete explanation of the above Ten Rules you'll have to read the full article in *PLoS Computational Biology.*

**Citation:** Erren TC, Bourne PE (2007) Ten Simple Rules for a Good Poster Presentation *PLoS Comput Biol* 3(5): e102
doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.0030102

# KEY DATES FOR KEY CONFERENCES

Make a note of the important Key Dates of the ISCB and ISCB co-sponsored conferences that will take place within the next nine months below. Please visit the respective conference websites for updates to these key dates, as some may change without notice.

**Rocky '07 – Snowmass, CO, USA – www.iscb.org/rocky07**

| | |
|---|---|
| Rocky Conference Dates | Nov 30 – Dec 2, 2007 |
| Abstract Submission Opens | Jul 31, 2007 |
| - Abstract Submission Deadline | Oct 8, 2007 |
| - Acceptance Notification | Oct 22, 2007 |
| Registration Opens | Sep 1, 2007 |
| - Early Registration Deadline | Oct 29, 2007 |
| Housing Cut-Off Deadline | Nov 1, 2007 |

**PSB 2008 – Big Island, Hawaii, USA – http://psb.stanford.edu**

| | |
|---|---|
| PSB Conference Dates (tutorials presented day 1) | Jan 2 – 6, 2008 |
| Paper Submission Deadline | Jul 16, 2007 |
| - Acceptance Notification | Sep 5, 2007 |
| Registration Opens | Aug 1, 2007 |
| Posters Abstract Submission Opens | Aug 1, 2007 |
| - Poster Abstract Submission Deadline | Nov 9, 2007 |
| Travel Fellowship Application Opens | Aug 1, 2007 |
| - Travel Fellowship Application Deadline | Sep 24, 2007 |
| - Travel Fellowship Award Notification | Mid-Oct, 2007 |

**RECOMB 2008 – Singapore – www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~recomb08/**

| | |
|---|---|
| RECOMB Conference Dates | Mar 30 - Apr 2, 2008 |
| Registration Opens | Dec 1, 2007 |
| - Early Registration Deadline | April 5, 2008 |
| Paper Submission Opens | Aug 20, 2007 |
| - Paper Submission Deadline | Sep 24, 2007 |
| - Paper Acceptance Notification | Dec 10, 2007 |
| Posters Abstracts Opens | TBA |
| - Poster Abstracts Submission Deadline | Jan 14, 2008 |
| - Poster Acceptance Notification | Feb 4, 2008 |
| Travel Fellowship Applications Opens | January 5, 2008 |
| - Travel Fellowship Application Deadline | Mar 15, 2008 |
| - Travel Fellowship Award Notification | Mar 25, 2008 |
| Housing Reservation Cut Off Date (Marriott Oakland City Center) | Mar 31, 2008 |

Additionally, key dates and deadline information will be available for ISMB 2008 in Toronto, Canada (July 19-23), and ECCB 2008 in Sardinia, Italy (Sep 22-26) as soon as available. Please visit these websites below for all related updates and conference information: www.iscb.org/ismb2008/ and www.eccb08.org.

**POST YOUR EVENTS & NEWS DIRECTLY TO 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, 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.

# UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

## ISCB Annual Conferences

Rocky '07
Rocky Mountain Bioinformatics Conference
United States - Colorado - Aspen/Snowmass
Dates: Nov 30, 2007 through Dec 02, 2007
ISCB Member Discount: 50 USD
Event URL: www.iscb.org/rocky07

ISMB 2008
Toronto - Ontario - Canada
Dates: Jul 19, 2007 through Jul 23, 2007
ISCB Member Discount: Up to 200 Euros
Event URL: www.iscb.org/ismb2008

## ISCB Co-Sponsored Events

InCoB2007 - 6th International Conference in Bioinformatics
China - SAR - Hong Kong
Hosted By: Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Network
Dates: Aug 27, 2007 through Aug 30, 2007
ISCB Member Discount: 50 USD
Restrictions: excluding student and HK registrations.
Event URL: www.apbionet.org/incob07/

PSB - Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing 2008
United States - HI - Kohala Coast
Hosted By: Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing
Dates: Jan 04, 2008 through Jan 08, 2008
ISCB Member Discount: 75 USD
Event URL: http://psb.stanford.edu/

RECOMB 2008
12th Annual International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology
Singapore
Hosted By: National University of Singapore
Dates: Mar 30, 2008 through Apr 02, 2008
ISCB Member Discount: TBA
Event URL: www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~recomb08

ECCB 2008
European Conference on Computational Biology
Italy - Sardinia - Cagliari
Dates: Sep 22, 2008 through Sep 26, 2008
ISCB Member Discount: TBA
Event URL: http://eccb08.org/

## ISCB Affiliated Events

Probabilistic Modelling in Computational Biology meeting affiliated with ISMB/ECCB 2007
Austria - Vienna
Hosted By: Boku University Vienna
Dates: Jul 26, 2007 through Jul 26, 2007
Event URL: http://bioinf.boku.ac.at/PMCB/

WABI'07 - 7th Workshop on Algorithms in Bioinformatics
United States - PA - Philadelphia
Hosted By: University of Pennsylvania
Dates: Sep 08, 2007 through Sep 09, 2007
ISCB Member Discount: TBA
Event URL: www.wabi07.org

## Other Conferences & Events of Interest

QA-gen Workshop: Quantitative Approaches for Knowledge Discovery and Decision Support in the Post Genomic Era
United Kingdom - Sheffield
Hosted By: University of Patras, Sheffield Halam University and University of Ioannina
Dates: Jul 22, 2007 through Jul 23, 2007
Event URL: www.iccs.info/qa_gen.php

The Applied Computational Genomics Course
Canada - AB - Edmonton
Hosted By: The Bioinformatics Platform
Dates: Jul 25, 2007 through Jul 31, 2007
Event URL: www.gcbioinformatics.ca/training

Moscow Conference on Computational Molecular Biology (MCCMB'07)
Russia - Moscow
Hosted By: Moscow State University
Dates: Jul 27, 2007 through Jul 30, 2007
Event URL: mccmb.belozersky.msu.ru/2007/

7th International Workshop on Data Mining in Bioinformatics (BIOKDD07)
United States - CA - San Jose
Hosted By: Dr. Jake Chen
Dates: Aug 12, 2007 through Aug 12, 2007
Event URL: bio.informatics.iupui.edu/biokdd07/

CSB2007
United States - CA - San Diego
Hosted By: Life Sciences Society
Dates: Aug 13, 2007 through Aug 17, 2007
Event URL: www.lifesciencessociety.org/CSB2007/index07.html

CSB 2007 Workshop on Alternative Splicing
United States - CA - San Diego
Hosted By: Life Sciences Society
Dates: Aug 17, 2007 through Aug 17, 2007
Event URL: http://csbl.bmb.uga.edu/CSB2007Workshop/

Workshop on System Biology for Microbial Genomes
United States - CA - San Diego
Hosted By: Life Sciences Society
Dates: Aug 17, 2007 through Aug 17, 2007
Event URL: www.lifesciencessociety.org/CSB2007/index07.html

Brazilian Symposium on Bioinformatics 2007 - BSB 2007
Brazil - RJ - Angra dos Reis, Rio de Janeiro
Hosted By: Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Dates: Aug 29, 2007 through Aug 31, 2007
Event URL: http://bsb2007.inf.puc-rio.br/

International Conference On Mathematical Biology 2007 (ICMB07)
Malaysia - Kuala Lumpur
Hosted By: Universiti Putra Malaysia & The Malaysian Mathematical Science Society
Dates: Sep 04, 2007 through Sep 06, 2007
Event URL: www.inform.upm.edu.my/icbm07/

PBC 2007 - Workshop on Parallel Computational Biology
Poland - Gdansk
Hosted By: Czestochowa University of Technology, Poland
Dates: Sep 09, 2007 through Sep 12, 2007
Event URL: http://pbc.pcz.pl/

The BioExec Institute 2007
United States - CA - Berkeley
Hosted By: Prescience International, Deloitte, & UCB CED
Dates: Sep 09, 2007 through Nov 13, 2007
Event URL: www.prescienceintl.com/bioexec.html

4th Integrative Bioinformatics Workshop
Belgium - Ghent
Hosted By: University of Ghent, Belgium
Dates: Sep 10, 2007 through Sep 12, 2007
Event URL: www.rothamsted.bbsrc.ac.uk/bab/conf/ib07/

**Other Conferences & Events of Interest *(continued)***

Fall 2007 Workshop for Young Researchers in Mathematical Biology
United States - OH - Columbus
Hosted By: Mathematical Biosciences Institute
Dates: Sep 11, 2007 through Sep 14, 2007
Event URL: www.mbi.ohio-state.edu/postdocworkshop/fwyrmb2007.html

RECOMBCG'07 - Fifth Annual RECOMB Satellite Meeting on Comparative Genomics
United States - CA - La Jolla
Hosted By: University of California, San Diego
Dates: Sep 16, 2007 through Sep 18, 2007
Event URL: http://casb.ucsd.edu/recombcg07

RECOMB Satellite Workshop on Computational Cancer Biology
United States - CA - San Diego
Hosted By: University of California, San Diego, La Jolla
Dates: Sep 18, 2007 through Sep 20, 2007
Event URL: http://casb.ucsd.edu/recombccb07

2007 2nd VLDB Workshop on Data Mining in Bioinformatics
Austria - Vienna
Hosted By: VLDB 2007
Dates: Sep 23, 2007 through Sep 23, 2007
Event URL: http://bio.informatics.indiana.edu/VLDB07/

MLSB 2007 - International Workshop on Machine Learning in Systems Biology
France - Evry
Hosted By: IBISC / GIGA
Dates: Sep 24, 2007 through Sep 25, 2007
Event URL: http://mlsb07.ibisc.fr

Summer School "Methods from Mathematics and Computer Science for Pattern Recognition in Biology"
China - Shanghai
Hosted By: PICB Shanghai
Dates: Sep 30, 2007 through Oct 13, 2007
Event URL: www.picb.ac.cn/pattern07

2nd IAPR Workshop on Pattern Recognition In Bioinformatics (PRIB 2007)
Singapore
Hosted By: School of Computer Engineering, NTU
Dates: Oct 01, 2007 through Oct 02, 2007
Event URL: www.ntu.edu.sg/sce/prib/prib07/

Biology without Borders
Italy - Trento
Hosted By: The Microsoft Research - University of Trento Centre for Computational and Systems Biology
Dates: Oct 02, 2007 through Oct 05, 2007
Event URL: www.cosbi.eu/events/bwb07.php

Midwest Symposium on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics
United States - IL - Evanston
Hosted By: CBB program at Northwestern University
Dates: Oct 06, 2007 through Oct 06, 2007
Event URL: http://cbb.cs.northwestern.edu/MSCBB

IEEE BIBE 2007 (IEEE 7th International Symposium on BioInformatics and BioEngineering)
United States - Massachusetts - Cambridge - Boston
Hosted By: IEEE Computer Society, the Biological and Artificial Intelligence Society
Dates: Oct 14, 2007 through Oct 17, 2007
Event URL: www.cs.gsu.edu/BIBE07/

2nd IEEE International Workshop on Data Mining in Bioinformatics (DMB 2007)
United States - CA - Silicon Valley
Hosted By: IEEE/WIC/ACM WI-IAT-BIBM 2007 & IEEE GrC 2007
Dates: Nov 02, 2007 through Nov 05, 2007
Event URL: http://dmb07.swbio.org/

BIBM 2007
United States - CA - San Jose
Hosted By: IEEE CS
Dates: Nov 02, 2007 through Nov 07, 2007
Event URL: www.cis.drexel.edu/faculty/thu/bibm/index.php.htm

Computational Structural Bioinformatics Workshop
United States - CA - San Jose
Hosted By: IEEE
Dates: Nov 04, 2007 through Nov 04, 2007
Event URL: www.cs.nmsu.edu/%7Exqin/bioworkshop/bioworkshop.htm

Search and Knowledge Building for Biological Datasets
United States - CA - Los Angeles
Hosted By: Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IPAM)
Dates: Nov 26, 2007 through Nov 30, 2007
Event URL: www.ipam.ucla.edu/programs/sews4/

ISSNIP International Workshop on Biomedical Informatics
Australia - Vic - Melbourne
Hosted By: Melbourne, Australia
Dates: Nov 28, 2007 through Nov 30, 2007
Event URL: www.issnip.org/2007/symposia/bi2007/index.html

The 18th International Conference on Genome Informatics (GIW 2007)
Singapore
Hosted By: Limsoon Wong
Dates: Dec 03, 2007 through Dec 05, 2007
Event URL: www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~giw2007

International Workshop on Web Data Integration and Mining for Life Sciences
France - Nancy
Hosted By: LORIA in conjunction with WISE 2007 conference
Dates: Dec 03, 2007 through Dec 03, 2007
Event URL: www.loria.fr/~malika/WebDIM4LS-CFP.html

2nd International Symposium on Languages in Biology and Medicine (LBM) 2007
Singapore
Hosted By: Jong C. Park and Limsoon Wong
Dates: Dec 06, 2007 through Dec 07, 2007
Event URL: http://lbm2007.biopathway.org/

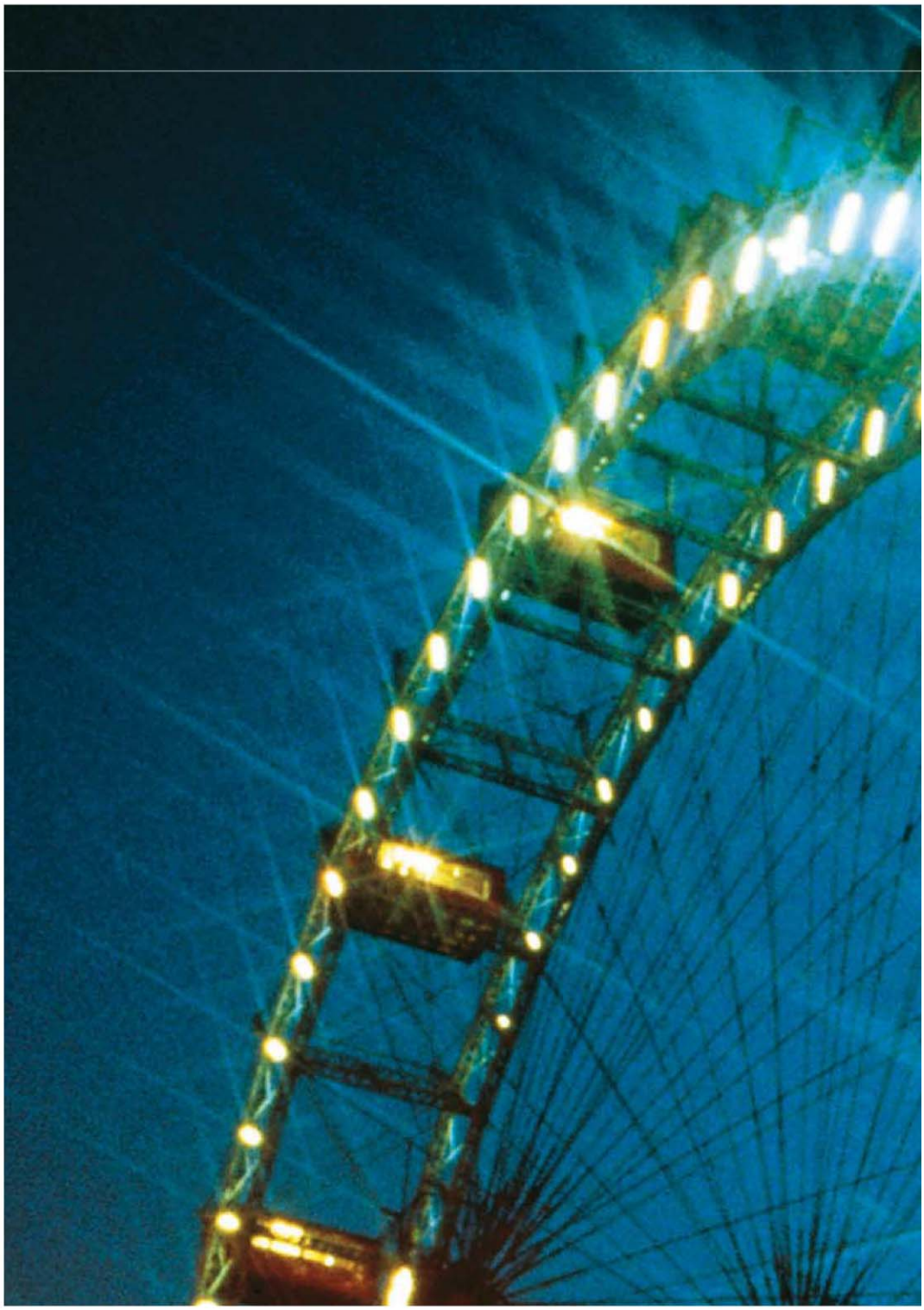
2007 International Symposium on Computational Models for Life Sciences
Australia - QLD - Gold Coast
Hosted By: Bioinformatics Applications Research Centre at James Cook University and the HCNR-Centre for Bioinformatics at Harvard Medical School
Dates: Dec 10, 2007 through Dec 12, 2007
Event URL: www.it.jcu.edu.au/~pham/CMLS07/CMLS07.htm

2007 Workshop on Machine Learning Methods in Biomedicine and Bioinformatics
United States - Ohio - Cincinnati
Hosted By: The Sixth International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (ICMLA'07)
Dates: Dec 13, 2007 through Dec 15, 2007
Event URL: www.ittc.ku.edu/MLBB/

CAMDA07
Spain - Valencia
Hosted By: CIPF
Dates: Dec 13, 2007 through Dec 14, 2007
Event URL: http://camda.bioinfo.cipf.es/

**Cover Image:**
Visitors can enjoy a terrific view of Vienna from the Riesenrad (German for "giant ferris wheel"). In 1897 the Riesenrad was erected to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the reign of Emperor Franz Joseph I. Located at the entrance of the Prater amusement park, the wheel itself spans 200 feet (about 60 m.) with 15 cabins, rotating at the speed of 0,65 m/sec.

In 1944, at the height of World War II, the Giant Ferris Wheel burned down and was rebuilt in 1945. The Viennese Riesenrad is the only giant ferris wheel of its time which is still in use today.



***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.