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Fred Sanger



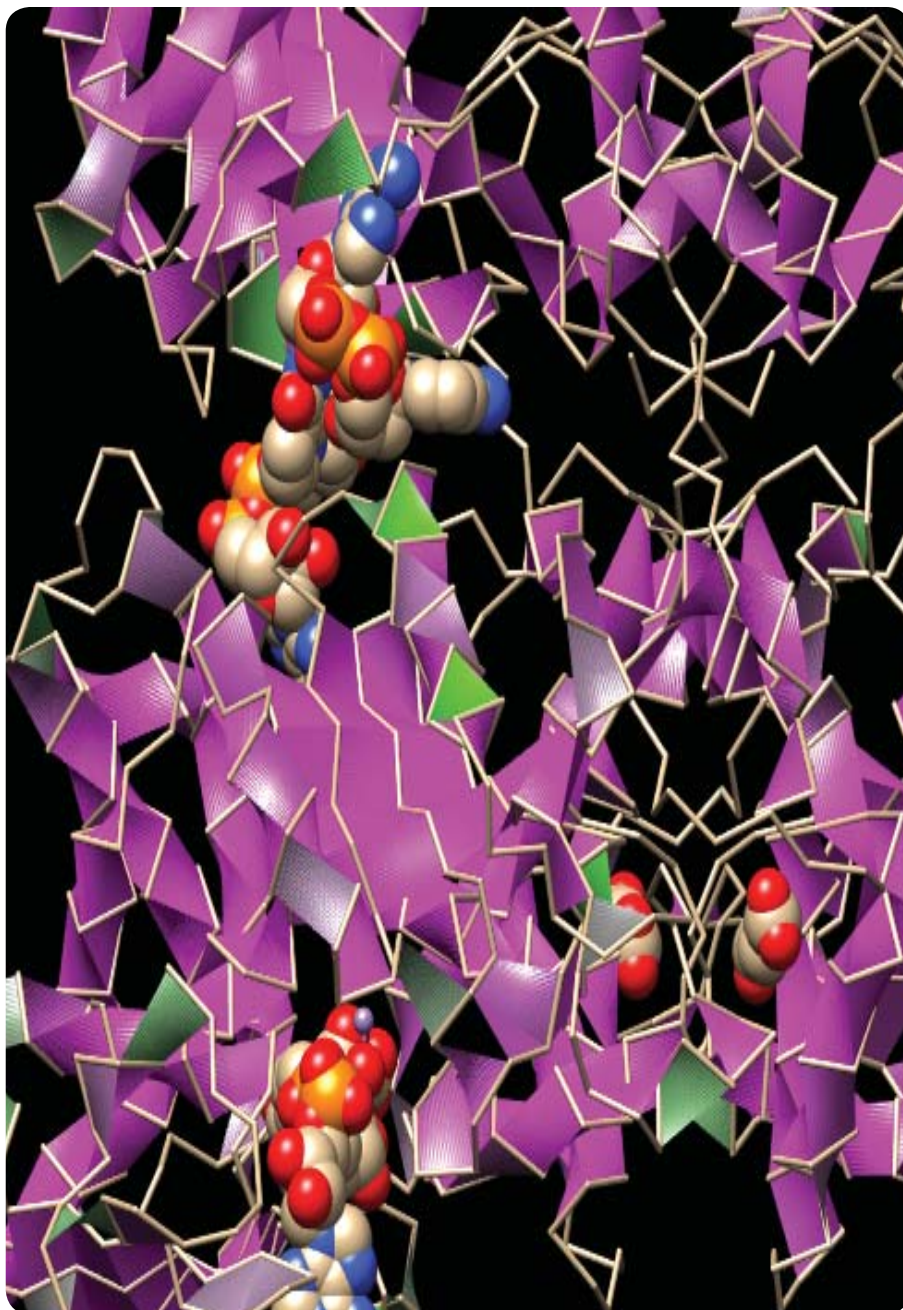
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**A Global Community Dedicated to
Advancing Scientific Discovery
Through Computation**

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2014 ELECTION RESULTS – MEET YOUR NEWLY ELECTED AND RE-ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

The 2014 ISCB elections welcomed several new members to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. The newly elected and re-elected ISCB members have made service to the Society a priority in their careers, and they represent excellent role models for junior members of ISCB.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Bonnie Berger – Newly elected Vice President

Berger, ISCB Fellow, is a Professor of Applied Math and Computer Science at MIT, and is head of the Computation and Biology group in MIT's Computer Science and AI lab. Berger's research focuses on developing algorithms for better realizing biological insights from large data sets in diverse areas including genomics, structural bioinformatics, and systems biology. Berger has served ISCB in numerous roles, including serving on the Board of Directors since 2013, ISCB Awards Committee Chair, ISMB 2014 Co-Chair and Steering Committee, ISCB 2014 Fellows Selection Committee, and ISMB Highlights Chair.



Christine Orengo – Re-elected Vice President

Orengo is a Professor of Bioinformatics at University College London. Her research examines how proteins function and evolve, and her group develops methods for predicting protein functions and the networks in which they operate. Orengo has been a Vice President of ISCB since January 2013 and has served on the Board of Directors since 2011. She has served on several committees and co-chaired the task force on the Communities of Special Interest (COSI), which she recently introduced in its public debut at ISMB 2014.



Scott Markel – Re-elected Secretary

Markel is the Principal Bioinformatics Architect in BIOVIA's R&D group at Dassault Systèmes where his responsible for the bioinformatics aspect of the Pipeline Pilot graphical scientific workflow authoring application. Markel has been ISCB Secretary since 2011 and has also served as a Vice President and on the Board of Directors. He is chair of the Publications and Communications Committee, chaired the Executive Director Search Committee and has served on other numerous ISCB committees as well as the FASEB Publications and Communications Committee.



Board of Directors Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, July 2014

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NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Darbha Anupama Jigisha Student Council Representative

Jigisha is a graduate student in bioinformatics at the University of Geneva and the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics in Geneva Switzerland. Her PhD research is focused on yeast genomics and proteomics and includes data integration, statistical analysis, and comparative studies. Jigisha is Chair of the ISCB Student Council 2013 Executive Team and has served previously as the chair of the Student Council finance committee. Jigisha has also been involved with the ISCB Regional Student Group India since 2008 and has served as a team member and advisor.



Francisco Melo Lederman

Melo Lederman is an Associate Professor in the Molecular Bioinformatics Laboratory at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile. His research is focused on understanding molecular and structural aspects of protein-DNA interactions by using bioinformatics tools and experimental biology approaches. Melo Lederman has served ISCB as a conference chair of the 2012 ISCB-Latin America meeting and as a committee member for other ISCB-Latin America meetings.



Nicola (Nicky) Mulder

Mulder is an Associate Professor and Principal Investigator of the Computational Biology Group in the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Mulder uses bioinformatics and systems biology to study infectious diseases, with a focus on tuberculosis, and also explores the role of human genetic variation on disease susceptibility. Mulder is currently the President of the African Society for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology and has helped co-organize several ISCB-Africa conferences.

RE-ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jill Mesirov

Jill Mesirov is Associate Director and Chief Informatics Officer at the Broad Institute, where she directs the efforts of the computational biology and bioinformatics scientists. Her research applies machine learning techniques to genomic data to improve diagnostics and identify better molecular markers of different diseases. Mesirov has served on the ISCB Board of Directors since 2005, has co-chaired the ISMB 2008 and 2010 organizing committees, and currently serves on the fundraising, fellows, and conferences committees.



Predrag Radivojac

Predrag Radivojac is Associate Professor of Computer Science and Informatics in the School of Informatics and Computing at Indiana University. He develops computational methods for predicting protein functions and also works on tools for improved protein identification in mass spectrometry proteomics. Radivojac has served on the ISCB Board of Directors for two years, has served on the ISCB Wikipedia competition panel and retention task force, programs and benefits analysis task force, and chaired several sessions for ISMB.



Anna Tramontano

Anna Tramontano is Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Rome "La Sapienza." Her work spans many areas of computational biology, including functional annotation of genomes and proteomics analysis. Tramontano has served previously as an ISCB Vice President, and has been a member of numerous committees, including her current service on the nomination committee.



Lonnie Welch

Lonnie Welch is the Stuckey Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Ohio University. His research focuses on developing and using bioinformatics methods for regulatory genomics in diverse areas of biology. Welch has served ISCB in many capacities, including being vice chair of the ISCB education committee, chair of the curriculum task force on the education committee, co-chair of the COSI task force, chair of the programs and benefits analysis task force, and founder and conference chair of the Great LakesBioinformatics Conference.

REMEMBERING FRED SANGER

By Christiana Fogg

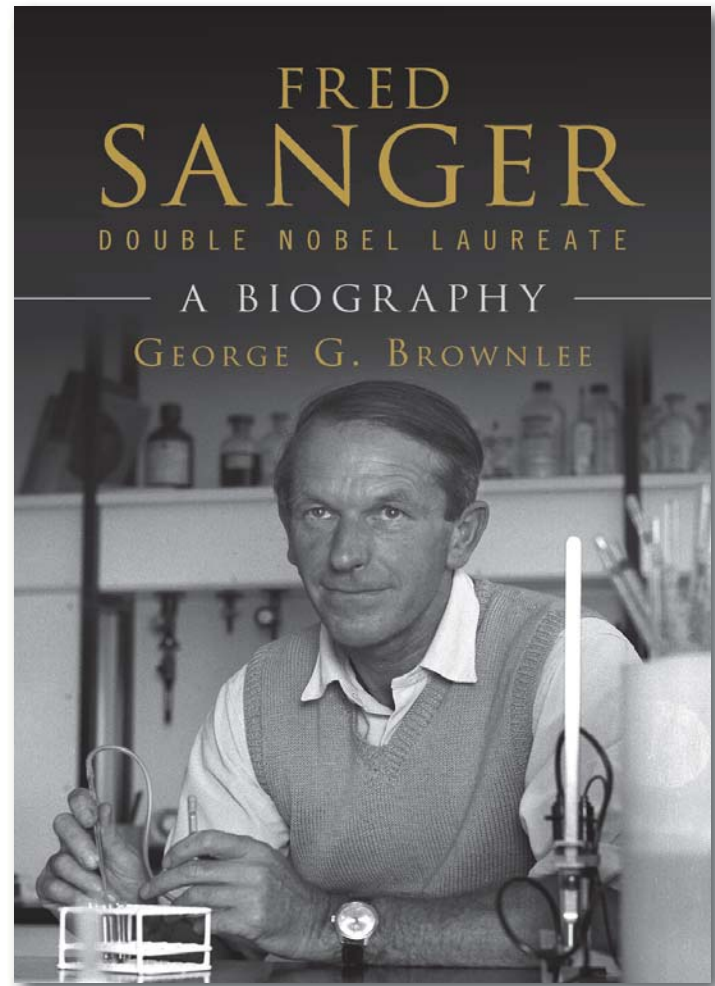
Fred Sanger (1918-2013) has often been called the ‘father of modern genomics,’ but little has been written about the life of this deeply modest and inventive scientist. In a new book called *Fred Sanger – Double Nobel Laureate: A Biography*, George Brownlee writes the first intimate portrait of Sanger’s life and scientific labors.

Brownlee is an Emeritus Professor of Chemical Pathology at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, University of Oxford. He completed his PhD in 1967 under the guidance of Sanger at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB), Cambridge, during which Sanger, Bart Barrell, and he pioneered techniques for determining RNA sequences. Brownlee worked alongside Sanger at LMB as an independent researcher until 1980.

In 1992, Sanger asked Brownlee to interview him for the Biochemical Society archives. Brownlee described those interviews as a “full and frank account of [Sanger’s] life and provided some insight into what qualities he thought were needed to be a successful scientist.” Upon his retirement in 2008, Brownlee set off to write a definitive biography of Sanger using these interviews as well as numerous original sources, including Sanger’s laboratory notebooks. Brownlee recalled Sanger encouraging him in this endeavor, and told him “to ‘get a move on,’ if it were to be published before he died,” which sadly did not come to pass.

This biography begins with Sanger’s birth in 1918 and follows his Quaker upbringing in a small village in the Cotswolds, England. Snippets from his mother’s diary chronicle his childhood years, during which he spent much time with his older brother and younger sister. In 1936, he went on to study at his father’s alma mater, Cambridge, but chose to pursue biochemistry rather than follow in his father’s footsteps and study medicine. Sadly, both of his parents died from cancer during his studies at Cambridge. He remained a Quaker and pacifist during his time at Cambridge, and as such, registered as a conscientious objector and was not called up to fight in World War II.

With some doubt in his ability to do research, Sanger started his PhD in 1940 in the Department of Biochemistry, Cambridge. He also met and married his wife, Joan Howe, during this time. Brownlee described Sanger’s mentorship under Albert Neuberger during his PhD studies as being a key moment in his development as a scientist as it taught Sanger “the importance of tackling novel and important scientific questions and testing them in a methodical way.” Sanger himself described Neuberger as “his real teacher, the person who really taught him how to do research.”



Sanger started working as an independent scientist at Cambridge soon after defending his PhD thesis examining ‘The metabolism of the amino acid lysine in the animal body.’ He was offered a paying research position in the Biochemistry Department under its new head, Charles Chibnall, who suggested the idea of sequencing insulin. Sanger spent ten years (1944-1954) sequencing the 51 amino acids that comprised insulin, and he tirelessly developed novel methods to tackle this project. His work showed for the first time that proteins were arranged in defined sequences, and the significance of this finding earned Sanger the 1958 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Brownlee takes time to depict Sanger’s research efforts post-insulin, during a period (1955-1964) Sanger described as his ‘lean years.’ This was also the period during which Brownlee worked under Sanger, and the lab focused its efforts on developing methods for radioactively sequencing proteins and nucleic acids. Brownlee saw this ‘RNA sequencing phase’ as a transition period during which Sanger worked out methods that would lead to his next breakthrough and the 1980 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

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GREAT SCIENCE, GREAT NETWORKING ISMB 2014 REVIEWED

ISMB returned to Boston this past July 13-15 for three packed days of cutting edge science, thought-provoking talks, and many opportunities for attendees to get together for intimate discussions and brainstorming sessions. Many attendees arrived on July 11 to take in the two days of ISCB's ever-popular tutorial and special interest group (SIG) sessions that preceded the main meeting.



*Isaac (Zak) Kohane, PhD
ISMB 2014 Keynote Speaker*

The keynote sessions anchored each day's schedule, and Michal Linial's talk on "Good Things Come in Small Package – Replicators and Innovators" opened the conference on Sunday, July 13. Linial's talk challenged the audience to consider outliers and smaller elements, and how these "treasures" can lead to interesting biological

observations. July 13 also featured a special talk celebrating the 2013 Nobel Prize in Chemistry given to Martin Karplus, Michael Levitt, and Arieh Warshel "for the development of multiscale models for complex chemical systems". The ISCB Communities of Special Interests (COSIs) made their public debut in a special session on Sunday, and each COSI gave an overview of their topic area and active projects. Eugene (Gene) Myers, the 2013 recipient of the ISCB Accomplishment by a Senior Scientist Award, captivated a standing room-only audience with his talk on "DNA Assembly: Past, Present, and Future." In an elegantly simple talk, Myers delivered a great history of DNA assembly and his work on assembling the human genome. He then shared his thoughts on the state of genome 'assembly in an era of low cost short read technology. He revealed his renewed interest in de novo genome assembly with the advent of long-read sequencers that he

considers sufficient for "perfect assembly." Sunday's session culminated in a highly anticipated viewing of the World Cup in the exhibit hall.

Issac (Zak) Kohane kicked off day 2 with a keynote titled "Biomedical Quants of the World Unite! We only have our disease burden to lose." With his unique perspective as both a clinician and a computational biologist, he captivated the audience with the challenges facing medicine in an era of vast amounts of healthcare data. He also used his talk as a call-to-arms for audience members to get involved in clinical bioinformatics problems and have a chance to make a real impact, like improving patient safety, and making electronic health records function "more like the iPhone." The Workshop on Education in Bioinformatics (WEB 2014) garnered a lot of interested on Monday with talks on the nitty-gritty details of running a MOOC (massive open online course) in bioinformatics, and gamification of computational biology and bioinformatics topics for the benefit of students and researchers. ISCB and the ISCB student council hosted their open business meeting at midday on Monday, which featured a brief and insightful talk by Peter Bourne, past ISCB President, and newly appointed Associate Director of Data Science at NIH.



*Dana Pe'er, PhD, 2014
ISCB Overton Prize Winner*

Dana Pe'er presented the second keynote talk on Monday afternoon as the recipient of the ISCB Overton Prize. Her talk on "A multidimensional single cell approach to understand cellular behavior," highlighted her work using mass cytometry and specialized visualization tools to give unprecedented insights into bone marrow samples from healthy and leukemic patients.

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ISMB 2014 continued

Monday wrapped up with a reception at the MIT Museum where attendees took in the unique exhibits including a display of slide rules.



Robert Langer, PhD
ISMB 2014 Keynote Speaker

The final day of ISMB began with a keynote talk by Robert Langer on "Biomaterials & Biotechnology: From the discovery of the first angiogenesis inhibitors to the development of controlled drug delivery systems and the foundation of tissue engineering?" Langer walked the audience through his rich and varied

career developing breakthrough technologies using polymers for delayed drug release and tissue implants. The workshop on "Digital Publishing beyond the PDF2" generated a lot of interest and included talks on alternative models of peer review, experiment reproducibility, and trends in data publishing. Russ Altman gave the closing talk on Tuesday afternoon as the ISCB Fellows Keynote speaker and discussed "Informatics for

understanding drug response at all scales." He talked about his group's large pharmacogenomics project and how he and his team can study drug actions and side effects at multiple scales (molecular, cellular, and organismal).

ISMB 2014 culminated with a presentation of ISCB Wikipedia Competition winners and a standing ovation tribute to outgoing ISCB President Burkhard Rost.



ISCB CONGRATULATES THE 2014 WIKIPEDIA COMPETITION WINNERS

By Alex Bateman, Wikipedia Competition Chair



Alex Bateman, ISCB Board Member and Wikipedia Competition Chair awarding second place to Alastair Kilpatrick

During the ISMB conference in July, we announced the winners of this year's Wikipedia Competition. ISCB conducted an international competition to improve the coverage of the Wikipedia on any aspect of computational biology. A key component of the ISCB's mission is to further the scientific understanding of living systems through computation and to communicate this knowledge to the public at large.

Wikipedia has become an important way to communicate all types of science to the public. The ISCB aims to further its mission by increasing the quality of Wikipedia articles on computational biology, and by improving accessibility to this information. The competition was open to students and trainees at any level either as individuals or as groups. We received 60 entries to the 2014 competition.

Congratulations to the following winners:

First Place - Point Accepted Mutation

By: Matthew Zygorodimos and Chris Garnham, University of Melbourne

Second Place - Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology

By: Alastair Kilpatrick, University of Edinburgh

Third Place - SNV Calling from NGS Data

By: Andrew Bennett & Aparna Elangovan, University of Melbourne



Aparna Elangovan accepting third place award

Submissions are now being accepted for 2015. The deadline is January 12, 2015. Follow this link for more information: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Computational_Biology/ISCB_competition_announcement_2014

ROST REFLECTS ON HIS PRESIDENCY

By Christiana Fogg, Ph.D.
Freelance Science Writer



Burkhard Rost is finishing his eighth and final year as ISCB President in January 2015, and he reflected upon his tenure as president and his vision of the Society's future in a recent interview.

Rost is Chair of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics at the Technical University of Munich. His research group works on projects that apply machine learning to biological data, including sequences and evolutionary information, to make predictions about protein structure and function, and gain novel insights into evolutionary processes.

Rost began serving as president in 2007 at a time when ISCB membership was stagnating and the society's finances were not well positioned for its long-term survival. Rost recalled, "All I wanted to do was clean up." He saw his service as president as a personal challenge to strengthen and improve ISCB. He credits certain strengths that served him well in this position, and said that he "is good at gauging what people want, fast with getting ideas and realizing them, and [he] asks people what they want and listens to them." Rost ardently believes his successes as president were tightly linked to the Executive Committee (EC) that served with him. He describes the EC as skeptical scientists who were "open to discussion, respectful, and motivated to serve ISCB without self-interest." With the support of the EC, Rost oversaw significant improvements to ISCB, reflected in quantitative terms by the growth of its membership from ~1200 in 2007 to >3000 members to date.

Rost has also witnessed a change in perception of ISCB among scientists as it is now considered a "society that leads." He said, "Groups want the scientific acknowledgement, 'the stamp' of the Society" on major issues such as open access to scientific publications, open source software, and government funding for research. Rost contends that the ISCB Senior Scientist Award

reflects ISCB's rising prominence. Winners include founders and major leaders in the field of computational biology, and they consistently list the ISCB Senior Scientist Award among other prestigious achievements.

ISCB origins are founded in the Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB) annual meeting, which brought together biologists and computer scientists over twenty

years ago when the field of computational biology was in its infancy. The field has matured in the last two decades, and computational biologists now enter the field through formal graduate and post-graduate training programs. But Rost was keenly aware that computational biology is an interdisciplinary field, and he has aimed to satisfy the professional needs of both biologists and computer scientists. To that end, Rost introduced the "Highlights" track to the ISMB/ECCB 2007 meeting, which features presentations of recently published or recently accepted papers that are selected by a panel of experts for their impact, relevance, and presentation potential. Rost said, "The Highlights track is a good compromise for both [biologists and computer scientists]. They can present

the hottest papers and still publish in the top journals." This track has become one of the most popular events at ISMB, ranking just behind Keynotes and Special Sessions.

Rost has made improving diversity a key element of his tenure as president. At the beginning of his term, ISCB leaders and



Diane E Kovats, CMP, ISCB Executive Director; Deborah McGuinness, PhD; Burkhard Rost, ISCB President

members were primarily from the United States and Western Europe, and men held almost all of the leadership positions. Rost focused on getting more women involved in the EC because he believed diversity is essential for the success of "how important decisions are made." Now women comprise almost half of the EC and play leading roles on other ISCB committees.

Rost has also improved the "international" aspect of ISCB. The Society now supports and partners with several international meetings, including ISCB Africa, ISCB Latin America, and ISCB Asia, thus facilitating access to world-class computational biology meetings for scientists typically limited in their ability to travel to U.S. or European



Burkhard Rost, PhD, awards the 2014 Senior Scientist Award to Gene Myers, PhD

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ROST continued

conferences. ISCB also has an active affiliates program that fosters connections between ISCB and regional groups, institutes, and organizations around the world.

In the future, Rost wants “scientists to think of ISCB whenever doing computational biology.” He envisions a federation of computational biology societies that work together more closely than affiliates. He considers Communities of Special Interest (COSIs) as one way to grow and improve the connections between computational biologists. COSIs were launched by ISCB in 2014 as self-organized communities with shared interests (www.iscb.org/iscb-cosis). Several of these COSIs originated from special interest group (SIG) programs at ISMB and have become thriving communities that organize events, either in person or in virtual environments, throughout the year.

Rost noted that the multi-year Critical Assessment of protein Functional Annotation (CAFA) experiment is a “unique community achievement” within ISCB. CAFA started as a challenge within the Automated Function Prediction (AFP) SIG to provide a large-scale assessment of computational methods for predicting protein function. Rost observed that CAFA showed how “the community came together to work on common standards not for money or requirement.” This ongoing project serves as a leading example of how the computational biology community can self-organize and collaborate on big projects.

Rost is optimistic about ISCB’s future and savored his last ISMB meeting as President. He was overcome with emotion by the standing ovation he received at the close of ISMB 2014, reminded of the many people who have stood with him during his years as President, and the many others who will support ISCB in the decades to come.



*Burkhard Rost at the Joint ISCB Africa ASBCB Conference
December 2009, Bamako, Mali*

Sanger continued

(shared with Paul Berg and Walter Gilbert) ‘for their contributions concerning the determination of base sequences in nucleic acids.’ Brownlee’s description of Sanger’s DNA sequencing years once again reveal Sanger’s ingenuity, determination, and unwavering work ethic.

Sanger retired at age 65 at a point he said, “My work had sort of come to a climax with the development of the dideoxy sequencing method. And I felt it would not be so exciting to go on working. Also, I think I did not want to do what most people do – take up administration, keep on a lab, and just potter around, really, not doing full-time research.” He spent time with his family and pursued his favorite hobbies, gardening and boating. He attributed much of his success to his wife and family, and said, “You know with a quiet family life and a happy family life once could have time to contemplate nucleic acids and proteins.”

Brownlee included transcripts of his 1992 interviews with Sanger in this book, and these chapters offer readers a rare opportunity to ‘eavesdrop’ on these intimate conversations between two friends reflecting on the past. Brownlee also tried to convey the enormity of Sanger’s DNA sequencing legacy in two chapters that describe the role of high-throughput sequencing in the emergence of genomics, and how DNA sequencing has transformed the study of cancer. The book concludes with commentaries on Sanger’s legacy by scientific luminaries including Paul Berg, Elizabeth Blackburn (a student of Sanger’s), Sir John Sulston, David Bentley, and Paul Nurse.

This intimate biography gives readers an unparalleled glimpse into the life of a scientist who transformed biomedical research. This work is filled with scientific details that will delight a biochemist, is accessible to lay readers, and will certainly inspire budding scientists and established academics alike. Sanger’s story also reflects how major discoveries can be realized when a scientist is given long-term financial support and a broad scope.

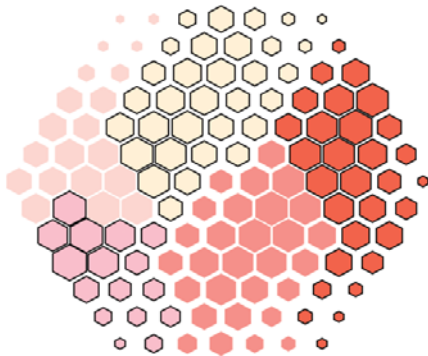
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Cambridge University Press, publisher of *Fred Sanger – Double Nobel Laureate: A Biography* is offering a 20% discount on this book to ISCB members.

Please follow the link: www.cambridge.org/9781107083349
(discount code: FREDSSANGER)

ISMB 2014 ART AND SCIENCE WINNER

Congratulations to Hai Fang and Julian Gough of the University of Bristol, United Kingdom, who garnered the ISMB 2014 Art and Science Award. This artwork, called 'supraHex', is inspired by the prevalence of natural objects such as a honeycomb or at Giant's Causeway. supraHex has architectural design of a supra-hexagonal map: symmetric beauty around the center, from which smaller hexagons radiate circularly outwards.



To learn more about the ISMB Art and Science Awards, please visit www.iscb.org/ismb2014-submission/ismb2014-artandscienceexhibition

ISMB AROUND THE GLOBE

By Paul Horton

On September 11 2014, 28 researchers gathered at the AIST Computational Biology Research Center in Tokyo to present and discuss proceedings papers published as part of ISMB 2014 in Boston.

Organized by Kengo Sato of Keio University, Yutaka Saito of AIST, and Haruka Ozaki and Tsukasa Fukunaga of the University of Tokyo; twelve papers were presented and discussed in depth over a period of five hours and continuing several hours longer at the well attended "nomikai" (dinner & drink party) following the main event.



ISCB ANNOUNCES OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO ISCB AWARD - NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

By Bonnie Berger, ISCB Board Member and Awards Committee Chair

ISCB's annual awards are the most prestigious international awards designated exclusively to researchers in the field of computational biology/bioinformatics. In addition to the Senior Scientist and Overton Prize Awards, ISCB is pleased to announce a new annual award, the Outstanding Contribution to ISCB Award.

This award is in recognition of outstanding service contributions by any member toward betterment of ISCB through exemplary leadership, education, service, or a combination of the three.

Nominations from all regions of the world are encouraged, and the selection of award winners will be selected by the ISCB's awards committee, which is chaired by Dr. Bonnie Berger of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Nominations are due by December 2nd, 2014. The nomination form, as well as a link to the full policies and procedures of ISCB awards, can all be accessed at www.iscb.org/iscb-awards.

Please join in nominating members of our community who have performed exceptional service and/or leadership for ISCB, and then proceed to the nomination form to ensure they are considered for this prestigious award.



Dana Pe'er, PhD, receiving the 2014 Overton Prize Award from Incoming ISCB President, Alfonso Valencia, PhD

OCTOBER 2014 FASEB UPDATE FOR ISCB

By Allison Lea



ISCB is a member of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), (www.faseb.org/), a coalition of 27 scientific societies representing over 120,000 researchers from around the world. FASEB works to promote biological research and has become an organization that legislators, federal agencies, and the media turn to for information on policies related to biomedical science and engineering.

ISCB members are taking a leading role in setting the agenda for FASEB. Judith Blake and David Rocke serve on the FASEB Board of Directors. Harel Weinstein is the ISCB representative to FASEB's Science Policy Committee and has recently been appointed Chair of the newly proposed Data Science and Informatics Subcommittee. This subcommittee will monitor policies on data and informatics issues, communicate with government agencies and other organizations, and develop position statements.

Federal Funding for Biomedical Research

The gridlock in U.S. Congress and budget cuts in other nations make it essential that scientists take a direct role in advocating for the resources needed to continue progress in biomedical research. FASEB has created a new and improved advocacy website to make it even easier for scientists to learn how to set up a meeting with their member of Congress or publically promote biomedical research. FASEB also recently released new district factsheets highlighting federal research funding in nearly 400 congressional districts, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Each factsheet presents the number of institutions receiving funding and the total amount of funding and number of grants received from NIH, NSF, the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of

Science, and the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Big Data and Data Sharing

On August 27, NIH issued its final Genomic Data Sharing (GDS) Policy "to promote the sharing, for research purposes, of large-scale human and non-human genomic data generated from NIH-funded research." FASEB submitted comments on the draft GDS Policy last November, raising concerns about the lack of clarity regarding the types of research that would be covered, potential increases in administrative burdens for investigators and institutions engaged in genomic research, and the risk of additional barriers to human subjects research and research participation. Nearly all of these concerns were addressed by NIH in the final Policy, which will go into effect on January 25, 2015, for all contract proposals and competing grant applications submitted to NIH.

In September, FASEB thanked the DOE for its new policy on digital data management and sharing. It commended the agency for requiring an investigator to include a Data Management Plans as a part of their grant applications, but one that can be tailored to their specific digital data. FASEB also appreciated that the policy included consideration of feasibility as well as the costs and benefits associated with sharing while acknowledging that "not all data need to be shared or preserved."

FASEB's "Sustaining Discovery" Effort

FASEB's "Sustaining Discovery" project seeks to identify ways to maximize the return on federal investment in the biosciences during the current era of constrained funding. As part of this effort, FASEB is hosting a series of three roundtable meetings to engage outside experts. The first roundtable was held on August 13 and focused on research infrastructure and regulatory burden. Harel Weinstein represented ISCB at this meeting. The second roundtable, held on September 16, discussed workforce issues. Each meeting included 25 participants from federal agencies, universities, associations, and FASEB societies.

On October 16, FASEB will host the third and final roundtable, which will focus on funding strategies. In addition to the roundtable discussions, FASEB will draw from previous analyses by its committees and feedback from its constituent societies to make policy recommendations to increase the sustainability of the research enterprise and to identify critical activities the scientific community can undertake to support their implementation.

FASEB Communications

On September 8, FASEB published its newest article in its Breakthroughs in Bioscience series, entitled "*Individualized Medicine: Genetically Fine-Tuning Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Disease.*" The article examines how basic research discoveries have paved the way for a more patient-centered approach of diagnosing, treating, and preventing diseases. Later this fall, FASEB will release a *Horizon's in Bioscience* article on nanoparticle targeting.

2014 ELECTED OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTED OFFICERS & DIRECTORS



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President, ISCB
Alexander von Humboldt Professor
Chair, Bioinformatics & Comp. Biol., Comp. Sciences
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13TH ANNUAL ASIA BIOINFORMATICS MEETING HAILED A SUCCESS

Sydney, Australia hosted the recent InCoB (International Conference on Bioinformatics), the 13th annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Network, held on 31 July – 2 Aug. 2014 at Novotel Brighton Beach.

Since 2002, InCoB has grown to become one of the largest bioinformatics conferences in the Asia-Pacific region. This ISCB-affiliated annual conference showcases the latest research and technologies in all areas of bioinformatics, and in recent years has been attended by practitioners from both biology fields and computing backgrounds in the region, with this year's theme of "Transformational Bioinformatics." The conference abstracts were provided on USB as well as via an 'app', while the best papers are under publication as special issues of international open access journals: *BMC Genomics*, *BMC Systems Biology*, *BMC Bioinformatics* and *PeerJ*.

Prof. Mary O'Kane, NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer gave the Opening Address and over two and a half days, we listened to cutting edge research from eight plenary speakers, three industry presentations and 89 orals as well as viewed



continued on page 13

STUDENT COUNCIL SYMPOSIUMS – AN EXPANDING FRANCHISE



The Student Council Symposium (SCS), a student-focused and student-run event organized alongside the ISMB (or the ISMB/ECCB) conference has long been one of the flagship events of the ISCB Student Council. SCS 2014 marked the tenth year of this symposium being

successfully organized. The past decade has seen the SCS grow from strength to strength consistently providing a program filled with stimulating student presentations, motivating keynotes and popular social events / ice-breaking sessions.

Starting in 2010, we also began organizing the European Student Council Symposium (ESCS) alongside the ECCB conference. The ESCS is organized in the years when the ISMB and ECCB conferences are separate. ESCS 2014 (organized September 6th 2014 at Strasbourg, France) was the third year of it being organized and we are looking forward to 2015.



Now this year, we are expanding the Student Council Symposia franchise further, with the Latin American Student Council Symposium (LA-SCS) being organized on October 27th 2014 alongside the ISCB-LatinAmerica conference in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. And

we are hopeful of being approved to organize the African Student Council Symposium (ASCS) in March 2015 alongside the ISCB-Africa conference at Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



The Student Council Symposium(s) events provide students the opportunity to hear talks specifically catered to a student audience from top researchers, present their work to an audience of their peers and



interact with other students and young researchers in an informal setting. In the words of one of our ESCS attendees,

"Traveling to the ECCB conference by myself, I did not know a lot of people, so I really appreciated the opportunity to meet like-minded students, prior to the main conference. I was impressed by the symposium program which allowed interaction with both students and keynotes. Networking with people seemed very natural".

- Jakob Berg Jespersen, ESCS attendee

Further, being involved with the organizing work of the SCS(s) provides students with organizational and leadership experience and great networking opportunities. It is also often a stepping stone for new volunteers to get more involved with other Student Council activities.

"After attending and being impressed with the SCS 2013 in Berlin, I immediately signed up as a volunteer to help organize this year's SCS in Boston. I enjoyed working in an international team of young scientists striving to represent the interests of all students in Computational Biology. Right now I am very much looking forward to serve as the next vice chair of the SC."

- Alexander Junge, SCS attendee and Vice-Chair elect of the Student Council

We appreciate the continued support from the ISCB and the wider Bioinformatics / Computational Biology community that has made all of this possible. We hope to meet you at one of our upcoming events at Belo Horizonte, Dar es Salaam or at SCS 2015 at Dublin, Ireland in July 2015!



45 posters. Packed into 4 parallel tracks. Diverse aspects of bioinformatics including translational bioinformatics, population genetics, immunoinformatics, systems biology, biological sequence analysis, expression data analysis, high-performance computing and scalable data storage were covered. A special session on bioinformatics software testing highlighted the growing importance of software quality assurance as bioinformatics moves into clinical practice. Travel awards for students and young scientists were provided by ISCB and APBioNet travel grants.

This was the first time that InCoB was held in Australia and there was a strong local representation in the keynotes, including Terry Speed (Melbourne) who brought the attendees of always checking their sources as even prestigious journals can publish obviously incorrect data. ISCB was represented by Terry Gaasterland, who focused on understanding the mechanisms of optic nerve degeneration using a multiplicity of data types and computational approaches.

Education and training in bioinformatics have been identified as major needs in the Asia-Pacific region and were featured prominently in the program, starting with a keynote lecture from Michelle Brazas on best practice in bioinformatics training and the GOBLET network for trainers and educators. A special session of short talks on bioinformatics education was standing room only and generated considerable discussion.

The conference attracted 206 participants from Australia, New Zealand, Asia (especially Japan, China and India) but also Europe and the Americas. A mixer to welcome delegates from Australia and overseas and the conference dinner provided further opportunity for delegates to interact and network. The conference was generously supported by the NSW T&I Conference grant, the Australian Bioinformatics Network, the International Society for Computational Biology, Qiagen, Millennium Science and ABSciEx, with material support from Macquarie University and Sydney Business Events.

Feedback from the participants was extremely positive, especially as this is the first InCoB in Australia: "Thank you so much for organising such a wonderful conference. It was really such a learning experience", "Many thanks for a terrific conference and lots of personal interactions", "amazing conference", "The conference program is outstanding." In Terry Speed's words: "Thanks again for organizing a great conference, Shoba. I know it was an awful lot of work, but you should feel pleased that it paid off." Also, David Lovell posted a meeting report on the Australian Bioinformatics Network: "InCoB2014: we salute you!"

Stunning Sydney winter blue skies over Brighton-le-Sands beach provided the backdrop to the trade display and networking during meal and tea breaks, and many participants left the conference wishing they had allocated more time to enjoy the beautiful setting. The next InCoB will be held jointly with GIW, in Tokyo, Japan, 9-11 Sept. 2015.

JOIN YOUR

Communities of Special Interest (COSIs) are being organized around particular research themes or challenges within computational biology or important activities such as networks of training, mentoring or support.



COSI

Community of special interest



● CAMDA - Critical Assessment of Massive Data Analysis ●

● AFP - Automated Function Prediction ● VarI - Variant Interpretation ●

● HitSeq - High Throughput Sequencing Algorithms and Applications ●

● CompMS - Computational Mass Spectrometry ●

● RegSys - Regulatory and Systems Genomics ● NetBio - Network Biology ●

● Bio-Ontologies ● BOSC - The Open Bioinformatics Foundation (OBF) ●

● Bioinfo-Core ● CoBe - Computational Biology Education ●

● JPI - Junior Principal Investigators ● 3DSIG Structural Bioinformatics ●

Find out more and join in... www.iscb.org/iscb-cosis

● NEWS ● ACTIVITIES ● CONFERENCES ● CONTACT LISTS

ISCB ADVANCES YOUNG CAREERS

Meet the young scientists that benefited from your support!



ISMB 2014 ISCB Student Travel Fellowship Awardees

COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY...LIFE'S A BEACH!

Summer—a time for picnics, beaches, vacation—and the world's hottest computational biology conferences! Thanks to support from our members, ISCB awarded travel fellowships to 89 students to attend ISMB in Boston, USA, and 9 students to attend ECCB in Strasbourg, France.

YOU CAN HELP YOUNG SCIENTISTS BUILD THEIR SKILLS!

Donate to the ISCB Student Travel Fellowship

Campaign and invest in the future of bioinformatics and computational biology! Without the support of travel fellowships, many recipients would not have been able to attend the top conferences in our fields. And, ISCB receives many more deserving applications than we can fund. Your donations help us do more. Your contribution, at any amount, will make a difference for a young scientist!

From posters, to highlights and proceedings talks—for many students, ISMB and ECCB are their first opportunities to present at a major scientific conference.



Watch and hear how attending ISMB 2014 impacted students!

Watch the full interviews to see how ISMB gives young scientists a head start at the ISCB YouTube Channel! www.youtube.com/channel/UCN9kqT7pfOzZddPJHqWSuyA



ECCB 2014 ISCB Student Travel Fellowship Awardees

Summer may be over, but ISCB has **exciting conferences** planned for Fall 2014 and 2015! Learn more about how you can help young scientists and ISCB at www.iscb.org/iscb-support-iscb

On behalf of the ISCB Board of Directors, we thank you for your support and participation in our Society!

www.iscb.org

ROCKY 2014



AN AFFORDABLE OPPORTUNITY ROCKY2014 – Rocky Mountain Bioinformatics Conference

December 11 – 13, 2014 – Snowmass, Colorado, USA
www.iscb.org/rocky2014

Deadline for Abstract submissions: October 10, 2014

The Rocky Mountain Bioinformatics Conference offers a unique format for those wishing to present work or for those who want to hear about the latest advances in Computational Biology. We provide opportunities for short “flash” presentations and poster presentations on current projects including significant works-in-progress in all areas that involve the application of advanced computational methods to significant problems in Biology and Medicine.

We especially welcome students and post-docs to present their work to the conference attendees.

This conference is designed to be a small intimate event to enable participants to engage with each other during the scheduled social times. Whether skiing together at a world class ski resort or visiting at a world-class hotel and spa, we offer plenty of time to network and collaborate on projects.

Affordable Lab and School Retreats

We also offer discounts and special packages to groups from one lab or school who wish to participate in the conference and use the location and time to come together for a team retreat. See more information here:
www.iscb.org/rocky2014-general-information/rocky2014-academic-retreat

We hope you attend and enjoy the science, the company, and the spectacular scenery of the Rocky Mountains.



ISMB 2014 ONDEMAND!

If you couldn't attend ISMB 2014, missed out on a keynote talk, or just looking for specialized content, take advantage of ISMB 2014 recorded talks.

All ISCB members gets complimentary access!

www.iscb.org/ismb-mm/media-ismb2014



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Watch Us!



[www.youtube.com/channel/
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Tweet Us!



<https://twitter.com/iscb>

ISCB ANNUAL AWARDS

Nominate a Deserving Scientist Today for One of *Three* ISCB Annual Awards!

| Overton Prize Award | Accomplishments by a Senior Scientist | The Outstanding Contributions to ISCB Award |
|--|---|--|
| The Overton Prize was established by the ISCB in memory of G. Christian Overton, a major contributor to the field of bioinformatics and member of the ISCB Board of Directors who died unexpectedly in 2000. The annual prize is awarded for outstanding accomplishment to a scientist in the early to mid stage of his or her career. | The Senior Scientist Accomplishment Award recognizes members of the computational biology community who are more than 12 to 15 years post-degree and have made major contributions to the field of computational biology through research, education, service, or a combination of the three. | The Outstanding Contributions to ISCB Award is in recognition of outstanding service contributions by any member toward the betterment of ISCB through exemplary leadership, education, service, or a combination of the three. Nominees must be members of ISCB! |

Nominations Deadline is December 2, 2014

ISCB CALL FOR FELLOWS

The International Society for Computational Biology introduced the ISCB Fellows Program in 2009 to honor members that have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the fields of computational biology and bioinformatics. ISCB is pleased to announce the 2015 call for nominations.



The distinction of an ISCB Fellow is based on the following:

- Nomination by an ISCB member must be made using the online nomination form, which requires a one-two sentence description of why this person is being proposed, a detailed half-page statement of motivation (500 words maximum) on why this is a good nominee, and a CV
- Nominees must demonstrate excellence in research, service to the computational biology community, education and/or administration.
- Nominees will be assessed on the magnitude and quality of contributions to the field of computational biology.

Nomination deadline is 2 December 2014!
Submit a nomination today to recognize our deserving scientists!

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

ISCB CONFERENCES

ISCB Latin America Conference on Bioinformatics

Oct 28 - 30, 2014

Brazil - Belo Horizonte

www.iscb.org/iscb-latinamerica2014

The conference will feature an exceptional slate of keynote speakers and provide a forum for the dissemination of the latest developments in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics research conducted around the world and regionally.

RECOMB/ISCB Conference on Regulatory and Systems Genomics, with DREAM Challenges 2014

November 10 - 14, 2014

San Diego, California, USA

www.iscb.org/recomb-regsysgen2014

Now in its seventh year, the RECOMB/ISCB Conference on Regulatory and Systems Genomics, with DREAM Challenges is one of the premier annual meetings in the fields of regulatory genomics and systems biology.

12th Annual Rocky Mountain Bioinformatics Conference

United States - Colorado - Aspen/ Snowmass

December 11 - 13, 2014

www.iscb.org/rocky2014

12th Annual Rocky Mountain Bioinformatics Conference offers an opportunity to focus on regional development in the computational biosciences. Representing a broad spectrum of universities, industrial enterprises, government laboratories, and medical libraries from around the world, the meeting is a chance to get to know your colleagues near and far, seek collaborative opportunities, and find synergies that can drive our field forward.

GIW/ISCB-Asia International Conference on Genome Informatics

Dec. 15 - 17, 2014

Japan - Tokyo

www.jsbi.org/giw2014

The 25th anniversary of GIW – International Conference on Genome Informatics will feature a remarkable

line up of keynote speakers over 3 days.

ISCB Africa ASBCB Conference on Bioinformatics

Tanzania - Dar es Salaam

March 09 -11, 2015

www.iscb.org/iscbafrica2015

This meeting constitutes the third joint meeting of ISCB and ASBCB, and the fourth conference of the ASBCB on Bioinformatics of African pathogens, hosts and vectors.

Great Lakes Bioinformatics Conference 2015 (GLBIO 2015)

May 18 - 20, 2015

United States - Indiana

- West Lafayette

Purdue University

www.iscb.org/glbio2015

The 5th GLBIO provides an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of research findings and methods. An important goal for the conference is to foster long term collaborative relationships and networking opportunities within the domain of computational approaches to biology.

ISMB/ECCB 2015

May 18 - 20, 2015

Ireland, Dublin

www.iscb.org/ismbeccb2015

As the world's premier conference on computational biology, ISMB/ECCB attracts top international scientists and key decision makers in the life sciences — experts in areas such as computer science, molecular biology and medicine, mathematics and statistics — from the world's largest and most prestigious research institutions.

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ISCB AFFILIATED CONFERENCES

NETTAB 2014 From high-throughput structural bioinformatics to integrative systems biology

Italy - Torino

Oct 15 - 17, 2014

The NETTAB 2014 Workshop will be a joint event with the Crystal (cl) Year meeting, in the International Year of Crystallography 2014, and it will be followed by the annual meeting

of the Centre for Complex Systems in Molecular Biology and Medicine.

The workshop may then represent a virtual bridge between these two events, showing how to manage and elaborate structural and high-throughput proteomics data so that it may be integrated with information from genomics and other life sciences disciplines with the aim of reaching a richer description and a deeper understanding of mechanisms and interactions in the involved system: the human being and its physiological and pathological states.

Early Registration Deadline:

2014-07-31

ISCB Member Discount: 10 percent

Benelux Bioinformatics Conference 2014

Dec 08 - 09, 2014

Luxembourg - Luxembourg-City

The Luxembourg Centre for

System Biomedicine (LCSB) and

the Centre de Recherche Public

de la Santé (CRP-Santé) are

organizing the 9th edition of the

Benelux Bioinformatics Conference

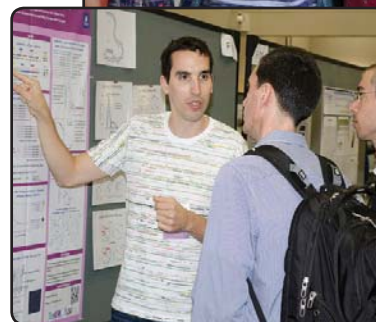
(BBC 2014). The event entitled

"Bioinformatics: Integrating data, teams and disciplines" will take place in Novotel-Kirchberg in Luxembourg, on December 8th-9th 2014.

Event Registration: 2014-06-01

through 2014-11-15

ISCB Member Discount: 140 EUR



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Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing (PSB) 2015

Jan 04 - 08, 2015
United States - HI - Kohala Coast
The Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing (PSB) 2015 is an international, multidisciplinary conference for the presentation and discussion of current research in the theory and application of computational methods in problems of biological significance. Papers and presentations are rigorously peer reviewed and are published in an archival proceedings volume. PSB 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of PSB. PSB 2015 will be held January 4-8, 2015 at the Fairmont Orchid on the Big Island of Hawaii. Tutorials and workshops will be offered prior to the start of the conference.
Early Registration Deadline:
2014-10-31
ISCB Member Discount: 50 USD

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OTHER CONFERENCES OF INTERESTS

RECOMB CG 2014

United States - NY - Cold Spr Harbor
Hosted By: IBM Research
Oct 19 - 22, 2014
www.cs.nyu.edu/parida/RECOMB-CG2014/

TBC 2014, Translational Bioinformatics Conference

Oct 24 - 27, 2014
China - Qingdao
Hosted By: The Korean Society of Medical Informatics
www.snubi.org/TBC2014/

Workshop: Statistical Methods for Omics Data Integration and Analysis

Greece - CRETE - HERAKLION
Nov 10 - 12, 2014
Hosted By: Foundation for Research and Technology, Hellas
<http://smodia2014.com/>

EMBL-EBI-Wellcome Trust Workshop on Proteomics Bioinformatics

United Kingdom - Cambridge - Hinxton
Nov 10 - 14, 2014
Hosted By: Wellcome Trust Advanced Courses
www.wellcome.ac.uk/Education-resources/Courses-and-conferences/Advanced-Courses-and-Scientific-Conferences/Workshops/WTX054153.htm

Computational RNA Biology

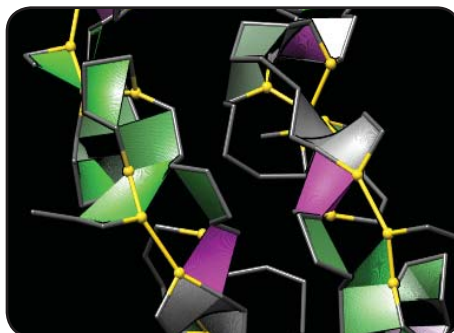
United Kingdom - Cambridge - Hinxton
Nov 11 - 13, 2014
Hosted By: Wellcome Trust Scientific Conferences
http://registration.hinxton.wellcome.ac.uk/display_info.asp?id=437

EMBL/EBI - Wellcome Trust Workshop: Resources for Computational Drug Discovery

Nov 17 - 21, 2014
United Kingdom - Cambs - Hinxton
Hosted By: Wellcome Trust Scientific Conferences
http://registration.hinxton.wellcome.ac.uk/display_info.asp?id=434

Lyon SysBio 2014

France - 69622 - Lyon, Rhone-Alpes, France
Nov 19 - 21, 2014
Hosted By: Lyon SysBio 2014
<http://lyonsysbio.sciencesconf.org>



2nd Mathematical and Computational Medicine Conference 2014

Dec 01 - 04, 2014
Mexico - Mexico - Riviera Maya
Hosted By: Zing Conferences
www.zingconferences.com/conferences/mathematical-computational-medicine-conference-2014/

NIMBioS Investigative Workshop: Heart Rhythm Disorders

Dec 03 - 05, 2014
United States - TN - Tennessee - Knoxville
Hosted By: National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS)
www.nimbios.org/workshops/WS_cardiac



2014 ICIBM

United States - TX - San Antonio
Dec 04 - 06, 2014
Hosted By: Vanderbilt, UTHSCSA and UTSA
<http://compgenomics.utsa.edu/icibm2014/>

BioDM: ICDM 2014 Workshop on Biological Data Mining and Its Applications in Healthcare

Dec 14, 2014
China - Shenzhen
Hosted By: ICDM 2014
www1.i2r.a-star.edu.sg/~xlli/BioDM2014/BioDM.html

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OFFICIAL CONFERENCES OF ISCB



**ISCB Latin America
Conference on
Bioinformatics**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS for
October 28 - 30, 2014
Belo Horizonte, Brazil**



www.iscb.org/iscb-latinamerica2014



**RECOMB/ISCB Conference on
Regulatory & Systems Genomics
with DREAM Challenges
& Cytoscape Workshops 2014**

November 09 - 14, 2014 San Diego, CA



ISCB
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

www.iscb.org/recomb-regsysgen2014



**12th Annual
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
BIOINFORMATICS
Conference**

**DEC 11 - 13, 2014
Viceroy Hotel
Aspen/Snowmass
Colorado**

KEY DATES

- AUG 08** Early Abstract Submission Opens
- AUG 15** Registration and Housing Opens
- OCT 10** Abstract Submission Deadline
- NOV 08** Acceptance Notification
- FEB** MARC Travel Fellowship Application Deadline
- NOV 16** Early Registration Deadline
- NOV 16** Academic Retreat Sign-Up Deadline
- NOV 18** Housing Cut-off Deadline
- DEC 11 - 13** Rocky 2014 Conference

www.iscb.org/rocky2014



**2014
GIW ISCB-ASIA**

**December 15-17, 2014
Odaiba, Tokyo, Japan**

**GIW
Celebrating
25 Years**



www.jsbi.org/giw2014/

GLBIO 2015

GREAT LAKES BIOINFORMATICS CONFERENCE



**May 18-20, 2015 Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana**

www.iscb.org/glbio2015




Dublin

**ISMB
ECCB**


2015

JULY 10-14



**ISCB Africa ASBCB
Conference on
Bioinformatics
2015**

**MARCH 09 - 11, 2015
DAR ES SALAAM,
TANZANIA**



www.iscb.org/iscbafrica2015