

Accomplishments Report 2010

The International Society for Computational Biology is an individual membership organization that provides services and benefits to the bioinformatics and computational biology communities. At the writing of this report we are approaching the end of 2010, and our membership number is at an all time high of 2991 current members (a combination of new and renewed members over the past 12 months) from over 70 countries. Among ISCB's 2010 members 53% are Professional Members, 16% are Post Docs and 31% are Students. Additionally, 54% are based in North America, 28% in Europe, 12% in Asia/Oceania, 3% in Africa and 3% in South America.

The following summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the ISCB through its various committees, elected leadership and staff. All initiatives of the Society are undertaken by volunteer members, which ISCB gratefully acknowledges for these accomplishments and thanks those named and the many more unnamed in this report for their selfless contributions to helping ISCB advance the understanding of living systems through computation worldwide. The ISCB staff and professional contractors, consisting of an Executive Officer, a Conferences Director, two administrative assistants, three database/web programmers, and a graphic designer, supported the initiatives of the member volunteers. With the exception of the Executive Officer, each of these individuals works part time on ISCB projects, and together they provide essential support to the Society's worldwide leadership and global membership.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ISCB Public Policy Statement on Open Access to Scientific and Technical Research Literature – The Board of Directors approved a new public policy statement that addresses access to scientific literature on publicly funded research.

- Thanks to public-affairs & policies committee chair Richard Lathrop who, together with much input from committee members, board members, and the scientific community (via blog comments) drafted the policy and presented it to the board for approval.

Institutional Membership Category Created - The board approved a new membership category for scientific research institutions with a research program in Life Science Informatics.

- The program is intended to accommodate membership requests from not-for-profit organizations such as foundations and governmental research institutes, as well as the life science research sectors of for-profit organizations such as pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

ISCB Asia Call for Proposals – The Society put out a call for proposals to host an ISCB Asia meeting.

- Proposals received by November 30th, 2010, are currently being evaluated by a reviewing task force.
- Options include partnering with existing meeting(s), hosting a new meeting, partnering with or hosting a series of meetings.

ISMB 2010 – The 18th Annual International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology was held in Boston, USA, in July.

- The conference was preceded by two days of events, including the 6th Student Council Symposium (118 participants), eight special interest group meetings (751 participants), one pre- and one post-conference satellite meeting (368 participants), nine tutorials (462 participants) and an ice-breaker orienteering event (127 participants).
- The four-days of the main conference included 203 oral presentations, five workshops, a visual exhibition of 20 artistic images and seven videos.

- 1643 scientists from 46 countries attended the main conference (72% male, 28% female, 1% undeclared).
- Nine sponsoring organizations and 18 exhibiting organizations supported the conference.
- The conference was financially successful.
- Thank you to conference co-chair Olga Troyanskaya and co-chairs Michal Linial and Jill Mesirov who worked with a team of track chairs and support staff to produce this expansive meeting.

CSHALS 2011 Conference – The 3rd Annual Conference on Semantics in Healthcare and Life Sciences was held in Boston, USA, in February.

- Three invited keynotes, 22 oral presentations selected from submitted abstracts, and 11 posters made up the scientific program.
- The three-day conference included 84 attendees from 7 countries.
- The conference was financially successful thanks to a stable attendance and sponsorships by Merck, Pfizer and IO Informatics.
- Thank you to Ted Slater who chaired this meeting.

ISCB Latin America 2010 Conference – held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in March.

- Seven regional keynotes and nine international keynotes, 31 oral presentations selected from submitted abstracts, and 103 posters made up the scientific program.
- The 3.5-day conference included 149 attendees from 15 countries.
- The conference was financially successful thanks to a solid attendance and ten funding sponsors plus four in-kind sponsor donors.
- Thank you to Lucia Peixoto who has chaired this meeting.

Rocky'10 Meeting – The 8th Annual Rocky Mountain Conference on Bioinformatics was held in Snowmass/Aspen, USA in December.

- Two invited keynotes and three abstracts elevated to keynote talks, 49 ten-minute flash presentations, and 68 posters filled out the scientific program.
- The three-day conference included 133 attendees from 15 countries.
- The conference was financially successful thanks to a strong attendance and sponsorships by IBM, SomaLogic, and ion torrent.
- Thank you to Larry Hunter who has chaired this meeting each year it has been held.

ISMB 2012 - The board approved Long Beach, California, USA as the site of ISCB's 20th Anniversary ISMB Conference, to be held in July, 2012.

ISMB Organizational Structure – The board approved a change to the organizational structure of ISMB whereby the conference will be organized by a Steering Committee rather than by Conference Chairs.

COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The committees of ISCB are made up of members volunteering their time and expertise to a particular area of interest or an important function of the Society and the membership-at-large. The following summarizes the accomplishments of ISCB committees during 2010.

Affiliates & SIGs Committee – Bruno Gaeta, Chair

- A revised committee structure was approved by the board of directors in February to improve representation and opportunities for involvement from the many regions of the affiliates program.
- The Polish Bioinformatics Society was approved as a new Affiliated Regional Group.

Awards Committee - Søren Brunak, Chair

- Steven E. Brenner (University of California, Berkely) was selected for the ISCB 2010 Overton Prize.
- Chris Sander (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center) was selected for the ISCB 2010 Accomplishment by a Sr. Scientist Award.
- Both award presentations were made at ISMB 2010 in Boston, USA, and each awardee gave a keynote talk at the conference.

Conferences Committee - Janet Kelso, Chair

- Proceeds from ISMB 2010 contributed over 300,000 USD in seed funds for ISMB/ECCB 2011 expenditures, as well as operational funds for the Society.
- Proceeds from CSHALS 2010 contributed over \$42,000 USD in seed funds for CSHALS 2011 expenditures, as well as operational funds for the Society.
- Proceeds from Rocky '09 contributed over \$13,000 USD in seed funds for Rocky '10 expenditures, as well as operational funds for the Society.
- ISCB Latin America 2010 was conducted at break-even financially, as had been budgeted.
- The Great Lakes Bioinformatics Conference (GLBIO) was approved as an official conference of ISCB after having been run as the Ohio Bioinformatics Consortium Conference (OCCBIO) for the past five years; the first GLBIO is scheduled for May 2011 at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and thereafter the conference will move around throughout the Great Lakes region.
- The 2nd ISCB meeting to be held in Africa, a joint conference with the African Society for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, was approved for March 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa.
- The 2nd ISCB Latin America was approved for March 2012 in Chile.
- Seven officially affiliated conferences to ISCB were held as follows:
 - o PSB, January 2010, Hawaii, USA
 - o APBC, January 2010, Bangalore, India
 - o VizBi, March 2010, Heidelberg, Germany
 - o RECOMB-BE, May 2010, San Diego, USA
 - o RECOMB, August 2010, Lisbon, Portugal
 - o ECCB, September 2010, Ghent, Belgium
 - o InCoB, September 2010, Tokyo, Japan

Education Committee – Fran Lewitter, Chair

- The committee chair coordinated an ISMB 2010 bioinformatics tutorial aimed at high school biology teachers, which was attended by ~20 teachers and 14 other ISMB attendees; committee discussions on getting bioinformatics coursework into advanced placement high school biology classes have continued through much of this year.
- ISCB's membership in MentorNet E-Mentoring Network was discontinued, with a small group discussing the possibilities of implementing an e-mentoring service hosted by ISCB.

Fellows Committee – Søren Brunak, Chair

- For the 1st time Fellows were selected from among nominations: Russ Altman, Larry Hunter, Eugene Myers, Gary Stormo, and Alfonso Valencia. Chris Sander was automatically named a Fellow for having been named the Sr. Scientist award winner.
- Alfonso Valencia has been named chair for the 2011 Fellows selection committee, and the committee membership was reconstituted by the board of directors.

Finance Committee – Reinhard Schneider, Chair

- An agreement was signed with PSB for ISCB to act as the Fiscal Agent for that conference, and to provide registration programming and processing services.
- An agreement was signed with ICBP2011 for ISCB to provide conference registration programming and processing services.

Governance Committee – Reinhard Schneider, Chair

- An updated Code of Conduct for board members, key staff, and individuals with fiduciary responsibilities was approved by the board of directors.
- A new Code of Conduct for committee members was also approved by the board.

Nominations Committee - Dietlind Gerloff, Chair

- The committee presented 12 board candidates for eight open seats; the election resulted in four new board members, plus the reelection of four current board members, all of whose three-year terms will begin in January, 2011.
- Four vice presidents, plus a treasurer, and a secretary were elected by the membership to two-year terms that will begin in January 2011.

Public Affairs & Policies Committee – Richard Lathrop, Chair; John Wooley, Co-chair

- The committee worked diligently through most of the year on developing a public policy statement on Open Access to Scientific and Technical Research Literature.

- o Input was sought from committee members, board members and the scientific community through an open blog.
- The final statement was approved by the board of directors in October.
- Several activities involving ISCB membership in FASEB included:
 - o David Rocke serves on the FASEB Finance Committee as ISCB's representative.
 - o Scott Markel serves on the FASEB Publications & Communications Committee as ISCB's representative.
 - o BJ Morrison McKay serves on the Executive Officers Advisory Committee (EOAC); BJ attends the semi-annual board meetings.
 - o John Wooley serves as the ISCB voting representative to the FASEB Board of Directors.
 - o Barbara Bryant serves as the ISCB advisory representative to the FASEB Board of Directors; Barbara attends the monthly teleconferences and semi-annual board meetings.

Publications Committee – Scott Markel, Chair

- *PLoS Computational Biology* was renewed as an official journal for another three-year term beginning January 2010.

MEMBER BENEFITS RENEWED AND EXPANDED IN 2010

Each year ISCB leaders and staff work on behalf of all members to ensure an array of relevant and tangible benefits are offered. In addition to the discounted journal subscription benefits that have been in place for several years, the following additional benefits were also offered during 2010:

Conference Registration Discounts Secured Exclusively for ISCB Members

- 50 USD discount to attend PSB 2010 and 2011 in Hawaii, USA
- 220 USD discount to attend CSHALS 2010 and 2011 in Boston, USA
- 80 USD discount to attend ISCB Latin America 2010 in Montevideo, Uruguay
- 15% discount to attend VizBi 2010 in Heidelberg, Germany, and 2011 in Boston, USA
- 10% discount to attend Bio-IT World Conference & Expo 2010 and 2011 in Boston, USA
- 10% discount to attend Structure-Based Drug Design 2010 and 2011 in Boston, USA
- 220 USD discount to attend ISMB 2010 and 2011 in Boston, USA
- 50€ discount to attend RECOMB 2010 in Lisbon, Portugal, and 10% discount in 2011 in Vancouver, Canada
- 100€ discount to attend ECCB'10 in Ghent, Belgium
- 2000 JPY discount to attend InCoB2010 in Tokyo, Japan
- 20% discount to attend Bio-IT World Europe in Hannover, Germany
- 220 USD discount to attend Rocky'10 in Snowmass/Aspen, USA

Travel Fellowships from ISCB Funds Awarded to ISCB Student and Post Doc Members

- ISMB 2010 in Boston, USA, July 2010
 - o 62,000 USD of US DOE and NSF government grant funding distributed to 72 paper and/or poster presenters
 - o 11,550 USD of FASEB MARC fellowship funding distributed among 7 poster and/or paper presenters
- RECOMB 2010 in Lisbon, Portugal, August 2010
 - o 5,000 USD distributed among 15 paper and/or poster presenters
- ECCB'10 in Ghent, Belgium, September 2010
 - o 5,000 USD distributed among 5 paper and/or poster presenters
- InCoB-International Conference on Computational Biology (the APBioNet annual conference) in Tokyo, Japan, September 2010
 - o 2,000 USD distributed among 4 paper and/or poster presenters

Google Apps available to all current members

- Members can set up a name@iscb.org email address that stays with them regardless of progression through one's education and career (especially useful for contact info with journal publications).
- Google Apps also enables use of Google Calendar, Google Docs, etc.

SOCIETY MARKETING & PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

ISCB leaders and staff members participate at varying levels in several affiliated and co-sponsored bioinformatics-related conferences throughout the year in order to show support of these conferences and promote ISCB membership to prospective attendees. Additionally, e-mailings throughout the year provide news and information to ISCB members and prospects about these conferences and other matters of interest to our community. Below is a list of conferences where ISCB had a specific presence, as well as our direct mail/email marketing activities during 2010.

ISCB presentations and conference exhibition presence

- PSB 2010 in Hawaii, USA, January 2010
 - o Scott Markel, ISCB Vice President, made a presentation on the leadership and membership structure, 2009 year-in-review, and upcoming conferences; ISCB's GenoCAD software licensing agreement was announced at that meeting.
 - o BJ Morrison McKay, ISCB Executive Officer, represented the Society at the registration desk and in working with the PSB staff at the conference.
 - o ISCB brochures were inserted into the delegate packets.
- Bio-IT World Conference & Expo 2010 in Boston, USA, April 2010
 - o BJ Morrison McKay represented the Society with a booth in the exhibition area.
- ISCB Latin America 2010 in Montevideo, Uruguay, March, 2010
 - o Burkhard Rost, ISCB President, held an open members meeting where he reported on the leadership and membership structure, 2009 year-in-review and 2010 activities to-date, upcoming conferences, financial status, and ISCB's growth in regional meetings.
 - o BJ Morrison McKay represented the Society with a display in the registration area and presence from the registration desk.
 - o ISCB brochures were inserted into the delegate packets.
- ISMB 2010 in Boston, USA, July 2010
 - o Burkhard Rost held an open members meeting where he reported on the leadership and membership structure, 2010 activities to-date, upcoming conferences and financial status of ISCB.
 - o Suzi Smith, ISCB Administrative Assistant, represented the Society with an ISCB booth in the exhibition hall.
 - o ISCB brochures and conference information were inserted into the delegate bags.
- RECOMB 2010 in Lisbon, Portugal, August 2010
 - o Michal Linial, ISCB Vice President, made a presentation on the leadership and membership structure, 2010 activities-to-date, upcoming conferences and affiliation opportunities.
 - o Suzi Smith represented the Society with a booth in the exhibition area.
 - o ISCB brochures were inserted into the delegate packets.
- ECCB10 in Ghent, Belgium, September 2010
 - o Burkhard Rost made a presentation on the leadership and membership structure, 2010 activities-to-date, upcoming conferences and financial status of ISCB
 - o BJ Morrison McKay represented the Society with a booth in the exhibition area.
 - o ISCB brochures were inserted into the delegate bags.
- InCoB 2010 in Tokyo, Japan, September 2010
 - o Tan Tin Wee, ISCB Board Member, made a presentation on the leadership and membership structure, 2008 activities-to-date, upcoming conferences and affiliation opportunities.
 - o ISCB brochures were inserted in the delegate bags.
- ABRCMS-Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Charlotte, NC, USA, November 2010
 - o BJ Morrison McKay represented the Society with a FASEB-sponsored booth in the exhibition area.
- Rocky '10 in Snowmass/Aspen, USA, December 2010
 - o BJ Morrison McKay represented the Society with a display in the exhibition area and presence from the registration table.
 - o ISCB brochures and ISMB/ECCB 2010 flyers were inserted into the delegate bags.

Mailings to Members and Colleagues during 2010

- 28 separate ISCB announcements and conference updates distributed to over 12,000 scientists on ISCB mailing lists via email campaigns.

ELECTED LEADERSHIP

ISCB is governed by the leadership of 27 Board Members, including Officers elected by the membership and who serve on the Executive Committee. The Board and Executive Committee activities during 2010 were as follows.

- Board of Directors Membership throughout 2010 was as follows:
 - o Nir Ben-Tal, Tel Aviv University, Israel
 - o Jong Bhak, Theragen BioResearch Institute, South Korea
 - o Alan Christoffels, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
 - o Terry Gaasterland, University of California-San Diego, USA
 - o Bruno Gaeta, University of New South Wales, New Zealand
 - o Nils Gehlenborg, Student Council Rep to the ISCB Board, EBI, UK
 - o Dietlind Gerloff, University of California-Santa Cruz, USA
 - o Kevin Karplus, University of California-Santa Cruz, USA
 - o Janet Kelso, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany
 - o Richard Lathrop, University of California-Irvine, USA
 - o Thomas Lengauer, Max Planck Institute for Informatics, Germany
 - o Fran Lewitter, Whitehead Institute, USA
 - o Michal Linial, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
 - o Scott Markel, Accelrys, USA
 - o Jill Mesirov, The Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, USA
 - o William Stafford Nobel, University of Washington, USA
 - o Guilherme Oliveira, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation-FIOCRUZ, Brazil
 - o David Rocke, University of California-Davis, USA
 - o Burkhard Rost, Technical University Munich, Germany
 - o Reinhard Schneider, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Germany
 - o Mona Singh, Princeton University, USA
 - o Tan Tin Wee, National University of Singapore, Singapore
 - o Anna Tramontano, University of Rome, Italy
 - o Olga Troyanskaya, Princeton University, USA
 - o Alfonso Valencia, Spanish National Cancer Research Center, Spain
 - o Liping Wei, Peking University, P.R. China
 - o John Wooley, University of California-San Diego, USA
- During 2010 the Board met ISMB in Boston in July for the annual in-person board meeting, and five additional times by teleconference in February, April, June, October, and December.

Executive Committee

- The Executive Committee members for 2010 have been:
 - o Burkhard Rost, President
 - o Terry Gaasterland, Vice President
 - o Michal Linial, Vice President
 - o Scott Markel, Vice President
 - o Reinhard Schneider, Treasurer
 - o Janet Kelso, Secretary
 - o BJ Morrison McKay, Executive Officer (non-voting staff appointment)
- In 2010 the Executive Committee met 46 times by teleconference throughout the year; half the meetings were formal with a prepared agenda and minutes, and the other half were informal discussions from which notes were recorded. EC teleconferences are held every Tuesday, rotating between formal and informal calls.