

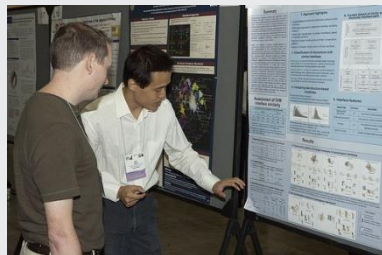
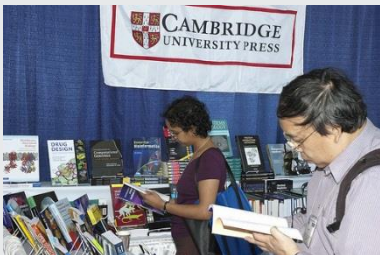
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



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State of the ISCB & Overview

The International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB) is a not-for-profit individual membership organization that provides services and benefits to the bioinformatics and computational biology communities. The mission of ISCB is to advance the understanding of living systems through computation. ISCB is focused on increasing global awareness of the vital role computational biology plays in biomedical research, and how the work of its members positively impacts the research community and society in general.

The following report summarizes this past year's contributions and activities of the ISCB's elected leaders, committee members, volunteers, and staff. Grateful acknowledgment goes to the many members named in this report, and the many more left unnamed, whose generosity of time and selfless effort have been essential to advancing the mission of ISCB.

In addition to the volunteer member efforts, ISCB employs a professional staff consisting of an executive director, a director of fundraising and corporate relations, and a part-time administrative assistant. The organization relies on long-term contractors to fulfill additional needs, including the roles of conferences director, meeting planner, conference administrative assistant, database/web programmers, and graphic designers. Each of these individuals provides essential support to the Society's leadership and global membership.

The past year marked a major milestone for the organization in bidding farewell to founding executive officer, BJ Morrison-McKay. The society formed an Executive Search Task Force and contracted with JDG Associates for a comprehensive executive

search. At the close of the year, the Society announced the hiring of a new professional executive director, Diane E. Kovats, CMP. It is with great excitement and anticipation that the Society prepares to enter a new phase of growth, financial strength, and community development.



Membership

Members are the lifeblood of ISCB, and recruiting and maintaining active members is essential to the vitality of this Society. At the close of 2012, the membership includes over 2900 individuals from more than 70 countries. Nearly half of ISCB's members are from North America (1639), primarily from the United States.

The truly global nature of the discipline and the Society is reflected in the number of members hailing from countries in Africa (59), Asia (294), Australia and Oceania (49), and South America (139) (Figure 1). ISCB's worldwide presence is also exhibited by its support of 21 affiliate societies from around the world.

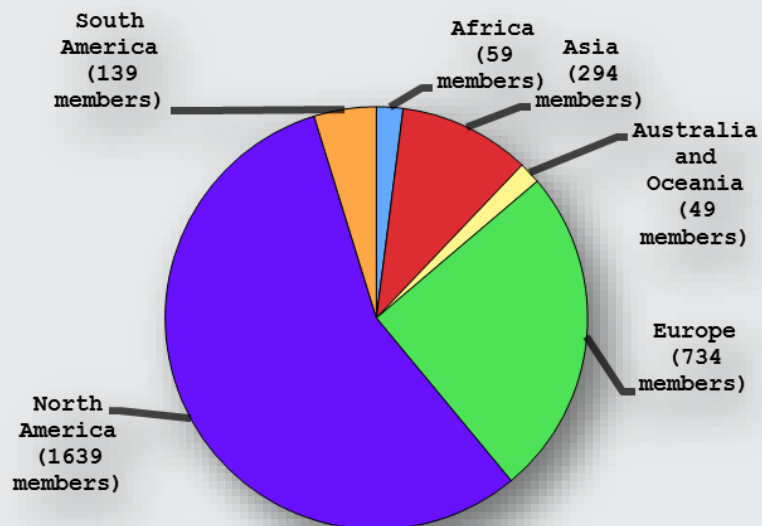


Figure 1. Global ISCB Membership

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ISCB supports members of the computational biology community at all stages of their career, and to that end, offers three types of membership: professional, postdoc, and student. More than half of the Society's members are professional scientists (1521) from academic, government, or industry settings (Figure 2). Trainees are also represented well in the ISCB membership, with over 400 postdoc and nearly 1000 student members (Figure 3).

Figure 2. Membership by Type (%)

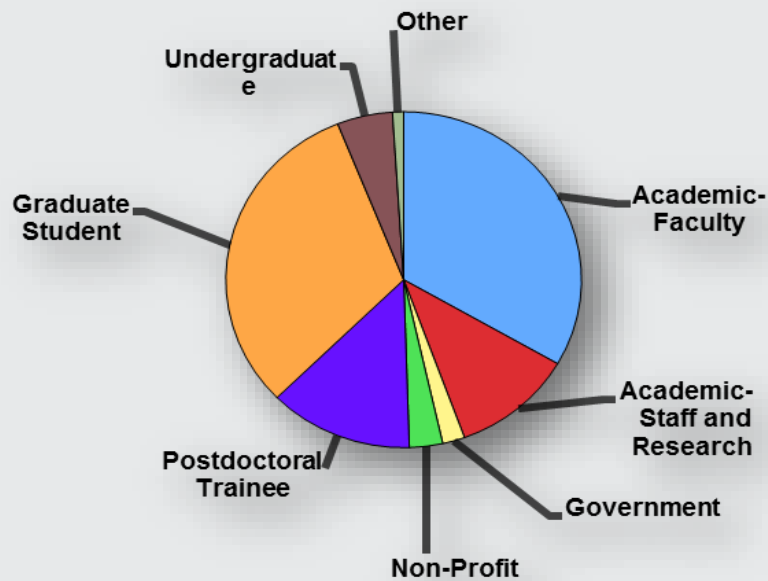
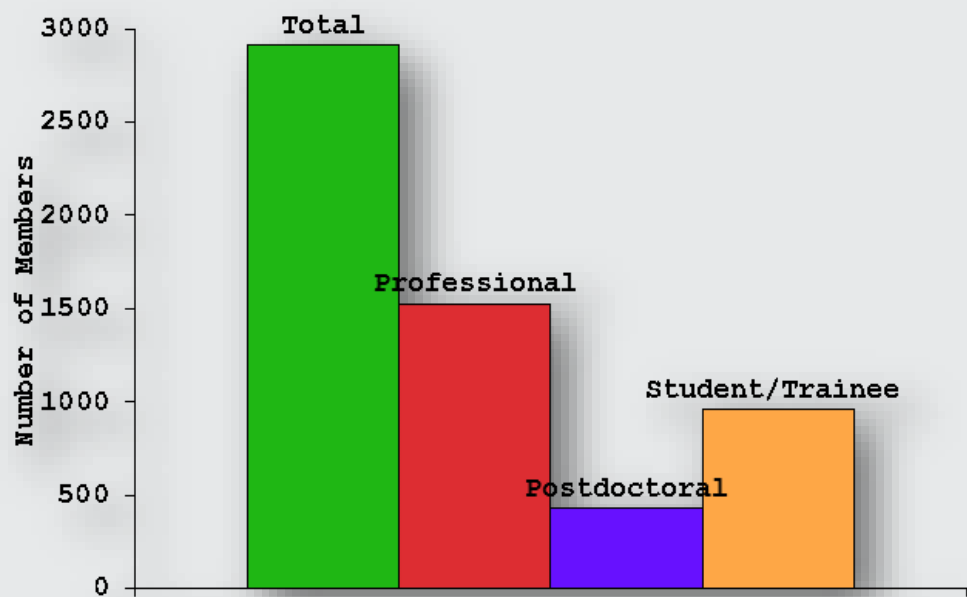


Figure 3. Membership by Training Level



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Society Committee and Leadership Highlights

ISCB thrives on the dedication of its volunteer members. Their passion and commitment to the support of the ISCB mission is evident each year as the Society continues to grow and offer more programs and benefits to its members. The highlights of some of the major achievements throughout 2012 are featured below.



ISCB Approves Officer Term Limits

The Board of Directors approved a motion set forth from the Nominations Committee, presented by Dietlind Gerloff and Anna Tramontano, to set a limit to the number of consecutive terms served by Executive Committee Officer positions, and devised a strategy to allow continuity of the Executive Committee by staggering the terms of its members.

In addition to creating a more stable succession plan for the Society, the motion enables more members to have an active part in the leadership of ISCB.

Fostering Relationships through Affiliated Groups

The Affiliates Committee, under the direction of Committee chair Bruno Gaeta, continued its mission to foster interactions between the

Society and its affiliated regional and institutional groups. The Affiliates Committee examines ways in which both partners (the Society and the affiliate group) can mutually benefit each other.

ISCB welcomed three new affiliated groups in 2012: SolBio (Iberoamerican Society for Bioinformatics), Bioclues.org (Indian Bioinformatics regional network), and Great Lakes Bioinformatics Consortium.

The Affiliates Committee also started a new initiative that encourages affiliated groups to submit highlight papers and proceedings to ISMB.

The affiliated group paper selected for a presentation at ISMB 2013 is to be branded as a “best of an affiliate society” paper as a means to promote the visibility of the affiliated society.

The Affiliates Committee continued its annual outreach program. In 2012, they developed a more pro-active approach to the renewal process for affiliated groups and societies. This process is currently in the initial implementation phase and will be fully launched and completely automated in 2013.



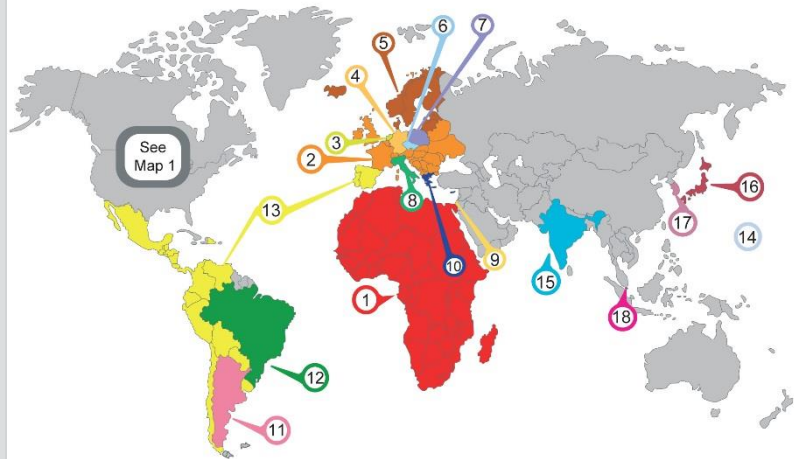
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Map 1. Affiliate Groups in United States and Canada



1. BAMBCT - Boston Area Molecular Biology Computer Types
2. GLBC - Great Lakes Bioinformatics Consortium
3. Ohio Bioinformatics Consortium
4. MCBIOS - Midsouth Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Society
5. Vancouver Bioinformatics User Group

Map 2. Global ISCB Affiliate Groups



1. ASBCB - African Society for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (Africa)
2. EMBNet - European Molecular Biology Network (Europe)
3. NBIC - Netherlands Bioinformatics Center
4. German Informatics Society
5. SocBIN - Society for Bioinformatics in the Nordic Countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland)
6. FOBIA - Czech Free and open Bioinformatic Association
7. PBIS - Polish Bioinformatics Society
8. BITS - Bioinformatics Italian Society
9. Israeli Society for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
10. Hellenic Society for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (Greece and Cyprus)
11. A2B2C - Asociacion Argentina de Bioinformatica y Biologia Computacional
12. Brazilian Association for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
13. SolBio - Sociedad Iberoamericana de Bioinformatica (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay, Venezuela)
14. APBioNet - Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Network
15. Bioclues India
16. JSBI - Japanese Society for Bioinformatics
17. KSBSB - Korean Society for Bioinformatics
18. AMBIS - Association for Medical and Bioinformatics Singapore

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Education Committee Furthers Mission through their Achievements



In 2012, the Education Committee, led by Fran Lewitter and Lonnie Welch, continued to make great strides in calling attention to the importance of teaching bioinformatics and computational biology.

At ISMB 2012, they offered two special sessions focused on:

1. Training : “The Future of Bioinformatics Training”
2. Curriculum development: Bird of a Feather session: *BOF02 – Topic: Curriculum Guidelines for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (an open forum for discussion)*

Additionally, the Committee published an article in June 2012 in *PLOS Computational Biology* titled “A Report of the Curriculum Task Force of the ISCB Education Committee.” The article provides an overview of the objectives of the Curriculum Task Force and summarizes the findings of a survey conducted by the Committee.

The Education Committee continues to represent ISCB in at Global Organization for Bioinformatics Learning, Education and Training (GOBLET). GOBLET is a group of leaders from a number of International

Societies, Networks and Organizations that meet to discuss global bioinformatics training initiatives. There is a great need to coordinate worldwide bioinformatics training activities: to share, not duplicate, effort; to share, not duplicate, cost; to work together in a mutually respectful way towards common solutions and a sustainable future.

Welcome Class of 2012 Fellows

ISCB welcomes seven new investigators to the esteemed group of ISCB Fellows. They are Bonnie Berger, MIT; Peter Karp, SRI International; Jill Mesirov, The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard; Pavel Pevzner, University of California, San Diego; Ron Shamir, Tel Aviv University; Martin Vingron, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics; Gunnar von Heijne, Stockholm University (2012 ISCB Accomplishment by a Senior Scientist Award winner).

Fellows are selected annually. This honor is bestowed upon ISCB members who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the fields of computational biology and bioinformatics. The Fellows Committee, especially chair Alfonso Valencia, are recognized with great appreciation for their hard work and dedication to the process by which the fellows are selected.

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Establishment of Fundraising Committee and Individual Giving Program

In an effort to create a more structured approach to the fundraising aspect of the Society, ISCB hired Stacy Slagor, director of corporate relations and development. Ms. Slagor, along with the Executive Officer and Executive Committee, led the creation and implementation of the Fundraising Committee, which is tasked with promoting the increased involvement of companies and organizations, and assisting the Board in ensuring the fiscal health of the Society.

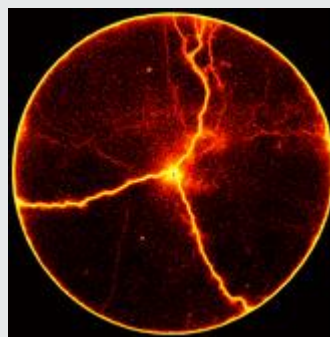
The Fundraising Committee helps the Board carry out its due diligence function related to assuring fiscal health through fundraising, and integrates the fundraising process into the roles of the Board and ISCB. Committee members provide advice on fundraising policies and plans and participate in the fundraising process. They also make recommendations on programs and activities that develop and build relationships with companies, foundations, and Society members.

Along with the formation of the Committee, ISCB also established the Industry Advisory Council. This council convenes a high level group of executives in computational biology and bioinformatics industry to advise ISCB on developing programs and services to attract more industry involvement and financial support.

As a part of the individual donor program, the committee recommended and received Board of Directors approval for the adoption of "A Donor Bill of Rights" and the "International Statement of Ethical Principles in Fundraising" to be incorporated into the ISCB donor strategy.

The individual giving program's main focus will be to fund student travel fellowships. All donations provided to this program will be used to fund travel expenses for ISCB student members and postdoctoral fellows that are attending conferences and events that will help develop their skills and advance their careers.

The ISCB's Official Journal *Bioinformatics* Annual Report to ISCB



2012 was an important transition year for *Bioinformatics*. After an eight-year term, Executive

Editor Alex Bateman decided to step down from his position at the journal at the end of 2012. With co-Executive Editor Alfonso Garcia, Bateman accomplished a tremendous amount at *Bioinformatics* and he will be missed by ISCB and the journal. In 2013, Janet Kelso will assume the role of Executive Editor of *Bioinformatics* and will also work with Executive Editor Valencia.

Once again, *Bioinformatics* received approximately 2000 submissions in 2011. The diligent effort of the journal's editorial team and ~3000 reviewers resulted in acceptance of ~30% of submitted manuscripts, with an average time from submission to first decision of 30 days. Upon acceptance, a manuscript was typically published online ahead of print within five days and in a print issue within eight weeks. *Bioinformatics* is an optional open access journal, and 21% of authors chose to pay for open access publication of their articles in 2011.

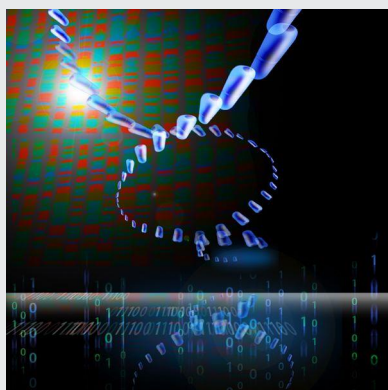
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The 2011 impact factor is 5.468, making it the top-ranked journal in Mathematical & Computational Biology.

Bioinformatics welcomed Michael Brudno as an Associate Editor last November, and more recently, Inanc Birol has joined the Associate Editor team, bringing further expertise in genome sequencing and analysis. A special thank you is extended to David Rocke and John Quackenbush for their hard work as Associate Editors for many years. Their experience will be truly appreciated as they go on to serve on the Editorial Board in 2013.

PLOS Computational Biology Annual

Report to ISCB



PLOS Computational Biology's relationship with the ISCB remains strong, with the Journal Agreement between PLOS and the ISCB set to be renewed for three more years at the beginning of 2013. Journal editors and staff meet with ISCB members Fran Lewitter, Scott Markel, Burkhard Rost and others on a regular basis and enjoy working together to monitor the journal's progress.

The 2011 – 2012 period showed steady growth and improvement in all areas of the journal. The journal received over 1700 manuscript submissions, which was an increase of 21% from 2010-2011.

Approximately 28% of the manuscripts submitted were accepted for publication, with an average of 147 submissions per month. Average editorial decision times dropped slightly, with an average time to first decision typically occurring between 26 and 31 days, and with decision times for manuscripts sent out for peer review holding steady at around 45 - 50 days.

Two "Messages from ISCB" were published in *PLOS Computational Biology*:

In May 2012, the achievements of Gunnar von Heijne and Ziv Bar-Joseph, the winners of the Accomplishment by a Senior Scientist Award and the Overton Prize, respectively, were featured:

(<http://www.ploscompbiol.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pcbi.1002535>.)

The ISCB Education Committee's report on their ongoing endeavor to identify a set of core curricular guidelines for bioinformatics education at all levels was published in June 2012

(<http://www.ploscompbiol.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pcbi.1002570>.)

Whereas *PLOS Computational Biology* remains committed to publishing the highest quality research using computational methods, the journal also aims to move beyond the boundaries of traditional publishing, and to engage and educate our readership. To this end, 2011-2012 has seen many projects launched or completed.

One of the latest initiatives, **Topic Pages** (http://topicpages.ploscompbiol.org/wiki/Main_Page), makes full use of *PLOS'* open access license to bridge the gap between traditional journal articles and Wikipedia. In March 2012, a review-style article was published on "Circular permutation in proteins" (<http://www.ploscompbiol.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pcbi.1002535>)

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10.1371/journal.pcbi.1002445). In an innovative twist, the article had been drafted and openly reviewed in a wiki setting and, upon publication, was placed on Wikipedia itself to be subject to the usual edits and updates characteristic of Wikipedia articles. The *PLOS* article remains the 'version of record' while high-quality content is added to what is arguably one of the general public's main sources of scientific information; more information about this project can be found in the accompanying Editorial (<http://www.ploscompbiol.org/article/info%3A10.1371%2Fjournal.pcbi.1002446>).

The *PLOS Computational Biology* "Education" section has continued to flourish, in part because of the journal's relationship with the ISCB. Last year, a collection titled **Bioinformatics: Starting Early**, was introduced and takes the notion of biology as a computational science into high schools. More articles from those involved in secondary education are sought for 2013.

2012 will see the conclusion of a series of mini-reviews, **Editors' Outlook**. Launched in Summer 2011, this collection broached subjects from ontologies to genome organization, and from evolution to data and privacy. They were intended to speak to the breadth of scientists in computational biology. Collectively, they were meant to form a vision held by the contributing editors of what is being and will be accomplished in the field during the coming years.

ISCB Advocates for Open Access

The ISCB Public Affairs and Policies Committee has closely followed the open access issue, and busily advocated in its favor. The *ISCB Public Policy Statement on Open Access to Scientific and Technical Literature* was released in October 2010. In December 2011, the Research Works Act

(H.R. 3699) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, but was eventually withdrawn by the bill's sponsors before gaining a companion bill in the U.S. Senate or moving through the Congressional hearing process. That bill would have prohibited federal agencies from requiring, as a condition of their research grant funding, that the public be guaranteed online access to the products of research funded by public tax dollars. Shortly before the withdrawal, ISCB sent a letter signed by Richard Lathrop - ISCB Public Affairs and Policies Committee Chair, Scott Markel - ISCB Publications Committee Chair, and Burkhard Rost - ISCB President to every member of the House encouraging them to vote against the bill, and pointing to our own policy statement as a guiding principle on open access.

More recently, the Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPPA; H.R. 4004 and S. 2096) was re-introduced to both the House and the Senate, after previous attempts at this legislation in 2006 and 2010. These companion bills would require federal research funding agencies, as a condition of their research grant funding, to develop policies that ensure the public is guaranteed online access to the products of research funded by public tax dollars. Naturally, ISCB has taken a stand in favor of these bills, and sent personalized letters of support to all members of Congress, and to each of their Chiefs of Staff and Legislative Assistants on the respective committees reviewing these bills.

To communicate directly with the U.S. Congress, ISCB purchased a one-year subscription to the very robust CQ Roll Call web-based product called Knowlegis. This system enabled all ISCB members to personalize and send a template letter to their own members of Congress that advocated for

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ensuring the protection of open access to scientific results.

As an ongoing effort, the ISCB Public Affairs and Policies Committee, with the assistance of Judy Black, ISCB FASEB representative, actively participates in FASEB meetings and initiatives in order to continue to promote and advocate for science funding.

F1000 Publishes First Articles

ISCB partnered with F1000 Research Ltd. in their latest research publishing efforts, *F1000 Posters & Research*. *F1000 Posters*, an open access repository, provides a permanent, structured environment for the deposition of posters and slide presentations after a conference is complete in order to promote ongoing discussion. *F1000 Research* challenges traditional scholarly publishing models by defining new standards for speed, peer review, and data publications.

F1000 Research Ltd. published its first articles in June 2012. These articles feature a novel inline data viewer, and a new method of article citation.

F1000 Research's revolutionary vision has been inspiring debate across the scientific

community since the beginning of the year. A call for papers has been issued and further articles will be published on the current consultation site while the publishing model and editorial systems are fine-tuned in preparation for a complete launch later this year.

A complete press release from F1000 Research Ltd. can be viewed at http://f1000.com/resources/Announcing_the_start_of_publishing_on_F1000Research_WEB_FINAL.pdf.

Publications Committee Finalizes Springer Book Deal

ISCB, led by the Publications Committee and its Chair, Scott Markel, finalized a contract with Springer for an ISCB-branded Computational Biology book series. The contract includes a 25% discount for ISCB members on existing and forthcoming Computation Biology series titles, and will include ISCB representatives as Series Editors-in-Chief and on the Editorial Board.

Society Conferences Highlights

Once again, under the direction of the Conference Committee and chairs Janet Kelso and Paul Horton, ISCB offered some of the best conferences on computational biology and bioinformatics. Highlights and recaps for each meeting are featured below.

ISMB 2012



2012 marked the 20th anniversary of the Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology Conference (ISMB), the largest computational biology meeting. Over 1,450 ISCB leaders, researchers, students, exhibitors, and participants from 43 countries convened in Long Beach, California, July 13 - 17, 2012, to celebrate this monumental event.

The science presented was exceptional, and in the course of the three main meeting days, 34 original scientific papers, 43 highlights from recently published papers, 24 late breaking research papers, 23 oral poster presentations, 645 posters, 39 technology track presentations, and six special sessions were presented. Additionally, two satellite meetings, ten special interest group meetings, a Student Council symposium and two tutorials filled the two days preceding the main meeting.

From networking to learning, the conference always sparks creativity. A word cloud was created, founders of ISMB were interviewed,

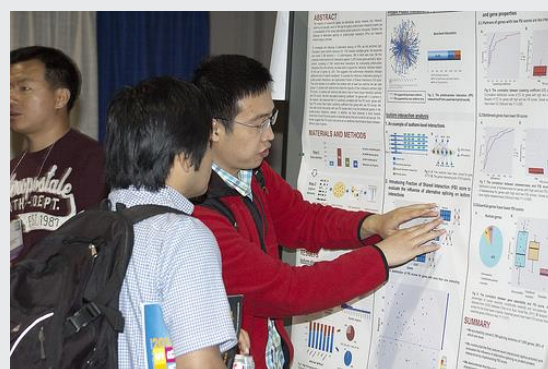
and articles were published that highlighted the successes of the discipline over the past 20 years. A closing celebration was held at the Long Beach Aquarium, giving attendees the opportunity to reminisce about the past and conjecture about the future. Highlighted talks were videoed and can be re-experienced at <http://www.iscb.org/ismb-mm/media-ismb2012>.

CSHALS 2012

The ISCB hosted the Fifth Annual Conference on Semantics in Healthcare and Life Sciences on February 22-24, 2012 in Cambridge/Boston, MA. The conference is the premier event focused on the use of semantic technologies in the pharmaceutical industry, including hospitals/healthcare institutions and academic research labs.

Topics covered by CSHALS 2012 span the continuum between standards development and big data workflows, and the scope between life science data representation and its analysis. The conference welcomed over 100 registrants over the course of three days.

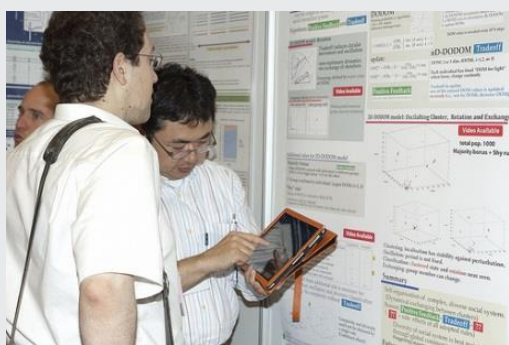
In addition to the five keynote talks and 19 posters, participants also enjoyed a full day of tutorials, which focused on the current Semantic Web standard RDF tools.



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ISCB-Latin America

The second ISCB Latin American regional meeting (ISCB-Latin America) took place in March 17 – 21, 2012, in Santiago, Chile. More than 250 people attended, primarily from countries in Latin America. As a scientific conference with an international audience, oral and poster presentations, as well as all printed materials, were in English.



The major aim of ISCB-Latin America 2012 was to deeply motivate and inspire young Latin American students and postdoctoral fellows to conduct the best and most innovative research possible in the areas of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology.

The first two days of the meeting were dedicated to hands-on practical tutorials and workshops covering different topics of interest. Eight tutorials were offered. The main portion of the conference featured six topic sessions with two keynote speakers in each session.

GLBIO - Great Lakes Bioinformatics Conference

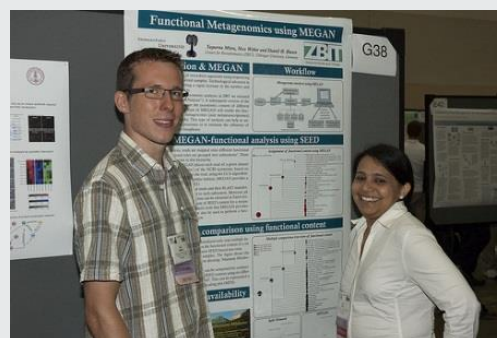
2012 marked the Second Annual Great Lakes Bioinformatics Conference (GLBIO) offered as an official regional conference of the ISCB and the ninth annual year of the conference. The conference was initiated seven years as the OCCBIO and was hosted by the Ohio Bioinformatics Consortium. As in past years, this conference provided an interdisciplinary

forum for discussing approaches, research findings, and educational experiences regarding computational investigations of biological problems.

An important goal of this regional conference continues to be fostering long-term collaborative relationships among informatics and life sciences researchers and educators from academia, government and industry, spanning the North American Great Lakes region and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Researchers from world regions were also welcomed and encouraged to participate, especially those looking to form collaborations with key labs in the Great Lakes region.

This meeting was not only for experts in bioinformatics, but also for faculty, students and staff who make substantial use of bioinformatics tools in their work or would like to expand their use.

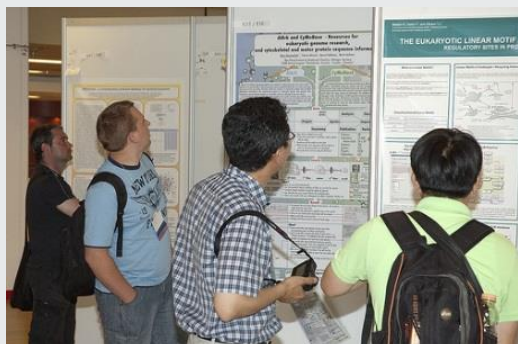
GLBIO 2012 was held on May 15-17 and was attended by over 300 registrants. The conference featured four keynote presentations, 38 oral presentations, nine tutorial sessions, three special sessions, and three industry tracks. There were also two poster sessions held in the exhibits area to encourage attendees to visit both poster presenters and exhibitors.



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Rocky - Rocky Mountain Conference on Bioinformatics

The ISCB hosted Rocky 2012, the tenth annual Rocky Mountain Bioinformatics Conference, on December 6 –8, 2012 in Aspen/Snowmass, CO. The Rocky series began as a regional conference, and has grown into an international program with a spotlight on regional development in the computational biosciences. The presenters of the Rocky conference are scientists representing a broad spectrum of universities, industrial enterprises, government laboratories, and medical libraries from around the world.



The conference lasted two and half days and had 127 participants. It featured seven keynote presentations and 46 ten-minute flash presentations with a poster session selected from submitted abstracts that allow everyone who wants to present to do so. A highlight of the conference is the long open networking time, which enabled members of a single laboratory to have a mini-retreat and attendees to connect with one another.

ISCB-Asia

The second ISCB-Asia conference of ISCB took place December 17 – 19, 2012, in Shenzhen, China. The conference was hosted by BGI and was held in conjunction

with Shenzhen Conference on Computational Genomics (SCCG).



The conference attracted 150 participants from all over the world. It featured excellent science in the six keynote presentations, seven highlight talks, three technology talks, two program chair-invited talks, and four special sessions covering a wide range of topics such as software tools, next-generation sequencing data analysis, transcription and mRNA regulation, protein structure and function, cancer genomics and personalized medicine. As a special offering to the conference, attendees had the opportunity to visit the BGI facilities, one of the world's largest sequencing centers.

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Society Conferences

Sponsors

ISCB thanks the following sponsors for their generous support of meetings and conferences



ISMB 2012

Elsevier
Korean Bioinformation Center
Life Technologies
U.S. Department of Energy
Genentech
ACS Synthetic Biology
National Science Foundation
Star Alliance
National Institute for General Medical Sciences, NIH

CSHALS 2012

Merck
AstraZeneca
O'Reilly
Tetherless World Constellation
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

ISCB-Latin America

ROCHE
Life Technologies
Genesys Chile
Center for Mathematical Modeling
University of Chile (CMM)

Millenium Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy (MIII)

OMICS Solutions

National Laboratory for High Performance Computing Chile (NLHPC)

Grupo Bios

Illumina

The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS)

Centro de Regulación del Genoma (CGR)

CONICYT-Chile

European Molecular Biology Network (EMBnet)

European Molecular Biology Laboratory

European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI)

FreeBIT

CYTED

Other supporting institutions of ISCB-Latin America included:

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC)

Asociación Argentina de Bioinformática y Biología Computacional (A2B2C)

Associação Brasileira de Bioinformática e Biología Computacional (AB3C)

Sociedad Iberoamericana de Bioinformática (SolBIO)



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GLBIO 2012

Appistry
Bioteam
Bowling Green State University
Cambridge Computer
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western - Case Center for
Proteomics & Bioinformatics
CLC Bio
Compendia Bioscience
GeneCode
Genomatix
Great Lakes Bioinformatics
Consortium
Miami University - Department of
Botany
Michigan Economic Development
Corporation
Michigan Technology University

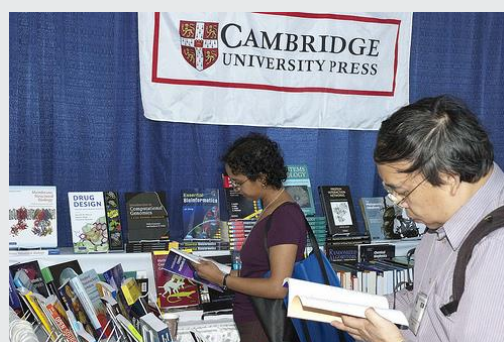
Ohio State University - Center for
Applied Plant Sciences (CAPS)
Ohio University (Russ College; Vice
President of Research; College of
Arts and Science)
Springer
University of Cincinnati Children's
Hospital
University of Michigan - DCM&B and
OVPR
University of Michigan - Biomedical
Research Core Facilities
University of Michigan -
Metabolomics Core
University of Pittsburgh

Rocky 2012

IBM
GoldLab
The Journal of Computational Biology

ISCB-Asia

BGI
BIOBASE
Biological Databases
CLUSTERTECH
Advanced Industrial Science and
Technology (AIST), Japan –
Computational Biology Research
Center



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Society Volunteer Honor Roll

ISCB recognizes the individuals below for their generous volunteer service that made the 2012 meetings a great success.



Executive Committee

Burkhard Rost, ISCB President, TUM, Munich, Germany

Terry Gaasterland, ISCB Vice President, University of California, San Diego, United States

Michal Linial, ISCB Vice President, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Christine Orengo, ISCB Vice President, University College London, United Kingdom

Reinhard Schneider, ISCB Treasurer, University of Luxembourg

Scott Markel, ISCB Secretary, Accelrys, Inc., San Diego, United States

Board of Directors

Teresa Attwood, Faculty of Life Sciences & School of Computer Science, United Kingdom

Alex Bateman, Genome Campus, United Kingdom

Bonnie Berger, Cambridge, United States

Judith A. Blake, The Jackson Laboratory Bar Harbor, United States

Erik Bongcam-Rudloff, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

Alan Christoffels, South African National Bioinformatics Institute, South Africa

Bruno Gaeta, University of New South Wales, Australia

Paul Horton, Computational Biology Research Center, Japan

Janet Kelso, Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany

Richard H. Lathrop, University of California, Irvine, United States

Thomas Lengauer, Max Planck Institute for Informatics, Germany

Fran Lewitter, Whitehead Institute, United States

Jill P. Mesirov, The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, United States

Guilherme Oliveira, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation – FIOCRUZ, Brazil

Predrag Radivojac, Indiana University, Indiana, United States

Hershel Safer, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

Avinash Shanmugam, PhD Candidate, Michigan, United States

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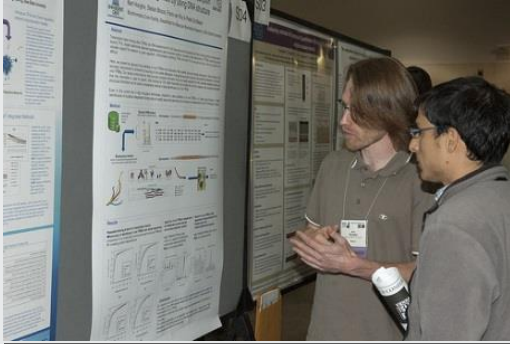
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STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT 2012



STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT 2012



STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT 2012

ORGANIZATION

The elected leadership of the ISCB Student Council (SC) for 2011-2012, referred to as the “**Executive Team**” (ET), consisted of the following:

Chair: Geoff Macintyre

Vice Chair: Teresa Szczepinska

Secretary: Priscila Grynberg

Treasurer: Anupama Jigisha

Region Student Group Committee Chair: Avinash K. Shanmugam

BoD Representative: Thomas Abeel

In addition to the ET, the SC is made up of a number of **volunteer subcommittees** responsible for different aspects of the SC.

Each committee has a Chair and Executive Team Advisor

Subcommittee	Chair	Executive Team Advisor
Education/Internship	Maina Bitar	Priscila Grynberg
Fundraising	Anupama Jigisha	Anupama Jigisha
Outreach/Volunteer	Surya Saha	Teresa Szczepinska
Web	Alex Goncareenco	Thomas Abeel
Regional Student Group	Avinash K. Shanmugam	Geoff Macintyre
Career Central (new)	Geoff Macintyre	Geoff Macintyre
Arts and Science (new)	Milana Frenkel-Morgenstern	Geoff Macintyre

MISSION

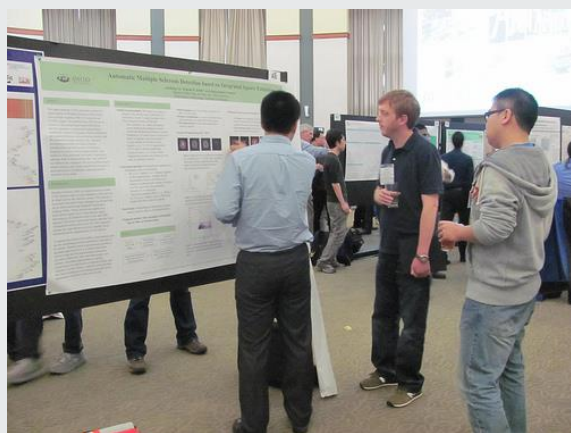
The mission of the ISCB SC is to promote the development of the next generation of computational biologists. We achieve this goal through provision of scientific events, networking opportunities, soft-skills training, educational resources and career advice, while also attempting to influence policy processes affecting science and education.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT 2012

Student Council Summary of Activities and Initiatives

Improved SC Operational Procedures

Due to the increasing number of SC volunteers and committees, the current ET has made a conscious effort to document all SC standard operation procedures. An operational wiki has been created, which documents all procedures and roles for SC subcommittees and chairs. This is rapidly becoming an invaluable resource for all SC leaders and will ensure a smooth transition for newly elected ET members and appointed SC subcommittee chairs.



Internship Program

The internship program aims to help students from developing nations to improve their practical skills by providing short term (3 to 6 months) fellowships.

Dr. Burkhard Rost hosted three students in 2011: Dedan Kinuthia Githae of Kenya, Mainá Bitar of Brazil, and Mohamed Rehan of India. The initial terms of the internship was for three months, but all students received an extension, and they developed their research for a six-month period.

These students attended the 7th SCS and ISMB 2011 and provided testimonies of their

experiences, which raised interest from other group leaders in offering internships.

Much work was subsequently put into streamlining the advertising and application process, and documentation was sent out to group leaders.

The second half of 2012 saw two internships successfully filled by the SC. Dr Cheng Soon Ong from the Diagnostic Genomics Group, NICTA VRL, Australia, offered a place to Cristóvão Freitas Iglesias Junior from Brazil to work on methods for visualization of genetic interactions. Assistant Professor Sarath Chandra Janga offered a position in his Genomics and Systems Biology laboratory to Beliz Bediz from Turkey.

Both students have shown great initiative and their advisors report that they are doing well in their positions.

Regional Student Group Program

The success of the Regional Student Group (RSG) program has continued for 2011-2012. The SC welcomed three new RSGs from Turkey, Argentina, Italy, and Kenya bringing the total number of active RSGs to 25.

The RSG Committee Chair, Avinash Shanmugam, has played a major role over the past two years in making this program a success. Due to the large number of RSGs, it has become increasingly difficult to manage such a widely distributed number of student organizations. As such, the SC has installed three RSG Vice Chairs to assist the RSG Chair in the management of the RSG program.

Rohit Reja, a founding member of RSG-India and also a former secretary of RSG

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT 2012

Korea has agreed to be Vice Chair of the Asia-Pacific region.

Segun Fatumo, founder of the original RSG-Africa (which was later divided into five different RSGs) and also current Vice President of ASBCB (African Society for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology) will be Vice Chair of the Africa region.

Margherita Francescato, a member of RSG Netherlands and also an active part of the SCS organizing team, will be coordinating the European RSGs.

RSG Funding Program

Since its inception in 2010, the RSG Funding Program has been a great success. It has funded a large and diverse number of events, and has provided RSG members with opportunities they would have not previously had without funding. Unfortunately, due to the current procedures for grant applications (limited to two funding rounds per year), some RSGs were not able to apply for funding for events that would have otherwise been supported. As such, some of the RSG funds went unused.

We are currently proposing an alternative grant application scheme, which is open year round with the aim of maximizing use of the RSG funds. We hope this flexible approach will coincide with various dates of RSG events, and will ensure successful allocation of all ISCB funds.

RSG Article Series

Since 2005, the RSG program of the ISCB SC has continued to grow and flourish. With over 2000 student members across 23 countries, the RSGs provide valuable initiatives to support and promote students in bioinformatics and computational biology.

In order to share the experiences of these RSGs, and acknowledge the contribution of their members, we proposed an article series documenting some of the RSG initiatives, benefits, and challenges of these activities.

The proposal was submitted to the ISCB publications committee for consideration in the *PLOS Computational Biology* ISCB pages. The proposal has been approved and writing has begun. There are currently 12 articles in the series with over 20 authors. This initiative has been a mammoth effort in coordination. A new SC publications committee was set up to help organize the series and the first articles should appear in mid-2013.



MEETINGS

7th ISCB Student Council Symposium

Chairs: Lorena Pantano and Pedro Lopes

Keynote Speakers: Chad Myers, Ivet Bahar and Curtis Huttenhower

-More than 100 submitted abstracts and 85 registered delegates

-More than 9,550 USD and 2,500 EUR were awarded

-12 travel fellowships, including 2 full fellowships

-Many networking opportunities such as scientific speed dating, interactive job posting

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT 2012

board, social headquarters, and volunteer recruitment dinner

2nd European Student Council Symposium

Chairs: Pedro Lopes and Florian Heer

Keynote Speakers: Henrik Kaessmann and Mario Valle.

-More than 50 submitted abstracts and 59 registered delegates

-2000 EUR awarded in grants

-travel fellowships

-Many networking opportunities, including scientific speed dating and dinner for the delegates

9th ISCB Student Council Symposium

Chairs: Tomás Di Domenico, Tomasz Stokowy

Preparations for the 9th Student Council Symposium began in October 2012. The SC is aiming for more rigorous sponsor recruitment to address the need for travel fellowships for its symposium attendees. Better outreach and advertising have been planned to increase awareness of the event, and consequently, increase symposium attendance.

ISCB WIKIPEDIA COMPETITION

At ISMB 2012, Burkhard Rost announced a Wikipedia competition designed to improve computational biology based pages (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject Computational Biology/ISCB competition announcement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Computational_Biology/ISCB_competition_announcement) for more details.)

Two student council members were part of the



judging panel and worked with the organizers in assessing

competition entries. All entries were initially sent out for review by student council members to develop a shortlist for the official judging panel.

This was a great experience for all students involved and there were many high-quality entries. Everyone is looking forward to the results being announced at ISMB/ECCB 2013.

NEW EXECUTIVE TEAM TRANSITION

New officers were elected to lead the SC for the year 2013: Anupama Jigisha (Chair), Avinash Shanmugam (BoD Representative), Umesh Nandal (Vice Chair), Margherita Francescato (Secretary), Cynthia Prudence (Finance Chair) and Chinmay Dwibedi (RSG Committee Chair).

A transition and training period was started in September 2012 with the new ET and existing ET attending fortnightly meetings discussing all business to ensure a smooth transfer.

To supplement this transfer, the ET set up a wiki documenting all SC standard operating procedures to ensure the new ET have all the relevant material to successfully run the student council.

FUTURE PLANS

The SC will be striving to continue to provide successful initiatives such as the ISCB SC Symposium, internship program and RSG program. Over the coming year, effort will be placed on clearly articulating and documenting the roles and responsibilities of all members required for successful management and operation of the SC and fundraising.

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Thank you for supporting ISCB!

ISCB thanks everyone who has made a gift in support of the Society, including the many generous donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Thomas Abeel

Sudin Bhattacharya

Philip Bourne

Barbara Bryant

Tolga Can

Deborah Chasman

Chandra Sekhar Reddy Chilamakuri

Karen Dowell

Bruno Gaeta

Joerg Geiger

Paul Godden

Ricardo Gonzalez Mendez

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Tuong Nguyen

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