

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOCURATION



June, 2012

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Save the Date for ISB2013!

The 6th International Biocuration Conference will be held on April 7-10, 2013, at Churchill College, Cambridge, UK.



Training Activities: B3CB Workshop Report

B3CB was a workshop aimed at developing common resources and infrastructures for training of experts as well as users of bioinformatics tools and resources. It was held in Uppsala (Sweden), and chaired by Terri Attwood (Manchester University, ISB Executive Committee member). Pascale Gaudet introduced the ISB. We believe that this initiative will help the ISB provide more support for training, a part of the our mission statement.

The workshop brought together members of the executive committees of several organizations in Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Biocuration and Computational Biology (B3CB):

- EMBnet (Global Bioinformatics Network) – Terri Attwood
- ISCB (International Society for Computational Biology) – Reinhard Schneider
- APBioNet (Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Network) – Christian Schönbach
- ASBCB (African Society for Bioinformatics & Computational Biology) – Nicky Mulder
- SolBio (Iberoamerican Society for Bioinformatics) – Oswaldo Trelles
- ISB (International Society for Biocuration) – Pascale Gaudet
- EBI/ELIXIR (European Bioinformatics Institute) – Cath Brooksbank
- NBIC (Netherlands Bioinformatics Centre) – Celia van Gelder
- SeqAhead (Next-Gen Sequencing Data Analysis Network) – Erik Bongcam-Rudloff
- BTN (Bioinformatics Training Network) – Celia van Gelder.



ISB Membership Renewal

For many of us, membership fees are due this month! Notices for renewal of ISB Memberships will be reaching inboxes in the coming days. Your ISB Membership goes to support activities such as the International Biocuration Conference (travel support was provided for 10 attendees to ISB2012), BioDBCore (in collaboration with BioSharing), and to establish links with other groups.

Remember to Renew!

2012 Elections: ISB Executive Committee

The election of the new ISB Executive Committee will be held in September. The Executive Committee is composed of nine (9) members, each with a 2-year term. Membership on the Executive Committee is a great way to become directly involved with the work of our society, and contribute to the decisions that are taken on behalf of the biocuration community. We would like to encourage all members interested in running for election to become involved in the process. Nominations will be accepted soon!



Jack Leunissen

We recently learned the sad news of the passing of Jack Leunissen in the Netherlands on May 14, 2012. Jack was a pioneer of bioinformatics and a leading figure in EMBNet for a long time. He was a wonderful person, always at the service of the community. Not all of us were fortunate enough to have met him, but those of you attending Fortaleza at the Celebration of the 20 years of Swiss-Prot would remember him. You may listen to the talk he gave there by visiting <http://bit.ly/MfrGdn>. All of those who had the privilege to know him will miss him and will keep in their heart his smiling presence, his communicative energy and his great sense of humor. If you would like to express your condolences, please go to <http://bit.ly/MfJxRG>.



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News from ISB Member Groups

neXtProt: a knowledge platform for human proteins

neXtProt (<http://www.nextprot.org/>), a web-based protein knowledge platform on human proteins, is the newest resource from the SIB - Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics. Launched in February 2011, neXtProt is dedicated to human proteins and aims to be a one-stop-shop for all research projects focusing on human proteins. To achieve this goal, neXtProt is built on the curated knowledge originating from the UniProtKB/Swiss-Prot knowledgebase, which is enriched with carefully selected and filtered high-throughput data pertinent to human proteins, including:

- Protein expression data from healthy tissues from the Human Protein Atlas
- Micro-array and cDNA expression data from healthy tissues that have been meta-analyzed by the SIB Evolutionary Bioinformatics group, available from the Bgee resource
- Subcellular localization results from high-throughput projects
- High-quality mass spectrometry-derived proteomics information (peptides and PTMs) obtained from HUPO plasma and brain initiatives obtained from PeptideAtlas, as well as some sets directly submitted to us by a network of collaborators
- The complete Gene Ontology (GO) annotations
- The mapping of proteins to their genomic transcripts on the human genome using Ensembl

More information on neXtProt can be found in a recent publication (PMID:22139911). While there is still a lot of data and tools to be integrated into neXtProt, the site is fully functional and there are already some tools available to test. Register an account at nextprot.org to provide feedback on the platform. We look forward to your visit! (Contributed by Pascale Gaudet, pascale.gaudet@isb-sib.ch)



The Human Variome Project

The Human Variome Project (www.humanvariomeproject.org) is an international consortium of researchers and healthcare professionals working towards one vision: a world where the availability of, and access to, genetic variation information is not an impediment to diagnosis or treatment. Our truly global consortium covers 67 countries and all the key regions of the world. The common aim of Human Variome Project members is our commitment to the free and open sharing of genetic variation information—a commitment based on the knowledge that collaboration across disciplines and cultures will produce better and cheaper results for patients with genetic diseases.

The Role of the Human Variome Project is to facilitate the collection, curation, interpretation and sharing of data on genetic variation, and it tries to:

- establish standards, systems and infrastructure
- advocate and promote ethical behaviour in the field of medical genetics and genomics
- share knowledge about our genome and its function in determining health
- assist individuals and nations in building capacity to address genetic aspects of individual and global health

We invite members of the International Society for Biocuration to join us in our efforts to construct a global, distributed catalogue of all human genetic variation information. Regarding the curation of this data, the versatile LOVD software (version 3.0, www.lovd.nl), is now able to accept genome wide sequencing data. Dr Pascale Gaudet (Chair of ISB Executive Committee) will be attending the Human Variome Project course on the use of this software on 11 June 2012 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.



The Cell: An Image Library-CCDB

The Centralized Repository of Microscopy Data



The Cell: An Image Library-CCDB (<http://www.cellimagelibrary.org>) is a new online repository of microscopy data where you can not only find cellular images for research or other uses but can also archive your own or your collections' cellular images.

Developed using an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant and launched on August 9, 2010, The Cell has now grown to almost 9000 images and has had over 730,000 pages viewed by 120,000 unique individuals. More than just a figure sharing site, The Cell reviews and annotates cellular images.

(Continues in Page 3)



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(The Cell: An Image Library-CCDB; Continued from Page 2)

Our rigorous annotation procedure uses 14 different ontologies to complete 16 different fields of an image entry. Additionally, when we could not find an appropriate ontology to describe microscopy imaging methodologies, we created our own, the Biological Imaging Methods ontology (<http://bit.ly/LtXtml>).

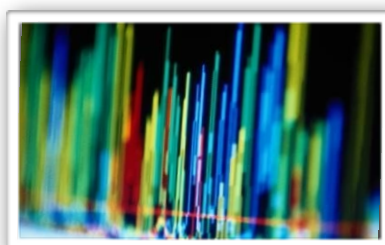
We are now working to incorporate the cellular image component from other databases and link back to the originating database. So if your database was not designed to store and present image data, or you would just like to attract more scientists to the resources you have spent so much effort developing, please contact David Orloff (dorloff@ascb.org) Director of the Image Library for more information on working together.

This project is supported by Award Number RC2GM092708 from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), U.S. National Institutes of Health, to the American Society for Cell Biology.

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Job Opportunities

- Bioinformatics software developer, GeneBio, Geneva, Switzerland. Posted May 25, 2012 (Closing date: June 25, 2012). Details available at <http://bit.ly/KgXryA>
- Bioinformatician/programmer at TreeFam, The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, UK. Posted May 25, 2012. Details available at <http://bit.ly/Jyofdm>
- Scientific Curator - Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor Maine, USA. Posted May 25, 2012. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/MmcEiw>
- Scientific Programmer - Synthetic Biology and Scientific Data Management - IRIC, Montreal, Canada. Posted May 8, 2012. Details available at <http://bit.ly/LcaCny>
- OMA Project Leader at the ETH Zurich and Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, Zurich, Switzerland. Posted May 5, 2012. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/KgXV7W>
- Postdoctoral Position in the LIFE (<http://lifekb.org/>) and BioAssay Ontology (BAO, <http://bioassayontology.org/>) Projects at the University of Miami Center for Computational Science, FL, USA (<http://bit.ly/Ky7upr>). Details on the position are available at <http://bit.ly/NirIbP>, and you can apply at <http://bit.ly/LaypCJ> (use keyword 043488). Posted April 18, 2012.

- Scientific Database Curator/Annotator in ChEBI team, EBI, Hinxton, UK. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/HBoeGI>. Posted April 17, 2012
- Post-Doc Position, University of Arizona. Details available at <http://bit.ly/Ky7EwP> Posted April 17, 2012
- Postdoctoral opportunity for Phenoscope at National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent), Durham, NC, USA. Details available at <http://bit.ly/NKHx3s> Posted March 8, 2012
- Outreach Coordinator, Mouse Genome Informatics, Bar Harbor, Maine, USA. View details at <http://bit.ly/NKHAMG> Posted March 8, 2012
- Scientific Software Engineer Princeton University, NJ, USA. More information at <http://bit.ly/d4U9hX> Posted Feb 16, 2012
- PhD position Biological Informatics, Center for Plant Biotechnology and Genomics (CBGP), Technical University of Madrid (UPM). Details available at <http://bit.ly/Ky86v8> Posted Feb 16, 2012
- SGN MetaCyc Curator position, Ithaca, NY. More information available at <http://bit.ly/JYbUEN> Posted Feb 6, 2012
- Data Wranglers for Saccharomyces Genome Database, Stanford University. Posted May 17, 2012. Details are available at: <http://bit.ly/NcZhGR>
- Web Engineers for Saccharomyces Genome Database, Stanford University. Posted May 17, 2012. Details are available at: <http://bit.ly/JQcVid>

ISB Newsletter Archive

Previous issues of this Newsletter can be found on the ISB website at <http://biocurator.org/newsletter.shtml> By M.M.T

Executive Committee Meetings

The ISB Executive Committee meets monthly. Minutes from the meetings are posted on the ISB website

http://www.biocurator.org/executive_committee_minutes.html

Do you have new ideas to share with members of ISB? Send us a news article written to biocurators as the audience. In 260 words or less, tell us about the tools used in your site, or those offered for distribution to the community. Broadcast announcements and advances from your team to all the members of ISB by sending an email to intsocbio@gmail.com.

All comments and suggestions are welcome!

Kind regards,
The ISB Executive Committee.

