

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOCURATION



## July, 2012

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- Job Opportunities

Prepared by M. Munoz-Torres

## 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!

## Latest Advances from ISB Research Teams

### PharmGKB Uses PathVisio To Create Drug-Centered Pathways

At PharmGKB, scientific curators create drug-centered pathways on a regular basis. They scour the literature to collect information that can be pieced together to create composite pathways representing a drug's metabolism or mechanism of action. Previously, our scientists sketched pathways by hand and our graphic artist turned the diagrams into the images found on our website. Curators also used Microsoft Excel spreadsheets and Word files to store meta-data about the pathway components, as well as the supporting publications. While this process was effective for creating pathway pictures, it did not enable database storage and searching of pathway components. It also made it difficult to export our pathways in BioPAX format.

Recently, our software developers created a PharmGKB plug-in for PathVisio (<http://www.pathvisio.org/>) software to accommodate our specific pathways. Curators now use PathVisio to construct the preliminary drawing and to enter all of the pathway meta-data. The pathway diagram and meta-data are exported in PathVisio's .gpml format. We wrote a custom converter for .gpml to BioPAX format (<http://www.biopax.org/>). There are standard converters available but we opted to develop our own to accommodate the specific information in our pathways. The BioPAX files are then imported into our database. Our graphic artist still creates refined pathway images for our website, but now we are able to integrate the pathway information with other PharmGKB knowledge and can search across pathways in a more efficient manner. We also offer both the .gpml and BioPAX files for download. For more information about PharmGKB pathways or any PharmGKB-related questions, please contact us at [feedback@pharmgkb.org](mailto:feedback@pharmgkb.org).

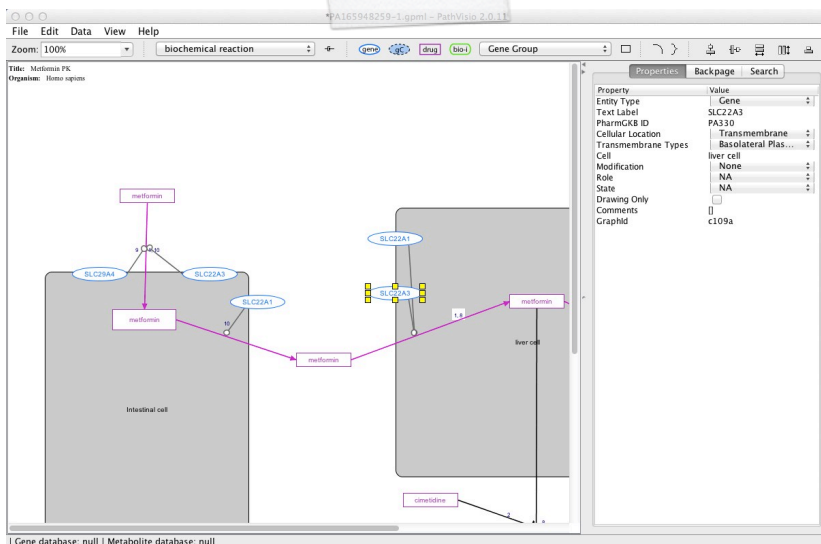
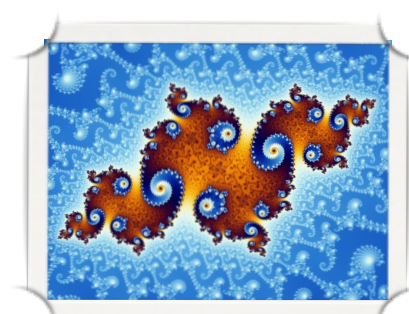


Figure 1. Screen shot of the metformin pathway gpml image represented in PathVisio.

## 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!



"Transparency". Fractal Ontology <http://goo.gl/C19uP>

## Upcoming Conferences

- The 2nd Joint Workshop on Knowledge Evolution and Ontology Dynamics will be collocated with the 11th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC 2012), and will be held on November 11-12, 2012 in Boston, MA, USA.
- The 2nd IEEE Symposium on Biological Data Visualization will take place on 14-15 October 2012 in Seattle, WA, USA.
- The 13th International Meeting on Human Genome Variation and Complex Genome Analysis (HGV2012) will be held September 6 - 8, 2012 at the Royal International Hotel in Shanghai, China.
- Save the Date for ISB2013! The 6th International Biocuration Conference will be held on April 7-10, 2013, at Churchill College, Cambridge, UK.



# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOCURATION



## Congratulations, Janet Thornton (DBE)



Janet M. Thornton, Director of the EMBL-EBI, has just been awarded the British honor of Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (DBE) in the 2012 Queen's Birthday Honors list.

Professor Dame Thornton is one of the world's leading researchers in structural bioinformatics, and her track record of innovation includes also the study of enzyme function, and some of the molecular processes of aging. She has also played a key role in championing the sharing of biological data, and in encouraging sharing and collaboration on a global and international scale. She is the coordinator of ELIXIR, a project created with the purpose to construct and operate a sustainable infrastructure for biological information in Europe.

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## Training Opportunities

Master's of Medical Science in Biomedical Informatics - Harvard Medical School Applications for the class of 2012 and the class of 2013 are now being accepted at [www.informaticstraining.hms.harvard.edu](http://www.informaticstraining.hms.harvard.edu)

## Job Opportunities

- Bioinformatics Analyst - Fungal Genomics, US DOE Joint Genome Institute, Walnut Creek, CA. Posted July 8, 2012. For more details, please visit <http://bit.ly/My7CVI>
- Scientific Coordinator, Bioinformatics Core Facility, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. Posted July 8, 2012. More information is available at <http://bit.ly/MrhLzI>
- PhD position available in semantic web, biomedical ontologies, text mining, Montpellier, France. Posted July 8, 2012. Details are available at <http://bit.ly/O9kRrX>
- Bioinformatics software developer, GeneBio, Geneva, Switzerland. Posted May 25, 2012 (Closing date: June 25, 2012). Details available at <http://bit.ly/KgXryA>
- 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>
- 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
- Postdoctoral opportunity for Phenoscope at National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent), Durham, NC, USA. Details available at <http://bit.ly/NKHx3s> Posted March 8, 2012

## ISB Newsletter Archive

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

## 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](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](mailto:intsocbio@gmail.com). Submission deadline for the August Newsletter is Friday, July 27th at 7:00 PM EDT/GMT-4.

Comments and suggestions are welcome!

Kind regards,  
The ISB Executive Committee.

