



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOCURATION

In this issue

Upcoming Conferences

*

Latest Advances from ISB
Research Teams

*

2012 ISB Executive Committee
Elections: Call for Candidates

*

Requesting Hosts for the
Seventh International
Biocuration Conference
(2014)

*

ISB Membership Renewal

*

Job Opportunities

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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

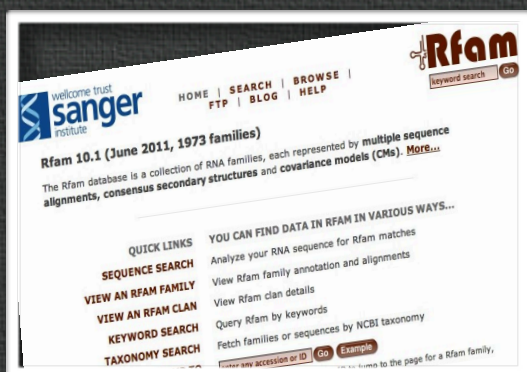
For many of us, membership fees are due this month! Notices for renewal of ISB Memberships will be reaching inboxes in the coming days. Your ISB Membership goes to support activities such as the International Biocuration Conference (travel support was provided for 10 attendees to ISB2012), BioDBCore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

Remember to Renew!



LATEST ADVANCES FROM ISB RESEARCH TEAMS

Wikipedia Approval App from Rfam.



In 2007, Rfam started using Wikipedia to provide annotations for our collection of RNA families (1). Each family is linked to a Wikipedia article, and the content of the article is mirrored on the Rfam family webpage. Over the years, the Wikipedia articles we use have received more than 10,000 edits, by over 1,000 users. This is a great improvement in our rate of community input! Vandalism in Wikipedia articles occurs in about 1% of the edits, with most instances being swiftly removed by the Wikipedia community. However, because we import Wikipedia articles into Rfam daily, a possibility exists that an instance of vandalism might be imported and served up from our website. In order to address this possibility, we created a Wikipedia Approval web application, to ensure that we have control of what is presented on our web pages.

This application takes the latest version of the Wikipedia article and compares it with our local copy. Any changes to the Wikipedia version are examined for suitability through the Approval App. by one of our curators. If the changes are reasonable, the revision is approved and displayed on the Rfam webpage; if the changes are incorrect or are the result of vandalism, the curator rejects the changes and corrects the Wikipedia article. In this fashion we ensure that the quality of the articles we display is maintained. The workload is not excessive; on average we see ten articles for approval each day. We also maintain a list of approved users, whose edits do not require inspection, helping to lower the workload further. We would encourage other databases to consider using Wikipedia as a mechanism for community annotation (2).

References: (1) The RNA WikiProject: community annotation of RNA families. Daub J, Gardner PP, Tate J, Ramsköld D, Manske M, Scott WG, Weinberg Z, Griffiths-Jones S, Bateman A. RNA. 2008;14(12):2462-2464. (2) Making your database available through Wikipedia: the pros and cons. Finn RD, Gardner PP, Bateman A. Nucleic Acids Res. 2012;40(Database issue):D9-12.





INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOCURATION

page 2

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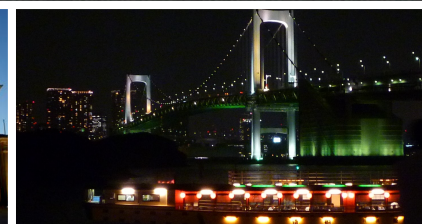
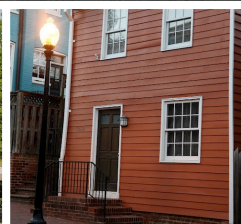
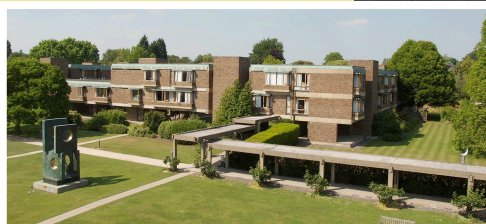
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2012 ISB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS: CALL FOR CANDIDATES

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. This year, there are four (4) open positions, as the terms of Pascale Gaudet, Lorna Richardson, Mike Cherry, and Claire O'Donovan come to completion. Membership of 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.

2012 ELECTORAL PROCESS

1. A nominating committee composed of five (5) people has been formed to oversee the electoral process, in particular to provide advice on the candidacies for members of the Executive Committee and to establish the final list of candidates.
2. To run for election, candidates are required to submit a short biographic sketch, and complete a 'conflict of interests' statement describing any activities, memberships of other associations, editorial positions on journals, etc. In the first instance however, you should register your intent to run with the nominating committee isbelection@gmail.com
3. The nominating process starts on July 25 and will end on August 24, 2012.
4. The Nominating committee will review the candidacies and make them available to the ISB membership by the second week of September.
5. Voting will take place online over the course of one week on September 19 - 26 (details will soon follow).
6. Only paying members with registration fees cleared on or before September 18 will be entitled and allowed to vote.



REQUEST FOR HOSTS FOR THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL BIOCURATION CONFERENCE (2014)

The Executive Board of the International Society for Biocuration would like to invite tenders to host the 8th International Biocuration Conference in Spring or Summer 2014. Proposals of intent for 2015 are also welcome. Individuals and organizations can apply by sending a proposal to the ISB Executive Committee (intsocbio@gmail.com) by October 1st 2012 (an email indicating an early intention to bid would be helpful). The successful bidder will be notified by December 1st 2012. The ISB Executive Committee will publicly announce the selected individual/organization during the 7th International Biocuration Conference in April 2013.

Further information about the ISB and previous conferences can be found here at:

<http://www.biocurator.org/home.shtml>

✓ Proposals should be short:

* one side of A4 or US letter, 11 point

✓ The proposal should contain:

- * The name and institution of the local organiser
- * Details of the proposed venue for up to 350 participants
- * The range of dates available for the conference
- * A brief outline of a strategic plan to attract a broad range of the Biocuration community

IMPORTANT DATES

- ✓ October 1st : Proposals due
- ✓ December 1st: Notification of results
- ✓ April 2013: Location for Biocuration 2014 will be publicly announced





INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOCURATION

page 3

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*

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Prepared by M. Munoz-Torres

BIOCURATION JOB OPENINGS

- * Postdoctoral opportunity for Phenoscope at University of South Dakota, USA. Posted July 24, 2012. For more details, see <http://bit.ly/OZd5SM>
- * 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>
- * PhD position available in semantic web, biomedical ontologies, text mining, Montpellier, France . Posted July 8, 2012. Details are available at <http://bit.ly/O9kRrX>
- * 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>
- * 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>
- * Scientific Database Curator/Annotator in ChEBI team, EBI, Hinxton, UK. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/HBoeGI>. Posted April 17, 2012
- * 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.

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

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. Submission deadline for the September Newsletter is Friday, August 31st at 7:00 PM EDT/GMT-4.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME!

Kind regards,
The ISB Executive Committee

