



International Society for Biocuration



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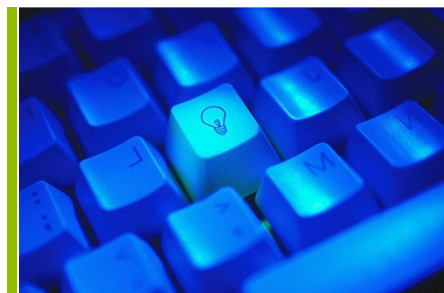
Micro-Grants for Regional ISB Meetings.

ISB wants to support your work!

ISB Micro-Grants are meant to sponsor local/regional short meetings of ISB members to synergize their work efforts, to generate a space to share your work, and to further help to advance the goals of the society.

Micro-Grants are awarded in the amount of (US) \$250 per group, and applications may be submitted at any time (i.e. no deadlines). If awarded, the group will write a 300-word report informing the ISB membership about the outcomes of the meeting. This report must be sent to intsocbio@gmail.com no later than 30 days after the end of the meeting. The report will be also posted on the ISB Newsletter.

To apply, **members fill out and sign a short form** with a brief description of the purpose of the meeting, its target audience and possible affiliations, including how the meeting will benefit the members of the ISB community. To request and submit the short form, please contact us at intsocbio@gmail.com with the subject line 'ISB Micro-Grants Application'.



Apply Today!



The GOBLET meeting attendees.

GOBLET

Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education, and Training.

www.MyGoblet.org



The first official annual general meeting of the Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education and Training (GOBLET) was held on Nov 7, hosted by the TGAC center.

GOBLET addresses the need for a more formal and joined up approach for training the bioinformatics and computational biology international community.

GOBLET aims to:

- Provide a global, sustainable support and networking structure for bioinformatics educators/trainers and students/trainees (including a training portal for sharing materials, tools, tips and techniques; guidelines and best practice documents; facilities to help train the trainers; and offering different learning pathways for different types of learner)
- Facilitate capacity development in bioinformatics in all countries
- Develop standards and guidelines for bioinformatics education and training
- Act as a hub for fund gathering
- Reach out to, amongst others, teachers at high schools, to bridge the gap to the next generation of bioinformaticians, and
- Foster the international community of B3CB trainers



Vicky Schneider (Vice Chair) and Terri Attwood (Chair of the newly elected Executive Board).

This meeting marked the beginning of the future for GOBLET!

For more details, please visit the meeting's report at

<http://goo.gl/dEG6Om>

News & Views from around the ISB Community



Register now for Biocuration 2014!

The Organising Committee for the 7th International Biocuration Conference is very glad to announce that the website and registration are now open. Please visit <http://biocuration2014.events.oicr.on.ca/>

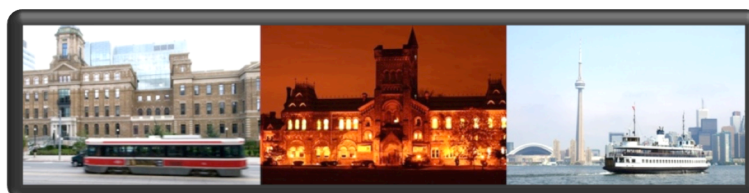
The conference will be held at Hart House, in Toronto from 6-9th April 2014 and the Biocuration 2014 organising committee is very much looking forward to seeing you there!

Our four confirmed keynote speakers will be **Dr. Tim Hubbard** (King's College, London), **Dr. Suzanna Lewis** (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory), **Dr. Patricia Babbitt** (California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences (QB3)), and **Dr. Lincoln Stein** (Ontario Institute for Cancer Research).

Early bird registration rates apply until 7th March 2014. The organisers have secured discount rates at three hotels in Toronto, and you can find more information about booking on the conference website.

The deadline for the abstract submission to present at the conference is 10th February 2014.

See you in Toronto next April!



News & Views from around the ISB Community



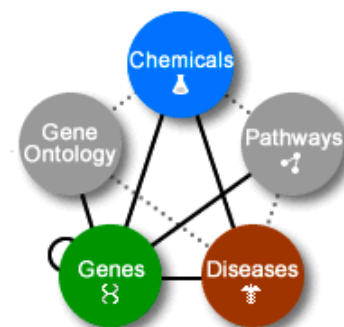
CTD curates 88K articles for drug-induced events

Understanding chemical toxicity is a common goal shared between environmental health scientists and pharmaceutical drug makers. Now, the Comparative Toxicogenomics Database (CTD, <http://ctdbase.org/>), which has historically focused on environmental chemicals, has completed a unique curation project coding therapeutic drug-induced disease and phenotype events from more than 88,000 articles published over the last seven decades. The results were recently reported in the journal Database (<http://goo.gl/lzkYKa>).

In the study, five CTD biocurators reviewed and manually curated 88,629 articles in just one year, coding information via controlled vocabularies for pharmaceutical compounds and their potential toxicity in cardiovascular, neurological, renal, and hepatic systems. Over 250,000 interactions were ultimately curated, linking 5,500 chemicals, 9,100 genes, 2,700 diseases, and 120 phenotypes. In the paper, CTD provided details about their curation strategy, performance metrics, and enhanced data content. As well, a new module for capturing chemical-phenotype data was introduced to curate drug-induced events at

the molecular and cellular level before a disease developed.

One key finding was the discovery of 360 pharmaceutical drugs with overlapping adverse effects for four physiological systems-of-interest to drug makers resulting in cardiotoxicity, neurotoxicity, renal toxicity, and hepatotoxicity. Integrated into the CTD framework, these results are now combined with other datasets to make novel predictions and help generate testable hypotheses about drug-induced events.



The data are freely available from CTD. As well, the curation has been disseminated further into the scientific community via more than 55 other databases that routinely incorporate CTD's annotations. If interested in establishing links to CTD data, please notify us at <http://ctdbase.org/help/contact.go> and follow the instructions at <http://ctdbase.org/help/linking.jsp>.

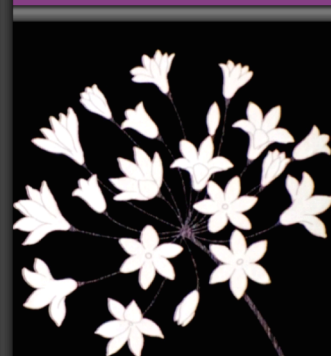
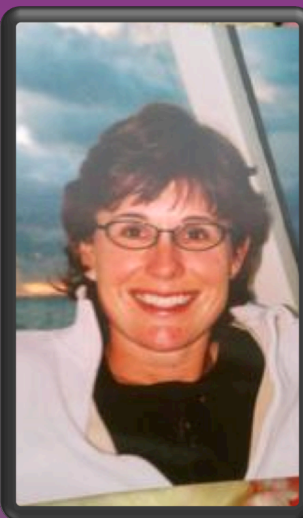
Submitted by Allan Peter Davis.

Dr. Phoebe Roberts

ISB wishes to extend our deepest condolences to the family and colleagues of Dr. Phoebe Roberts.

A talented researcher and avid athlete, Dr. Roberts also donated her skills to publicly funded text mining challenges, such as BioCreative and the Text Retrieval Conference. Dr. Roberts was a member of the team reporting their findings on curating therapeutic drug-induced disease and phenotype events from over eighty-eight thousand articles in this issue.

We are greatly saddened to hear of her untimely death.



Fourth Annual Summit of the Phenotype Ontology Research Coordination Network

http://www.phenotypercn.org/?page_id=2287

When: February 21-23, 2014

Where: Tucson, AZ

What: The overall goal of the RCN's Fourth Annual Summit is to introduce scientists from different research backgrounds and establish communication among them.

11th ESWC Conference 2014

<http://2014.eswc-conferences.org/>

When: May 25 - 29, 2014

Where: Anissaras, Crete. Greece.

What: ESWC is a major venue for discussing the latest scientific results and technology innovations related to the Semantic Web. ESWC 2014 will feature twelve thematic research tracks (see below) and an in-use and industrial track.

Notes: Hashtag: #eswc2014 | Feed: @eswc_conf | Important dates: Abstract submission: Jan 8, 2014. Full-paper submission: Jan 13, 2014. Camera-ready papers: Mar 10, 2014.

CAFA 2: The Second Critical Assessment of protein Function Annotations

<http://biofunctionprediction.org/>

When: July 11-12, 2014

Where: Boston, MA, USA.

What: The AFP-SIG, the eighth protein function prediction meeting, will feature the CAFA 2 results and the latest research in computational protein function prediction. Confirmed keynote speakers: Fiona Brinkman, Simon-Fraser University, Canada, and Mark Gerstein, Yale University, USA.

Notes: Download target proteins, available August 27, 2013. Submit predictions on or before January 15, 2014.

Upcoming Conferences



nGUDMAP Biocurator, Centre for Integrative Physiology, University of Edinburgh. Posted December 18, 2013. More details available at <http://goo.gl/L0nsVK>

Web Application and Database Developer, IGMM, University of Edinburgh. Posted December 18, 2013. For more information visit <http://goo.gl/FHRYdy>

Bioinformatics Software Engineer at dictyBase, Chicago, IL, USA. Posted November 13, 2013. Details available at http://dictybase.org/dictybase_jobs.html

Ontology Engineer, Qiagen, Redwood City, US. Posted November 13, 2013. Find more about this position at <http://goo.gl/n3Z8py>

Bioinformaticians, including in training and outreach, University of Edinburgh, UK. Posted October 31, 2013. Details available at <http://goo.gl/XpDZpS>

Knowledge Engineer, Novartis, Cambridge, MA. Posted October 31, 2013. Find more about this position at <http://goo.gl/n7zgjo>

Job Opportunities

Scientific Data Curator, Novartis, Cambridge, MA. Posted October 31, 2013. Details available at <http://goo.gl/63JwEi>

Project Director, VIVO. Posted September 22, 2013. More information available at <http://goo.gl/OA9EPP>

Postdoctoral scholar position at Plant Pathway database, Oregon State University, OR, USA. Posted September 22, 2013. Find more about this position at <http://goo.gl/Fv0dBM>

Three positions: Biocurator, Bioinformatician, and Senior Software engineer, Genestack, Cambridge, UK. Posted May 24, 2013. More information can be found at <http://www.genestack.com/careers>

Software Engineer, Zebrafish Model Organism Database, Eugene, OR, USA. Posted March 15, 2013. Find more about this position at <http://jobs.uoregon.edu/unclassified.php?id=4196>



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

ISB Newsletter Archive

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

Share your ideas with members of ISB!

Prepare a news article written to biocurators as the audience. In 260 words or less spread the word about new tools in your site, or tools for distribution to the wider 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 March Newsletter is Friday, February 21st at midnight (UTC).

Kind regards,
 The ISB Executive Committee.