

Statement of Intent for Nomination for Membership of the Executive Committee (EC)

For Christopher Southan, Ph.D., M.Sc., B.Sc. Senior Cheminformatician for the BPD/IUPHAR Guide to PHARMACOLOGY (GToPdb), Centre for Integrative Physiology, University of Edinburgh, UK, <http://www.guidetopharmacology.org/> (working remotely from Göteborg) 20th Sep 2016.

To the EC. I would very much like to contribute to ISB in this EC role. This would be a good fit to my current Senior Curator role at GToPdb and our recent incorporation in the [UK Elixir Node](#). I have a background of ~ 20 years involvement with biocuration in different forms. Much of this relates to drug target project support in pharma and biotech companies centred on the compilation of biocuration reports. Complementing my grounding in bioinformatics I would bring a multidisciplinary angle to the EC since I am equally comfortable with biocuration of bioactive chemistry, genomics, proteomics and patent mining. This is reflected in [80 papers](#) in PubMed, detailed [blogposts](#) (from the interface between bioinformatics and cheminformatics) plus [slideshare](#) presentations. In support of bringing expertise to the EC I can cite a recent [2017 human protein number review](#) (updating a [2004](#) effort which Amos liked), co-authorship on our [2014 NAR database](#) paper, first author on the [2016 NAR database](#) paper and co-author on the 2018 update we are submitting. Selected relevant earlier papers include the AstraZeneca [Chemistry Connect](#) project, [database comparisons](#) and [BACE evolution](#). Some years ago I also generated the [ELIXIR database survey](#) results, was included on the [BioDBcore](#) paper as well as [Minimum information about a bioactive entity \(MIABE\)](#). Another relevant aspect of my background is co-author associations with [32 UniProt](#) and [154 nucleotide](#) entries. I not only know several members of the current and outgoing EC members but I also engaged with a BioCreative in 2013 for Fabio Rinaldi. For GtoPdb I curate at the “sharp end” on a daily basis and collaborate with the team on enhancing our internal curatorial rules and semantics for populating the database with linked data between protein targets, ligands and activity results. I would like to enhance the engagement of the EC in the area of connecting chemistry to biology where current progress is still slow.

Biography: Prior to joining GToPdb I was operating as TW2Informatics, both for patent informatics consulting for SureChem (2011/12) and a 2 ½ year assignment in the AstraZeneca Knowledge Engineering Program, including being on the team for Chemistry Connect (2009-11). Prior to this I coordinated the ELIXIR Database Provider Survey at the European Bioinformatics Institute (2008/9), was Principle Scientist and Team Leader in AstraZeneca Molecular Sciences (2004-7). Before the move to Sweden I held Bioinformatics positions at Oxford Glycosciences Gemini Genomics and SmithKline Beecham, preceded by running the Cancer Research Campaign protein sequencing facility and a Research Fellowship at Cross Hospital Medical School. My education included Biochemistry at Dundee University (UK), Virology at Reading University (UK), and a PhD from Ludwig-Maximillan University of Munich (working at the Max Plank Institute for Biochemistry

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Conflict of Interests' statement: Employed by the University of Edinburgh, have a consultancy company registered as TW2Informatics, Editorial Board for *Expert Review of Proteomics*, SAB for BindingDB, member of ISB and the British Pharmacological Society