

**Name:** Frederic Bastian

**Current Position:** Bioinformatician: team lead, software development, ontology engineering, data analyses

**Affiliation:** SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics – Department of Ecology and Evolution, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

**Biosketch: please provide a 1 paragraph description of your career experience.**

Since 2011, I have worked as a bioinformatician on the development of the gene expression database Bgee. The development of such a database requires work at the intersection of data curation, ontology development, software development, data quality control, and data reproducibility. We are now a team of 8 collaborators working on this project.

During this time, I have thus collaborated on the development of the Uberon anatomical ontology, and on the ontology-manipulation software owltools. I have also developed and used tools to assess transcriptomics data quality and reusability. I have worked at annotating mappings between animal anatomies based on biological similarities. I have organized several workshops about data quality control, and contributed to the development of an ontology to capture confidence in experimental results, in collaboration with the ECO developers.

I am a supporter of open science principles, supporting notably copyright-free software and data sharing, disclosure and versioning of data analysis pipelines, open peer-reviews in journals, and pre-publication platforms.

**In the space below, please describe your motivations to run for a position on the ISB Executive Committee. Describe your experience with biocuration or your intersection with biocuration, including details on what you will bring to the ISB Executive Committee, and the areas within ISB you would like to see developed.**

I entered the field of biocuration through the “description logic/biomedical ontologies” door, but I felt like I found a community I wanted to belong to immediately at the first Biocuration conference I attended, back in 2012. The most important characteristics to me of the ISB community I discovered then are: i) a willingness to collaborate at the intersection of curation, ontology and software development; ii) to serve practical applications rather than developing technologies for the sake of it. I have attended all Biocuration conferences except one since then, and have organized workshops in several of them.

I believe that ISB has been very good at promoting collaborations between scientists from diverse fields and with diverse profiles, and at enhancing data integration between various resources. This is the ISB I like and that I would like to see grow further. This is why I would like to serve in the EC, in order to be able to contribute to the community I truly enjoy being part of, and to bring to the EC this continued willingness of promoting collaborations between the diverse aspects and fields of biocuration.

An area I would like to see developed within the ISB is the outreach to external communities and wetlab biologists, to promote better data quality and submission processes upfront. I feel like the one profile that is lacking in our community is: people generating the data we use. For instance, some big pharma companies are considerably updating their processes to standardize their clinical metadata, and allow for better knowledge discovery. I believe we should promote in the same way improvements in the management of wetlab data, for instance by promoting alternative tools to submit data and metadata to primary biological databases or journals.

I would like also to contribute to promoting a greater use of tools to exchange data between resources. The data and the tools needed already exist out there, but require a lot of fine tuning and agreements between resources to be actually adopted widely.

I would be very happy to have the opportunity to join the ISB Executive Committee, in order to learn more about the Biocuration community, and to give back a bit of what our group and I received over the past years from the community.

**Conflicts of interest and other commitments:**

None!