

**Name:** Sandra Orchard

**Current Position:** Biocuration group team leader

**Affiliation:** EMBL-EBI

**Biosketch:**

My background is in Biochemistry and I worked for 18 years in the Pharmaceutical industry as a enzymologist in the Department of Inflammatory Diseases at Roche Products Ltd. I then moved to the EMBL-EBI in 2002 where I initially had a cross-database role, curating across Swiss-Prot (or UniProt as it became about 12 months after I started), InterPro and the Gene Ontology. I was also involved in the start-up of a new resource, the IntAct molecular interaction database and eventually moved to become first the curation coordinator, then project lead and finally Team Leader/PI of the newly formed Molecular Interactions Team. In 2017 I moved to become the Protein Function Content Team Leader/PI in which role I am primarily responsible for the annotation of UniProtKB and the Gene Ontology. I found my former laboratory experience invaluable for my work as a biocurator, as it gave me a broad understanding of both the science and also the techniques which I was capturing from the scientific literature. I have been involved in many cross-database/cross-centre collaborations over the years, not only UniProt and GO but also through the IMEx Consortium of molecular interaction databases. I have worked in the development of curation standards and data formats via the HUPO Proteomics Standards Initiative. I strongly believe that, as a community, we need to encourage the adoption of cross-database standards and shared curation effort and work together to make the best use of our most valuable resource – the biocurator.

**Motivations to run for a position on the ISB Executive Committee:**

I became an elected member of the ISB EC in 2015 so am now standing for my second term of office. I was immediately elected Treasurer and have been responsible for the Society finances for the last 3 years. I was on the local organising committee (again as Treasurer) for the Biocuration 2012 conference in Cambridge, at which we have 295 attendees, and am Co-Chair of the 2019 conference which we very much hope will be equally successful.

I see the role of the Society as promoting the importance of the Biocurator to the research community, to the funding agencies and to the journals and also to establish Biocuration as a recognised and highly-respected career path for biomedical and data scientists. As the volume of data continues to increase, our role needs to expand to include the education of the wet-lab researcher in data management, to ensure that high-quality, larger-scale datasets are increasingly submitted to data repositories from where selected information can be fed into the relevant KnowledgeBases. I have been involved in training external scientists in aspects of Biocuration since first joining EMBL-EBI and have worked with the Training team to help develop the first external course on Biocuration, to be held at U. Cambridge in 2019. This will provide a formal qualification in Biocuration and will enable curators to have the skill sets they have acquired more easily recognised and valued as they move between posts. The Society needs to broaden its membership, as new classes of data, such as medical informatics, are recognised as requiring expert biocuration, and be pro-active in supporting new curators as they first start in this challenging, but rewarding, career path.

I very much hope to be re-elected to the Executive Board of the ISB and continuing to serve the community for a further 3 years

**Conflicts of interest and other commitments:**

I am a member of the UniProt Consortium, the Gene Ontology Consortium and the IMEx Consortium and Co-Chair the HUPO Proteomics Standards Initiative. I am one of the UK representatives on an EC COST Action 'Gene Regulation Ensemble Effort for the Knowledge Commons' (GREEKC) project. I am an editor of Current Protocols in Bioinformatics, Wiley