

Name: Mary Ann Tuli

Current Position: Data Editor (Biocuration)

Affiliation: GigaScience Journal, BGI-Hong Kong

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

My whole career to date has been in Biocuration, with my first position being in Heidelberg, Germany to work as a curator for the EMBL Nucleotide Database (now known as the European Nucleotide Archive). I then moved to Cambridge, UK as part of the team forming the European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) situated on the Wellcome Genome Campus in Hinxton, Cambridge, UK, where I continued to work for a further 12 years. For the following 12 years, I worked for the Sanger Institute (also based on the Genome Campus) as the genetics curator for the Model Organism Database, WormBase. I am now a Data Editor, working remotely from my garden office near Cambridge, UK.

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.

With 25 years of biocuration experience I have seen the the role develop and diversify into a recognised and respected career. While many informatics tasks have been automated, and are capable of producing volumes of data beyond what any of us thought would be possible, it is essential we have experienced and highly skilled biocurators to organise and give meaning to this data.

My years working for EMBL gave me a great deal of knowledge about what is now known as Big Data; how it is produced, how to cope with the volume and how to make it publicly available in a meaningful way. Within WormBase I gained experience working for a Model Organism Database, specialising in working on the curation of variations, the genetic map and nomenclature. I became a remote worker during this period so am in a good position to knows the pros and cons for what will no doubt become more common practise. The creation of remote worker guidelines for both employees and employers would be a useful addition to the biocurator field.

For the last year I have worked as the Data Editor for GigaDB (associated with GigaScience journal), so I now also have experience of working for a journal, which uses many of my existing skills, but also has different pressures.

I feel passionate about the Women In Science movement and get involved in programs and initiatives where I can. I would like to see the ISB get more involved in the challenges both genders face during their careers.

If accepted, I will be studying for the Post Graduate Cert in Biocuration to start this Autumn. This will allow me to widen my knowledge, which I can bring to my existing role, my future career, and in collaborations with other colleagues.

Conflicts of interest and other commitments:

None