International Society for Biocuration

Biology Technology – fragment. by D. Skains (FineArtAmerica.com)
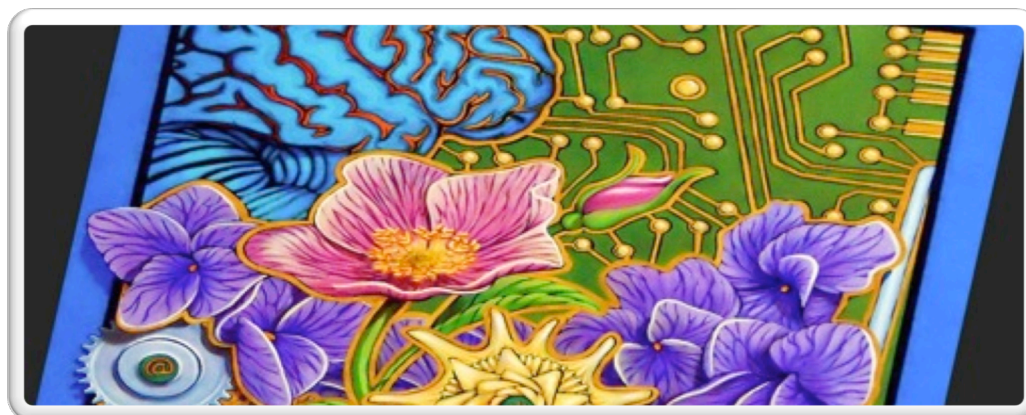
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Micro-Grants for Regional ISB Meetings
(CHF) $500 micro-grants now available.

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 (CHF) $500 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.
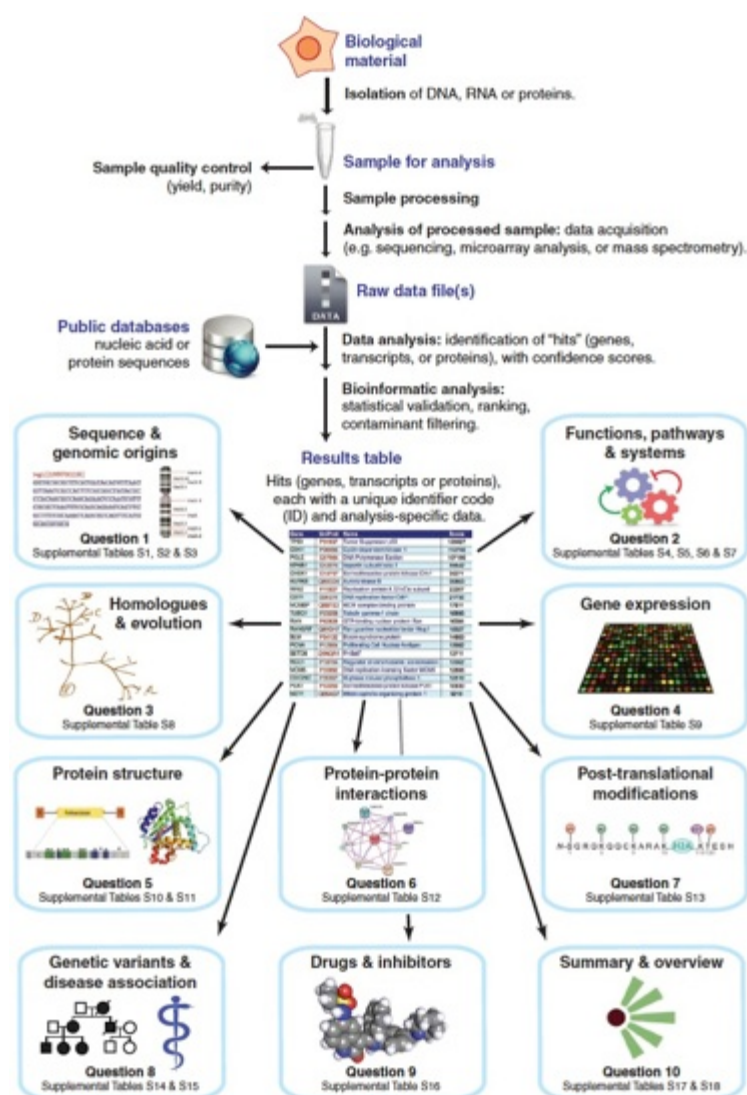
To apply, members fill out and sign a short form with a brief description of the purpose of the

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

News and Views from the ISB Community

Review: Online resources for exploring functions of genes, transcripts, and proteins.

The genomic era has enabled research projects that use approaches including genome-scale screens, microarray analysis, next-generation sequencing, and mass spectrometry–based proteomics to discover genes and proteins involved in biological processes. Such methods generate data sets of gene, transcript, or protein hits that researchers wish to explore to understand their properties and functions and thus their possible roles in biological systems of interest. Recent years have seen a profusion of Internet-based resources to aid this process. We have prepared a review from the point of view of the curious biologist wishing to explore the properties of protein-coding genes and their products, identified using genome-based technologies.

Ten key questions are asked about each hit, addressing functions, phenotypes, expression, evolutionary conservation, disease association, protein structure, interactors, post-translational modifications, and inhibitors. Answers are provided by presenting the latest publicly available resources, together with methods for hit-specific and data set–wide information retrieval, suited to any genome-based analytical technique and experimental species. This flexible and universally applicable approach for characterizing experimental hits will help researchers to maximize the potential of their projects for biological discovery.

This review is available at *Mol. Biol. Cell* 2014 25:8 1187-1201; doi:10.1091/mbc.E13-10-0602
http://www.molbiolcell.org/content/25/8/1187.abstract This article and regularly updated versions of its supplementary information are also available at www.jrahutchins.net.

Submitted by James Hutchins, Ph.D.

Upcoming Conferences

11th ESWC Conference 2014
http://2014.eswc-conferences.org/
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 and an in-use and industrial track.
When: May 25 – 29, 2014
Where: Anissaras, Crete, Greece
Hashtag: #eswc2014
Feed: @eswc_conf

Synthetic and Systems Biology Summer School: Biology meets Engineering and Computer Science
http://www.taosciences.it/ssbss2014/
Short Talk and Poster Submission: Students may submit a research abstract for presentation. School directors will review the abstracts and will recommend for poster or short-oral presentation.
When: June 15-19, 2014
Where: Taormina – Sicily, Italy

Bio-Ontologies SIG (http://www.bio-ontologies.org.uk/call-for-participation) **and Phenotype Day** (http://phenoday2014.bio-lark.org/)
The 2013 meeting will be a two day SIG, with July 12th being the "Phenotype Day" which will be a joint session with the Bio-Link SIG focused on the systematic description of phenotypic variation.
When: July 11 and July 12, 2014
Where: co-located with ISMB 2014 in Boston, MA

CAFA 2: The Second Critical Assessment of protein Function Annotations
http://biofunctionprediction.org/
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.
When: July 11-12, 2014
Where: Boston, MA, USA

Second international workshop on Multidisciplinary Approaches to Big Social Data Analysis (MABSDA)
http://sentic.net/mabsda/
This workshop, to be held at the Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI), explores the new frontiers of big data computing for opinion mining through machine learning techniques, knowledge-based systems, adaptive and transfer learning, in order to more efficiently retrieve and extract social information from the Web.

When: July 27, 2014.
Where: Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
Timeline
- Submission deadline: May 31st, 2014
- Notification of acceptance: June 20th, 2014
- Final manuscripts due: July 1st, 2014

8th International Conference on Formal Ontology in Information Systems (FOIS 2014)
http://fois2014.inf.ufes.br/p/home.html
When: September 22-25, 2014
Where: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

5th International Conference on Biomedical Ontologies (ICBO 2014)
http://icbo14.com/
Papers, posters, workshops, tutorials, and software demonstrations are invited on a broad range of topics covering ontology development and use in the healthcare and life sciences areas. These include, but are not limited to, ontology engineering and reuse, ontologies promoting data integration, fluidity and reuse, data visualization, pathway analysis, and especially knowledge discovery.
When: Oct 6-9, 2014
Where: Houston, Texas, USA

2014 i2b2/UTHealth Shared-Tasks and Workshop on Challenges in Natural Language Processing for Clinical Data
https://www.i2b2.org/NLP/
Tentative Timeline
- Registration: begins March 14, 2014
- Training Data Release: 1 May, 2014
- Test Data Release: 1 July, 2014
- System Outputs Due: 3 July, 2014
- Systems Due: 15 July, 2014
- Paper Submission: 1 August, 2014
- Workshop: TBA

Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing
http://psb.stanford.edu/cfp-crowd/index.html
The 2013 meeting will be a two day SIG, with July 12th being the "Phenotype Day" which will be a joint session with the Bio-Link SIG focused on the systematic description of phenotypic variation.
When: January 4-8, 2015
Where: The Fairmont Orchid Resort, Kohala Coast, The Big Island of Hawaii, USA
Submissions Due: July 31, 2014

Biocuration Job Opportunities

Ontology Manager, http://goo.gl/Vjqtn1, **Ontology Engineer** http://goo.gl/8RVPqv, and **Content Section Scientist** http://goo.gl/nftqV3, at QIAGEN in Redwood City, CA, USA. Posted April 11, 2014

Software Developer, N-of-One. Details available at http://goo.gl/4EHFud. Posted April 2, 2014

PhD Positions in the Data Analytics for eHealth and Life Sciences Unit at INSIGHT Centre for Data Analytics, National University of Ireland, Galaway. For more information visit http://goo.gl/xAIPO9. Posted March 24, 2014

Genomic Data and Scientific Content Curator for cBioPortal (http://cbioportal.org) , New York, NY, United States. Details available at http://goo.gl/qceddr. Posted March 22, 2014.

Postdoctoral position, which will responsible for exciting new development on the TreeGenes Database (http://dendrome.ucdavis.edu/treegenes). More information available at http://goo.gl/zxvDga. Posted March 6, 2014.

RefSeq curator, vertebrate RefSeq group, The Computercraft Corporation, Bethesda, MD, USA. More information at http://goo.gl/yzqG3L. Posted February 25, 2014.

Multiple postdoctoral associate positions in bioinformatics, integrative biology, and biomedical tool development (with emphasis on crowdsourcing), The Scripps Research Institute, San Diego, CA. Details are available at http://goo.gl/MqwDvQ. Posted February 3, 2014.

Postdoctoral fellow, Disease Ontology, Institute for Genome Sciences, MD (http://www.igs.umaryland.edu). See more details at http://goo.gl/lt9jIj. Posted January 31, 2014.

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 June Newsletter is Friday, June 6th at midnight (UTC).

Kind regards,
The ISB Executive Committee.