

ISB Board Meeting – 13 January 2010  
Public Minutes

Attendees:

Pascale Gaudet  
Lydie Bougueleret  
Lorna Richardson  
Teresa Attwood  
Alex Bateman  
Tanya Berardini  
Tadashi Imanishi  
Owen White  
Ioannis Xenarios

Apologies:

Tadashi Imanishi

1. Rules for the ISB governance.  
The Rules for ISB governance document is currently under modification by members of the executive board.
2. Face-to-face meeting of ISB board members  
It was suggested to try to arrange a face-to-face meeting of the executive board to allow more time for discussion of all agenda points. While it is agreed that this would be useful, it would also be very expensive. Instead it was agreed to arrange a long (3 hour) online meeting to determine if this was enough to allow us to progress through all the agenda items. If not a face-to-face meeting will be reconsidered.
3. 4<sup>th</sup> International Biocuration Conference  
Unfortunately Tadashi could not attend this meeting, and so could not report on the progress towards arranging the conference. It was suggested to retain all or part of the previous organising committee for the upcoming meeting. There was some discussion about possible sources of funding for the meeting, however it was agreed that we need specific information about how much is required before they can be approached.
4. Promoting links between journals and databases  
There is a need to clarify what is wanted from journals and publishers before approaching them. There is a need to determine the requirements of the whole community, not just the executive board. This would be a good time to engage the membership and perhaps survey them on what they would like? Some board members are already (or are just about to be) in contact with publishers on behalf of their own resources, they will report on their interactions at the next board meeting.
5. Funding opportunities/Advertising the Society  
There was some discussion about the forum and the mailing list as methods of communication with the membership. The current listserv will be moved to a new server in the near future. The possibility of producing a newsletter was

discussed, but it was decided that this was not a good use of our time. It was decided to maintain a list of meetings attended by the board as possible places to advertise the society. There was some discussion on clarifying what we need funding for.

6. Affiliation with a journal

The discussion over the society's affiliation with a journal is still split down the middle, and so the decision was taken to 'park' this agenda item for now. It was felt that it was too important to decide on this by simple majority rather than consensus. It was also felt that it might be a positive thing for the society to be more 'journal neutral' in its interactions with publishers at the moment.

7. AOB

The Research Information Network contacted the board to ask for some more information on the field of biocuration and biocuration as a career. They intend to produce a careers information document for biocuration.

The editorial announcing the society was submitted to Bioinformatics.

The board was contacted to answer some questions regarding data correction in databases for an article in biotechniques.

Annotation policies were discussed by Pascale Gaudet in an article in BioTechniques: <http://www.biotechniques.com/news/Variable-database-annotation-policies-let-suspicious-data-linger/biotechniques-188873.html>