

ISB Executive Committee Meeting Public Minutes

April 1, 2012

(1) Biocuration 2012

Poster prize – Plans to allow all delegates to vote for the best poster prize. Need to announce at one of the early sessions to encourage everyone to vote.

Also plans to make an announcement to acknowledge the travel award recipients, and co-ordinate how to get their travel receipts.

(2) ISB Finances

We need to approve the budget on an annual basis, this seems like a good time to do it for the 2011 financial statement.

Received official approval from everyone by attending meeting. Gather the rest by email.

We need to approve travel expenses (approx. 200CHF) for Pascale to attend B3CB on behalf of the ISB.

All in attendance approved these expenses.

(3) Clerical assistance from SIB.

We have had the offer of some clerical assistance from the SIB for help at certain times like for the election etc.

(4) Discussion of how the society can practically support the community in pursuit of society goals.

Plans to contact the main funding bodies to find out what their beliefs on funding for databases is. Do they even realize this is a problem?

Issue of high cost for high quality. There is a sense (from funders) that we could get more for less money if less accuracy/quality of curation was required.

“Cost” of curating and archiving the data should be weighed up against the cost of initial production of data and indeed replication of it!

Career path issues. Where are the new curators coming from? How to identify?

Future “biocuration” posts are growing through sequencing efforts becoming so ubiquitous. It would be good if all these efforts were standardized, this is something ISB could guide.

(5) Journal affiliation

Should the society officially endorse a (or multiple) journal(s)? This was discussed at length some time ago when the idea for a new journal was suggested, but was never decided upon.

Database is very interested in being the society journal. We discussed various ideas and questions about such a relationship, to approach OUP and Database with. We will assess what would such an endorsement really mean on both sides.

(6) Connecting with the Human Variome community.

Attending the project meeting in Paris in June (11-15).

Suggestion for a representative to attend Biocuration 2012 came too late for it to be arranged, but very interested to make contact with them and see where we could connect.