

Peter McQuilton, PhD

Content Lead for the BioSharing project,
Senior Research Associate, e-Research Centre,
University of Oxford, UK (2015-present)
ISB member (2009-present)
BioCreative User Advisory Board member (2012-present)
FlyBase Biocurator (2005-2015)

Nomination for membership of the ISB Executive Committee

I am putting myself forward for a position on the ISB Executive Committee because I believe that Biocurators play a critical yet currently undervalued role in the research cycle. I look to leverage my experience and enthusiasm to help promote the role of Biocuration to researchers, journal editors, funders, librarians, data managers and throughout the research landscape.

I would like to highlight my commitment to and enthusiasm for the ISB since its inception. I have attended five of the nine ISB meetings so far, where I have organized workshops and presented posters. I have also promoted the society via my role as one of the @biocurator tweeters and acted as a co-organizer for the ISB2013 meeting in Cambridge, UK.

I have been a Biocurator since 2005, when I joined the FlyBase (www.flybase.org) team in Cambridge (UK) as a genetic literature curator. During that time, I was involved in a number of projects relating to the extraction and synthesis of genetic and phenotypic data from the published literature. As the FlyBase Lead for text-mining, I joined the BioCreative User Advisory Group, contributing to text-mining challenges to improve the speed, accuracy and efficiency of curation via the use of entity extraction and gene ontology prediction software.

In my current role as the Content Lead for the BioSharing project (<https://www.biosharing.org>), I work closely with the community to map the landscape of databases, data standards (e.g. ontologies, exchange formats, reporting guidelines), and journal, society and funder data policies. By curating and linking these data, BioSharing helps Biocurators, researchers, journal editors and funders to discover existing databases and standards, to identify those standards that are implemented by databases, and to find the policies that endorse their use. In doing so, we hope to promote databases and standards such that they are discovered by users outside of their disciplines, and to encourage harmonization and consistency, to reduce the reinvention and proliferation of biological databases and standards. I hope to work with the society to promote data standard re-use within the community, the development of shared standard operating procedures and to use my role in BioSharing to foster relationships between Biocurators, publishers and researchers.

Having worked in Biocuration for over 11 years, I look to serve on the committee to help promote and develop Biocuration as a career that is recognized and appreciated beyond our own community.

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Conflicts of Interest:

I have no direct conflicts of interest.

Membership of other associations:

Genetics Society of America

Research Data Alliance

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