



Andrew Su, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Molecular and  
Experimental Medicine  
10550 North Torrey Pines Road  
La Jolla, CA 92037  
asu@scripps.edu  
<http://sulab.org>

Dear ISB Members,

Please consider my candidacy for the ISB Executive Committee.

My research group has had a long-standing interest in crowdsourcing for biomedical research. As community curation has become a more common theme among both biocuration groups and funding agencies, I believe that my background would offer valuable and complementary perspective to the EC. Since 2007 we have developed the Gene Wiki [0], the goal of which is to create a crowdsourced review article for every human gene in Wikipedia. More recently, the Gene Wiki has expanded scope to include integration of structured annotations within the Wikidata platform to maximize accessibility and reusability [1]. Other relevant projects include our citizen science project Mark2Cure [2], our gene portal BioGPS [3], and our web services MyGene.info [4] and MyVariant.info [5]. These resources are collectively viewed millions of times per month.

My specific research interests aside, I have also been committed to participating in and stimulating discussions on the role of Biocuration in the broader scientific community. I consider myself a bit of an open data zealot in advocating for technologies, policies, and licenses that enable greater knowledge integration [6]. And in acknowledging that many viewpoints and stakeholders that exist, I believe the most important point is to have that discussion needs to happen [7], both within our community and with research funders, to promote scientific progress and ensure the long-term sustainability of biocuration.

I am also passionate about promoting diversity in our biomedical work force. I believe that ISB (and the biocuration community generally) has a very good track record in this regard, and I would be a strong supporter of policies that continue that trend. I think there is even an opportunity to learn what has worked well within the biocuration community, and share those lessons with other societies that may suffer from implicit biases [8].

I have been an enthusiastic member of the ISB community since my first Biocuration conference in 2012. And although family obligations prevented me from personally attending the last two events, my group has had a continuous presence at the annual Biocuration conference for the last five years. I would welcome and appreciate the opportunity to give back by serving on the EC.

Best regards,  
-andrew

[0]: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Gene\\_Wiki](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Gene_Wiki)

[1]: <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:MB>

[2]: <http://mark2cure.org>

[3]: <http://biogps.org>

[4]: <http://mygene.info>

[5]: <http://myvariant.info>

[6]: <http://sulab.org/2016/08/open-data-should-mean-cc0/>

[7]: <https://github.com/OBOFoundry/OBOFoundry.github.io/issues/285>

[8]: <http://sulab.org/2015/07/open-letter-to-iscb-regarding-diversity-in-bioinformatics/>

## **BIOSKETCH**

Since 2011, I have been an Associate Professor at the The Scripps Research Institute in the Department of Molecular and Experimental Medicine. I lead a group of 18 graduate students, postdoctoral associates, and staff, supported by funding from the NIH. My group is roughly evenly divided between building tools and infrastructure to facilitate biomedical research, and directly applying bioinformatics methods to discovery projects in osteoarthritis, cardiovascular disease, and metagenomics. I also currently serve as co-Director of HeartBD2K, one of the Centers of Excellence in the NIH's Big Data to Knowledge initiative. Prior to my current position, I received undergraduate degrees in Chemistry and Computing and Information Studies at Northwestern University, followed by a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Scripps. I then spent 9 years leading bioinformatics efforts in industry at a pharmaceutical research organization.

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

I am currently a member of the International Society for Computational Biology. I serve as an Associate Editor for the journal *Gene*, as an Editorial Board member for the journal *Database*, and as an Editorial Advisory Board member of *Biomedical Computation Review*.