

Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing 1999

This volume marks the fourth meeting of the Symposium. The explosive growth of computational biology has been paralleled by a proliferation of conferences in the area. PSB remains one of the preeminent, and we think that is a result of our unique strategy of organizing the meeting by soliciting session proposals from the community every year. That approach has allowed us to be broad in coverage, yet stay focused on the most active new areas. New topics for us this year include physiological modeling, data mining, and disordered regions in proteins. We are also pleased to have for the second year a session on the important emerging area of gene expression data analysis and modeling. Longer standing sessions which continue to draw significant interest include the topics of computational drug design, protein structure prediction, visualization and information theoretic applications.

The increasing number of computational biology conferences has made the competition for participation and financial support particularly strong. The number of attendees as PSB continues to grow, which is the most important endorsement we receive. We are very pleased to announce that the US Department of Energy, a PSB sponsor from the inception of the conference, has made a three-year commitment to us, ensuring that PSB will continue to be able to offer travel grants through 2001. We are grateful for DoE's continuing support. In addition, the International Society for Computational Biology has adopted PSB as one of its sponsored meetings, so all Society members get a registration discount, and the Society has funded travel scholarships for students and post-docs as well. Our thanks to the Society, and we encourage all PSB participants to join. We also wish to thank the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) which has also been a generous supporter of PSB from the beginning. Silicon Graphics, Inc. generously donated machines, shipping and insurance again this year. Our emphasis on live demonstrations is still unusual at computational biology meetings, and we appreciate SGI's contribution to this important aspect of the meeting. We are also grateful to ZymoGenetics, who continues their financial support of PSB. We apologize to other sponsors whose awards arrived too late to be mentioned here; we are genuinely grateful for your help!

Steven A. Benner is thanked in advance for his plenary address. Also, a growing number of people contribute to putting on this conference, and we wish to acknowledge all of their help. Kevin Lauderdale handles the massive flow of paper and electrons with aplomb and care. Al Conde arranges the computational facility before the meeting and handles all of the on-site headaches. Toni Kazic helped with fundraising.

The most difficult and most important jobs at the conference are those of the session chairs. It is their hard work in soliciting high quality papers, arranging for their review, and chairing the discussion sessions that underpins the entire meeting.

We applaud the efforts of our session chairs:

Gene Expression and Genetic Networks (Hiroaki Kitano and Roland Somogyi)

Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery in Molecular Databases (Janice Glasgow and Raymond Ng)

Computer Modeling in Physiology: From Cell To Tissue (Andrej Bugrim, Joel Keizer, Leon Glass, and Art Winfree)

Information Theoretic Approaches to Biology (David L. Dowe and Klaus Prank)

Molecules to Maps: Tools for Visualization & Interaction (Thomas Ferrin and Eileen Kraemer)

Computer-Aided Drug Design (Jiri Novotny, Terry P. Lybrand, Teri E. Klein, and Jurgen Bajorath)

Protein Structure Prediction (Jeffrey Skolnick and Richard Lathrop)

Disorder in Protein Structure and Function (A. Keith Dunker, Charles Kissinger, and Eugene Shakhnovich)

We would also encourage you to follow their leadership and submit proposals
for future PSB sessions in your area of interest.

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Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing, 1999 Co-Chairs

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