BMC Bioinformatics

PREFACE

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The papers contained in this supplement to BMC Bioinformatics are peer-reviewed versions of papers selected for oral presentations at the 1st annual meeting of the Great Lakes Bioinformatics Conference (GLBIO) held on May 2-4, 2011 at OHIO University, Athens, Ohio. GLBIO is an official conference of the International Society of Computational Biology (ISCB) and is coordinated by The Great Lakes Bioinformatics Consortium (an affiliated regional group of ISCB). The GLBIO conference is a natural outgrowth of the highly successful Ohio Bioinformatics Conference (2006-10) held at various venues around the state of Ohio. An ever increasing number of scientists are involved in bioinformatics research in the Great Lakes region, hence the need and popularity of the first meeting, which expanded the outreach to include the geographical region surrounding the Great Lakes. Participants at the meeting came from nearly all the states and Canadian provinces that border the Great Lakes.

Day one of the meeting included six tutorials on various aspects of bioinformatics. The meeting included three invited sessions focused on next generation sequencing, molecular networks in cancer, and protein structural bioinformatics. Highly successful and lively poster sessions were held each evening; a total of 91 posters were presented. Finally, a total of 38 oral presentations were given across a broad spectrum of bioinformatics topics.

As Program Co-Chairs of GLBIO 11, we would like to thank our fellow Co-Chair Jim Cavalcoli whose tireless efforts, made this meeting a rousing success. We should thank also Conference Co-Chairs Lonnie Welch and Terry Lewis, their efforts are greatly appreciated. Our thanks go out as well to our meeting coordinator Stephanie Hagstrom, ISCB Executive Officer BJ Morrison McKay and registration coordinator Suzi Smith whose knowledge was invaluable in making the meeting run smoothly. It is important to thank the many scientists who served on the Program and Steering Committees, who were sometimes asked for last minute efforts, but never failed to respond. We would like to thank the Keynote speakers for their excellent presentations: Michael Becich, Elodie Ghedin, Al Hero, and Richard Lenski. Special thanks go to the Ohio Center for Ecology and Evolutionary Studies at OHIO University, which co-sponsored the final event of the meeting - the annual Kitzmiller Lecture on evolutionary biology. And finally we must thank the outstanding contributions of all the participants - the real reason for having such a meeting.

The 2nd GLBIO conference will be held at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI May 15-17, 2012. The meeting is being chaired by Lonnie Welch and Jim Cavalcoli. The Program Chairs are Laura Brown, Elodie Ghedin and Margit Burmeister. We are looking forward to a long lasting tradition of collaboration and exchange of ideas on bioinformatics and computational biology in the Great Lakes region.

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