

## **ISCB Student Council Newsletter #5, January 2007**

Dear Student Council members and friends,

It's my pleasure to greet again in this fifth Student Council newsletter. The year 2006 has seen dramatic changes in the Student Council and its activities. It has been one of the most successful years in SC history and a turning point for all our future activities. We have successfully organized SCS2 at ISMB 2006 and reached a lot of students by communicating to the research communities worldwide. My term as the chair of the student council ends by Jan 20 and I shall become the SC representative for ISCB board of directors from Jan 21. Manual Corpas and Milana Frenkel-Morgenstern will become the chair and secretary respectively and Sarath Chandra Janga will continue as the vice chair of the Student Council.

The hot topic of this newsletter is the creation of two regional student groups in Singapore and India. We were surprised with the overwhelming response from the students and researchers in bio and medical informatics to establish these groups and cooperate with the student council. We have even re-organized our committees to accommodate our interests and to serve you better in future. This includes the merging of marketing and operations committees and the creation of two new committees. We are constantly communicating with similar groups in biology, medicine and bioinformatics to collaborate and share our expertise on student events and projects. By the end of this month, we are planning to submit a proposal to conduct Student Council Symposium 3 at ISMB 2007, Vienna. More details on all of the above are explained in this newsletter. Please send comments and questions about this newsletter to [newsletter@iscb.org](mailto:newsletter@iscb.org).

Best regards,  
Vijaya Parthiban.  
Chair, ISCB Student Council.  
SC Rep. to ISCB Board of Directors (from Jan 21)

### **News from the Student Council Leadership**

#### **1. Preview of Upcoming Activities**

##### **Student Council Plans for ISMB 2007**

Following the success of SCS1 and SCS2, we are planning to organize SCS3 in ISMB 2007. At present, we are writing the proposals for the same and submit it to the organizing committee of ISMB 2007. We will also plan for seminar sessions and keynotes from known scientists around the world. After the organization of international student symposiums and conferences, we have significantly improved the quality of the scientific content and organizing process of all the events conducted by the ISCB student council. These include communicating to multiple reviewers in various research topics, publishing the content online with open access, highly coordinated organizing processes,

student awards for best presentation/poster, etc. Since it's going to be one of the largest bioinformatics conferences in the world, we will make the SCS3 a turning point event in the history of the student council. Please send us your views and ideas to newsletter-AT-iscbsc.org!

[Contributed by Vijaya Parthiban]

## **2. Review of Past Activities**

### **Regional Student Groups in Singapore and India**

The Student Council has successfully established two affiliated Regional Student Groups (RSGs) in Singapore and India with the help of Prof. Tan Tin Wee, our SC leaders and interested students from the regional groups. Meetings were held during the Machine Learning Workshop in NUS (Singapore) and InCoB (New Delhi, India). We had an overwhelmingly positive response to all the meetings. Around 36 members have registered so far with the RSG-Singapore and around 98 members with the RSG-India. We have communicated the terms and conditions from the ISCB and SC to the RSG members. The student council has also presented its current offers to the newly formed RSGs. If you are interested in forming a student group in your region or like to get details about the existing RSGs, please send a mail to "rsg—AT—iscbsc.org" for more information.

[Contributed by Saraswathi Sundararajan, Vijaya Parthiban]

### **BioSysBio 2007**

The BioSysBio 2007 conference took place in Manchester at the beginning of January. With student council support this event saw 280 students, postdocs, faculty and industry join together for three days of workshops, talks, posters and networking. There were 7 sessions covering systems biology, bioinformatics and synthetic biology. Keynote speakers were Hans Westerhoff from Manchester/Free University Amsterdam, Alfonso Valencia from Madrid and Ron Weiss from Princeton. The conference also featured a 3 of the undergraduate teams in the 2006 International Genetically Engineered Machine competition (iGEM). The conference featured an industry partnership fair on the Thursday night and a conference meal on the Friday night (sponsored by Computational Chemistry Group) featuring entertainment from Manuel Corpas on Guitar and Isabel Rojas on the bongos. The feedback was positive and delegates can look forward to BioSysBio 2008, which will be held in Cambridge UK in the summer. 100 submitted abstracts will be publications in the new journal, BMC Systems Biology in February, including the winners of the Interface - Journal of the Royal Society - poster prize; Jena's Thorsten Lenser and the Young Bioinformatician of the Year, Joanna Sharman from Edinburgh. Video's of the talks can be found on-line at: [http://openwetware.org/wiki/BioSysBio:Conference\\_Programme\\_With\\_Videos](http://openwetware.org/wiki/BioSysBio:Conference_Programme_With_Videos)

[Contributed by John Cumbers]

## **Reorganizing Student Council Committees**

We have reorganized the existing sub committees and created new ones to serve the student community better. The previous committee infrastructure was created during the creation of student council in 2004. A lot of things have changed since, which include the newly established regional student groups and our on-going plans for students' education and careers in computational biology. We have merged the Marketing and Operations committee and established two new committees: RSG committee and Education/Careers committee. The RSG committee is responsible for coordinating the ISCB student council's affiliated regional student groups worldwide. The Education & Careers committee will server the SC members with resources for bioinformatics education/career, organize job fairs and help to move towards their next positions. This committee will also collaborate with organizations (e.g, BioSapiens network) and promote joint activities in future.

[Contributed by Vijaya Parthiban]

## **Collaboration with IEEE-Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society**

We approached the IEEE-Engineering in Medicine/Biology Society (EMBS) for having collaboration with ISCB student council. EMBS has several affiliated regional groups worldwide and the members of these groups will be able to cooperate with the members of the newly formed SC-RSGs. This is especially quite useful for RSG-Singapore/AMBIS members, since they are involved in bio and medical informatics. In the first phase, we have agreed for simple things like advertising each other's events in our mailing lists and sharing the protocols for organising events in conferences. In future, we will discuss with ISCB Board of Directors SC/RSG leaders and members and conduct joint activities. As we have discussed recently, this may include, but is not limited to organizing joint events in conferences, executing bio/medical informatics projects and linking regional student groups of SC and EMBS. In future, more joint ventures will be unveiled by these two groups.

[Contributed by Vijaya Parthiban]

## **SC Kick-off Meeting in Manchester**

SC members met each other during BioSysBio and discussed the plans and actions for the year 2007. The outcome of the discussion has been listed as following actions: (1) Foster Debate in SC conferences. (2) Organize with Nature Career in Academia. (3) Find new ways of advertising events. (4) Define tasks for SC positions. (5) Identify novel publishing formats and publish material submitted (6) Update website to show sponsors all we have don last year. (7) Use/promote forum. (8) Who are the members currently in the SC and their research interests? (9) How do we want to label SCS3? Solutions will be discussed in the next SC teleconference.

[Contributed by Manual Corpas, John Cumbers]

## **Content Management for RSGs**

The student council is planning to setup wiki-based (e.g., SC wiki hosted at openwetware.org) web portals for pilot-RSGs. The servers will be provided by Prof. Tan Tin Wee and SC and RSG members will create the necessary setup for the web portal. This portal will help us to maintain the details about members, leadership and act as a platform for the execution of bioinformatics projects and collaboration. If you are interested and want to get involved, please contact 'rsg—AT—iscbsc.org' for more information.

[Contributed by Saraswathi Sundararajan, Abhshek Pratap, Vijaya Parthiban]

## **3. Student Council Calendar**

### **Jan 2007**

- SCS3 proposal to ISMB 2007 organizers.
- ECCB 2006 student council events: Contact secretary—AT—iscbsc.org

### **Feb 2007**

- Progress update on RSGs to ISCB BoDs.
- European Life Science conference for Young Scientists (ELSYS) 25-27 Feb 2007  
[http://www.ebi.ac.uk/systems-srv/mp/file-exchange/Elsys\\_poster.pdf](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/systems-srv/mp/file-exchange/Elsys_poster.pdf)

### **July 2007**

- 21th - 25th: ISMB 2007 in Vienna, Austria.

## **4. Resources**

### **ISCB Student Council Website**

Check our website often for updates on our activities.

- <http://www.iscb.org>
- [http://www.iscb.org/education\\_careers/](http://www.iscb.org/education_careers/)

### **Regional Student Groups Committee**

- <http://www.iscb.org/rsg/>

### **Education & Careers Committee**

- [http://www.iscb.org/education\\_careers/](http://www.iscb.org/education_careers/)

### **BioSysBio Website**

- <http://www.biosysbio.com>

### **ISMB 2007 Website**

- <http://www.ismb07.org/>

### **OpenWetWare Wiki and Student Council Forum**

- <http://openwetware.org/wiki/ISCB-SC> (wiki)
- <http://www.iscb.org/scforum> (forum)

## **About the Newsletter**

### **Newsletter Editors**

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## **Subscription**

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2. Because are subscribed to [scfriends@iscbsc.org](mailto:scfriends@iscbsc.org). To unsubscribe please go to [this link](#) and follow the information provided.