ISCB Student Council

SYMPOSIUM 2007

21 July 2007 - Vienna, Austria

EVALUATION

ISCB Student Council
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY
Evaluation of the 3rd ISCB Student Council Symposium

On Saturday, July 21, immediately preceding ISMB/ECCB 2007 in Vienna (Austria) the ISCB Student Council held its 3rd annual Student Council Symposium. The symposium was targeted at young computational biology researchers who are keen to develop their research communication skills, want to meet like minded colleagues, network with accomplished scientists and learn about career opportunities. The majority of the attendees of the Student Council Symposium were graduate students, but there were post docs and undergraduate students in the audience as well.

The Student Council evaluated the success of the symposium by means of a questionnaire that was handed out to approximately 100 attendees, out of which 46 returned their questionnaire. The following evaluation is based on those 46 questionnaires. Attendees were asked to rate various aspects of the Student Council Symposium and its organization on a five step scale ranging from very negative to very positive.

Demographic information and feedback on general Student Council activities were collected as well.

The original questionnaire has been included on pages 16 and 17.

For the Organizing Committee
Nils Gehlenborg & Crina Samarghitean

September 19, 2007
Keynote Talks

What did you think of the level of the keynote talks?

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses for keynote talk difficulty.]

- Too easy: 2
- Too difficult: 19
- NA: 12
- Total: 33

How useful were the keynotes to your own research?

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses for keynote usefulness.]

- Not useful: 7
- Very useful: 24
- NA: 3
- Total: 34

What did you think about the length of the keynote talks?

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses for keynote length.]

- Too short: 1
- Too long: 31
- NA: 4
- Total: 36

Would you like to see fewer or more keynote talks?

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses for keynote talk frequency.]

- Fewer: 2
- More: 21
- NA: 12
- Total: 35

Were there enough opportunities to discuss topics further?

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses for discussion opportunities.]

- Too few: 8
- Plenty: 16
- NA: 7
- Total: 31

What did you think of the survey to select the speakers?

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses for survey evaluation.]

- Poor: 2
- Poor to good: 14
- Very good: 9
- NA: 13
- Total: 38
Do you think the survey was well-communicated?
Student Presentations

How was the scientific quality of the student presentations?

What did you think about the length of the selected talks?

What did you think of the level of the student presentations?

Would you like to see fewer or more selected talks?

How useful were the selected talks to your own research?

Were there enough opportunities to discuss topics further?
**Poster Session**

How was the scientific quality of the presented posters?

- Poor: 1
- Good: 30
- NA: 2

What about the duration of the poster session?

- Too short: 6
- Too long: 5
- NA: 2

Were the facilities to display posters sufficient?

- Poor: 1
- Very good: 12
- NA: 4

If you presented a poster: was there enough interest?

- None: 4
- Plenty: 12
- NA: 5
Quickfire Session

What is your general impression?

What about the duration of the Quickfire Session?

If you participated: was there enough feedback?

- Poor: 2, Good: 6, May: 13, NA: 12
- Too short: 3, Just right: 8, NA: 1
- None: 4, Plenty: 3, NA: 34
Panel Discussion

What do you think of the overall quality of the discussion?

Did you have enough time to ask questions?

Did you get any useful insight?

Was the topic “Future of Bioinformatics” of interest to you?
Overall

Were there enough opportunities for networking?

How was the overall organization?

Did you feel like you learned anything new today?

How was the quality of the venue and facilities?

How useful was the day overall to your research?

Did you enjoy the day?
3rd ISCB Student Council Symposium

How was the registration fee?

Would you recommend the symposium to colleagues?

Are you likely to visit another Student Council Symposium?
About Yourself
In this section multiple or no answers were possible.

What is your gender?

What is your current level of study?

Are you currently?
In which country do you work/study?

- Turkey: 1
- South Africa: 1
- Russia: 1
- France: 1
- Belgium: 1
- USA: 2
- UK: 2
- Italy: 2
- Estonia: 2
- Croatia: 2
- Portugal: 3
- The Netherlands: 4
- Austria: 4
- Germany: 15
- NA: 5

How did you hear first about the Student Council Symposium?

- ISMB website: 26
- Call for Participation: 3
- Forwarded email: 7
- SC website: 2
- SC newsletter: 1
- Other: 3

How did you finance the major part of your expenses and registration fees?

- Research grant: 26
- Travel fellowship: 4
- Myself: 4
- Other: 2

What aspect of the symposium is most important for you?

- Student talks: 20
- Keynotes: 13
- Poster: 6
- Career development: 3
- Panel discussion: 20
Student Council Activities

After today are you interested in becoming? (multiple answers possible)

- ISCB member: 9
- SC member: 13
- SC leader: 3
- RSG member: 6

Would you be interested in career related events organized by the Student Council?

- probably not: 2
- definitely: 3
- NA: 15

Do you think it is important to have activities targeted at students at large conferences?

- not really: 1
- definitely: 7
- NA: 26

Would you be interested in local events organized by the Student Council?

- probably not: 2
- definitely: 5
- NA: 13

3rd ISCB Student Council Symposium
Comments

“Good job! It’s a pity not more people could come!”

“Start later, end later, offer drinks, longer breaks.”

“The Student Council makes a very chaotic impression, which is not very encouraging.”

“Thanks to the organizers! Unfortunately there was not much to gain for my current main field of study apart from Anna Tramontano’s keynote, which did not contain new information, but served as a nice motivation. Why were so many posters missing at the poster session? No time for questions after talks, no key (note?) presenters attended poster session.”

“Microphone (for questions from the audience). Separate lunch (area) from tutorials.”

“Two things are of great importance (to me): Networking and an understanding of the impact we make to (sic!) the communities we are directly or indirectly involved with and somehow opening a line of communication with these other groups.”
It's very important for us to get your feedback about the Symposium.

Please state the (specialized) field you would consider yourself to be working in.

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How did you hear first about the Student Council Symposium?

- ISMB website
- Call for Participation
- Email forwarded by a colleague
- Student Council website
- Student Council newsletter
- Other

How did you finance the major part of your expenses and registration fees?

- Research grant
- Travel fellowship
- Myself
- Other

What aspect of the symposium is most important for you?

- Student talks
- Networking opportunities
- Keynotes
- Poster session
- Career development
- Panel discussion
- Other

Student Council Activities

(a) After today are you interested in becoming? (multiple answers possible)

- ISCB member
- ISCB Student Council member
- Part of Student Council leadership
- Involved in a Regional Student Group (RSG - see page 22 of the Program Booklet)

(b) Do you think it is important to have activities targeted at students at large conferences?

- Not really
- Definitely

(c) Would you be interested in career-related events organized by the Student Council?

- Probably not
- Definitely

(d) Would you be interested in local events organized by the Student Council?

- Probably not
- Definitely

Comments

(a) Please use the space below and to the right for any additional comments. Suggestions for improvements regarding future ISCB Student Council Symposia and suggestions for additional Student Council activities will be very much appreciated. Your feedback will help us to improve the next Student Council Symposium. To learn more about the ISCB Student Council please have a look at our website!

http://www.iscbsc.org

Thank you very much for your effort!