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Lab website: <http://cbb.big.ac.cn>**Statement of Intent for the Election of the ISB Executive Committee 2015**

Dear Members of the ISB 2015 Nomination Committee,

I am very enthusiastic to stand for election to the ISB Executive Committee. The following is the required information, including motivations & intended contributions, biographical sketch, and statement on conflict of interests.

I. Motivations & Intended Contributions

China is now a powerhouse in generating biological data, but there is very few project that aims to make the *big* data comprehensively organized and publicly accessible to the scientific community worldwide. As biocuration becomes increasingly critical in translating big data into big discovery, China has a huge amount of biological data available, which have yet to be fully curated; therefore, my motivations to stand for the election to the ISB Executive Committee include (1) to raise general awareness in China of the significant role of biocuration, (2) to promote biomedical data exchange between China and other countries to benefit the wider world of biomedical sciences, and (3) to enhance the significance of biocuration in transforming big data into big discovery. Accordingly, my intended contributions include encouraging and recruiting qualified scientists in China to the biocuration field, fostering and building collaborations with databases and users in China to achieve big data exchange and sharing at the global scale more broadly than ever, and ultimately advancing the goals of ISB.

II. Biographical Sketch

I am currently a Professor of Beijing Genomics Institute (BIG), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). I obtained my PhD degree in Bioinformatics from Institute of Computing Technology, CAS in 2007. Prior to joining BIG, I worked as Postdoctoral Associate at Yale University from 2007-2009 and then as Research Scientist at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology from 2009-2011. In September 2011, I was selected in the "100-Talent Program" of CAS. My research interests lie primarily in big data integration and computational molecular evolution.

Over the past few years, I have led multiple projects that dedicate to build biological databases by integrating various omics data and promoting curatorial activities among researchers from a wide range of fields with different levels of experience in China. Particularly, my group constructed two wiki-based databases, RiceWiki and LncRNAWiki, aiming to harness collective intelligence in community curation of rice genes and human long non-coding RNAs, respectively. In addition, we also developed *AuthorReward* (an extension to MediaWiki, that is able to quantify users' contribution and give explicit authorship) and proposed to provide a standard practice to reward community curation in wiki-based databases. Considering the huge population in China, community curation bears the potential to deal with big data curation and accordingly enhance the significance of biocuration in the advancement of scientific knowledge. Currently, my group is working on IC4R (Information Commons for Rice),

integrating various omics data of rice from multiple committed projects via web application programming interfaces.

The International Biocuration Conference (IBC) is an important event for biocurators and database developers to disseminate experiences and foster collaborations. The 8th IBC held in April 2015 was hosted for the first time by China. As one of organizing committee chairs, I was extensively involved in the conference organization, which has been led to its success, as testified by more than 270 participants from academia and industry gathered in Beijing. I also promoted dissemination of ISB as well as biocuration by participating in the Chinese translation of biocuration and the establishment of a sub-society for “*Big Biological Data and Biocuration*” officially affiliated under *Genetics Society of China* (one of most influential biological-related societies in China) in April 2015 during the 8th IBC.

Professional activities relevant to biocuration:

1. PI. Information Commons for Rice, <http://ic4r.org>
2. PI. Database Commons: a catalogue of biological databases, <http://databasecommons.org>
3. PI. RiceWiki: a wiki-based database for community curation of rice genes, an IC4R committed project, <http://ricewiki.big.ac.cn>
4. PI. LncRNAWiki: harnessing collective intelligence for community curation of human long non-coding RNAs, <http://lncrna.big.ac.cn>
5. PI. MethBank: a DNA methylome programming database, <http://dnamethylome.org>

III. Statement on Conflict of Interests

Here I am writing to state that, to my best knowledge, I have no affiliation or relationship that prevents me from performing duties as a member of the Executive Committee of the International Society for Biocuration, should I be elected.

Memberships and service to the scientific community:

1. Membership: *International Society for Biocuration (ISB)*, *Genetics Society of China*
2. Reviewer: *Bioinformatics*, *BMC Bioinformatics*, *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, *BMC Genomics*, *BMC Plant Biology*, *BMC Systems Biology*, *Briefings in Bioinformatics*, *Chinese Bulletin of Life Sciences*, *Current Bioinformatics*, *Database*, *Evolutionary Bioinformatics*, *Gene*, *Genome Biology*, *Genomics Proteomics & Bioinformatics*, *In Silico Biology*, *Integrative Zoology*, *Journal of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology*, *Journal of Molecular Evolution*, *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, *PLoS ONE*, *PLoS Pathogens*, *RNA*
3. Editorial position: *Biology Direct (Editorial Board Member; 2013—)*, *PLoS ONE (Academic Editor; 2012—)*, *Genomics, Proteomics & Bioinformatics (Associate Editor-in-Chief; 2012—)*, *Frontiers in Statistical Genetics and Methodology (Review Editor; 2011—)*

I understand that I must contact both the ISB and the Nomination Committee if a conflict exists or arises during my service.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

Zhang Zhang, PhD