

Newsletter of The International Society for Biocuration.



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Workshop “Beyond the PDF”

(Continued from Page 1) The workshop’s main outcome highlighted the need to **1)** hold a similar, more inclusive, event (e.g. including members of the NCBO group as well as more biocurators) either later this year or next, **2)** publish the conclusions of the workshop, and **3)** keep the "Beyond" group together, to maintain the momentum of joint activities and obtain funding. Details of the workshop and its outcomes can be found on the meeting website and in Anita de Waard's thoughtful summary at:

 <https://sites.google.com/site/beyondthepdf/home>

 <http://elsevierlabs.wordpress.com/2011/01/25/back-from-beyond/>

NETTAB2010 “Biological Wikis”

November 29 - December 1, 2010. Naples. Organized by Angelo Facchiano and Paolo Romano. This annual, Italian meeting focused on the use of Wiki technology and databases in Biology [1, 2]. This reflects the growing importance of wikis in science, especially in biology [3,4]. The rapid growth of Wiki-based databases represents an important direction for the Biocuration community. Wiki solutions set a low barrier of entry for community annotation. The consensus of the meeting suggests that some of the major challenges for the field are the social engineering necessary to collect input from the community, and the need to keep the data in Wikis structured. Semantic wikis offer successful guidance to maintain the kind of structured data that database curators have come to know and love. Participants included wiki practitioners, educators, biocurators, and students, who shared ideas and discussed challenges as well showcased the latest developments in the field. Highlights included the Transcription Factor Encyclopedia by Wyeth Wasserman [5], the protein structure annotation system TOPSAN by Adam Godzik [6], and information on the biological content of Wikipedia and how to get involved by Alex Bateman [7-8]. One particularly interesting study from Andrew Su showed that Wikipedia contains many literature references that could be linked to gene ontology terms, suggesting that even relatively unstructured Wikis may become a source of accurate information for our community. The final panel discussion covered, among other topics, new models of scientific recognition for the *Wikipedian*-generation. An open-access mailing list was created to facilitate active discussion (biowiki-l@googlegroups.com). **All interested parties are invited to join!** [1] <http://www.nettab.org/>. [2] <http://www.nettab.org/2010/>. [3] <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18769412>. [4] <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21085149>. [5] <http://www.cisreg.ca/cgi-bin/tfe/home.pl>. [6] <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20716366>. [7] <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21150981>. [8] <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20941386>

Please email us at intsocbio@gmail.com with announcements you'd like to share with other ISB members. Comments and suggestions are encouraged!

Kind regards,
The ISB Executive Committee