Calling All Experts!

As information stewards, all biocurators know how much important information is left out or incorrectly represented in the scientific literature. We also know it is much harder to correct this literature after publication, even if a curator can get the proper information from the author for their particular database or needs. We need your help to address this critical issue - not only to aid reproducibility but also to save additional curation efforts post-publication.

Towards this end, we have been exploring ideas with publishers, editors, and funding agencies on how to best incorporate biocuration expertise into the review process for journal articles, data submissions, and grant proposals. Please let us know if you are willing to be contacted as a reviewer, and if so, please indicate one or more of the following areas that better describe your expertise. Please feel free to add any additional expertise not represented on this list. Everyone in the ISB will be assumed to have biocuration and data stewardship expertise.

- Ontologies
- Semantic web and data linking
- Database Interoperability
- Sequence curation and nomenclature
- Phenotyping
- Comparative genomics
- Text Mining and Natural Language Processing
- Metadata analysis and standardization
- Image analysis
- Reproducibility

Email us at intsocbio@gmail.com with the subject line "Share my expertise", stating that you agree with ISB sharing your contact information and area of expertise with publishers, editors, and funding agencies. Only those who send positive responses will be included. If you do not wish for ISB to share your information in this context, no action is required.

Thank you!
ABSTRACTS, PAPERS, AND WORKSHOPS!

Abstracts:
The ISB is pleased to announce that abstracts are now being accepted for the Biocuration 2015 conference in Beijing, China. Details about abstract submission can be found at http://biocuration2015.tilsi.org/paper-abstract-submission
Abstract submission deadline: 1st February, 2015.

Very important:
The submission deadline for papers is 15th November, 2014. For more information about the journal Database and for instructions to authors, please visit http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/database/for_authors/general.html

Papers:
ISB strongly encourages our membership to submit full papers to Database: The Journal of Biological Databases and Curation. The scope of the submissions should relate to curation, annotation, and integration of biomedical data and databases. All accepted papers will be compiled in Database's Biocuration Virtual Issue. Previous versions of the Biocuration Virtual Issue are available at http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/database/biocuration_virtual_issue.html
The authors of the accepted papers will also be given an opportunity to give an oral presentation at Biocuration 2015.

Workshops:
ISB members interested in hosting a workshop at the Biocuration 2015 conference are encouraged to contact us with details of the proposed workshop at intsocbio@gmail.com.
Please send us an email with the subject line "Workshop for Biocuration 2015".

We look forward to hearing from you!
The election of the new ISB Executive Committee (EC) took place earlier this month. Please join us in giving a warm Welcome to Sylvain Poux to the Executive Committee and congratulating J. Michael Cherry, Monica Munoz-Torres, and Claire O'Donovan on their re-election. The official handover date for the new EC is 1st November 2014.

The Executive Committee is also composed by Alex Bateman (Chair), Marc Robinson-Rechavi (Treasurer), Teresa Attwood, Melissa Haendel, and Jennifer Harrow.

After six years of service to the Biocuration community as member of the ISB Executive Committee, we bid farewell to Dr. Pascale Gaudet. We are thankful beyond words for her contributions and hard work for the improvement of the International Society for Biocuration since its inception.

We thank all the candidates for their time and effort in running for election, and of course, all the ISB members who voted. Your participation in the society’s activities is greatly appreciated. We would like to also thank this year’s volunteer Nominating Committee: Betina Porcel (CEA, IG, Genoscope, France), Jodi Hirschman (Princeton University, United States of America), Marc Gillespie (St. John’s University, United States of America), Peter McQuilton (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom), and Tomás Di Domenico (University of Padova, Italy).
BioCreative invites task and panel proposal submissions in preparation for the 2015 workshop, to be held September 2015 in Seville, Spain.

BioCreative challenges consist of a community-wide effort to evaluate text mining and information extraction systems applied to the biological domain. The main emphasis is on the comparison of methods and the community assessment of scientific progress, rather than on the purely competitive aspects. In the past ten years BioCreative challenges have spanned a number of tasks particularly important to biocuration for the effective extraction of biologically relevant information from the literature.

In order to better serve the community, we are soliciting proposals from the larger community for new BioCreative Tasks and Panel Sessions. A BioCreative task proposal would outline a ready to run text mining task whose results should be reported in the BioCreative V workshop. For detailed information visit:  
http://www.biocreative.org/events/biocreative-v/biocreative-call-task-proposal/#task

A BioCreative panel proposal would highlight an interesting research topic that might result in useful applications for end-users from the biomedical and bioinformatics domain, and could potentially translate to a task in future BioCreative challenges. For detailed information visit:
http://www.biocreative.org/events/biocreative-v/biocreative-call-task-proposal/#panel

Notification of acceptance/rejection: November 15, 2014.
For complete information please go to:
http://www.biocreative.org/events/biocreative-v/biocreative-call-task-proposal/

Upcoming Conferences
5th International Conference on Biomedical Ontologies (ICBO 2014)
http://icbo14.com/
Papers, posters, workshops, tutorials, and software demonstrations are invited on a broad range of topics covering ontology development and use in the healthcare and life sciences areas. These include, but are not limited to, ontology engineering and reuse, ontologies promoting data integration, fluidity and reuse, data visualization, pathway analysis, and especially knowledge discovery.
When: Oct 6-9, 2014
Where: Houston, Texas, USA

2014 i2b2/UTHealth Shared-Tasks and Workshop on Challenges in Natural Language Processing for Clinical Data
https://www.i2b2.org/NLP/
When: November 14, 2014
Where: State University of New York at Albany, USA

Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing
The 2013 meeting will be a two day SIG, with July 12th being the “Phenotype Day” which will be a joint session with the Bio-Link SIG focused on the systematic
Micro-Grants for Regional ISB Meetings! $500 micro-grants now available.

ISB Micro-Grants are meant to sponsor local/regional short meetings of ISB members to synergize their work efforts, to generate a space to share your work, and to further help to advance the goals of the society.

Micro-Grants are awarded in the amount of (CHF) $500 per group, and applications may be submitted at any time (i.e. no deadlines). If awarded, the group will write a 300-word report informing the ISB membership about the outcomes of the meeting. This report must be sent to intsocbio@gmail.com no later than 30 days after the end of the meeting. The report will be also posted on the ISB Newsletter.

To apply, members fill out and sign a short form with a brief description of the purpose of the meeting, its target audience and possible affiliations, including how the meeting will benefit the members of the ISB community. To request and submit the short form, please contact us at intsocbio@gmail.com with the subject line ‘ISB Micro-Grants Application’.

Biocuration Job Opportunities


Research Associate/Assistant at the Knowledge Media Institute at The Open University, deadline for applications is: October 23rd. Details can be found at: [http://kmi.open.ac.uk/jobs/](http://kmi.open.ac.uk/jobs/)  [Post 10673]  Posted September 22, 2014.


Upcoming Conferences (Continued)

FORCE2015 Conference
The FORCE2015 Research Communication and e-Scholarship Conference brings together scholars, librarians, archivists, information scientists, publishers, and research funders in a lively forum – to broaden awareness of current efforts across disciplines, but also to define the future through discussions, challenge projects, demonstrations, and the seeding of new partnerships and collaborations.

When: 12 - 13 January, 2015
Where: University of Oxford, UK.

FORCE2015 Conference
Executive Committee Meetings
The ISB Executive Committee meets monthly. Minutes from the meetings are posted on the ISB website http://www.biocurator.org/executive_committee_minutes.html

ISB Newsletter Archive
Previous issues of this Newsletter can be found on the ISB website at http://biocurator.org/newsletter.shtml
M. Munoz-Torres edits the ISB Newsletter.

Share your ideas with members of ISB!
Prepare a news article written to biocurators as the audience. In 260 words or less spread the word about new tools in your site, or tools for distribution to the wider community. Broadcast announcements and advances from your team to all the members of ISB by sending an email to intsocbio@gmail.com. Submission deadline for the June Newsletter is Friday, October 31st at midnight (UTC).

Kind regards,
The ISB Executive Committee.