

Preface

This volume comprises the formal proceedings of the Third International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB-95), the first to be convened in Europe and held at Robinson College, Cambridge, UK from July 16 to 19, 1995. The previous two meetings achieved considerable success in bringing together computer scientists and molecular biologists from many countries and it is the aim of the Third Conference to be equally successful.

The organizing committee can report that the level of interest raised by the First and Second Conferences has been sustained and increased. A distinguished program committee, comprising a cross-section of biologists and computer scientists, who are actively engaged in addressing problems in molecular biology using advanced computational methods, has again been assembled from 8 different countries. In order to reflect the European location of ISMB-95 and the increasing internationalization of the ISMB research community the program committee was enlarged to 37 members. The call for papers produced 88 submissions which were of a high standard and which reflected the international nature of the Conference, in that submissions were received from North America, Europe, Asia and Australasia. Particularly gratifying was the number of submissions received from scientists working in the former Soviet Union. As in previous years, all papers were rigorously reviewed by three members of the program committee moderated by a member of the organizing committee, and a program for the Conference was drawn up on the basis of their recommendations.

Once again ISMB-95 was able to offer participants a high standard of tutorial presentations. From a total of 23 proposals, 8 tutorials were selected, at both introductory and advanced levels, and presented by experienced instructors, many of whom were also program committee members. The tutorial topics (and tutors) were:

- Molecular Biology for the Computer Scientist (Shankar Subramaniam)
- Intelligent Systems for the Molecular Biologist (Doug Brutlag)
- Protein Structure Prediction (Sean O'Donoghue and Burkhard Rost),
- Machine Learning Approaches to Molecular Biology (Pierre Baldi),
- Linguistics of Biosequences (David Searls)
- Protein Evolution (Bill Pearson)
- Computational Methods for Molecular Docking (Gerhard Klebe and Thomas Lengauer)
- Statistical Foundations of Multiple Sequence Alignment and Structure Prediction (Chip Lawrence).

Keynote addresses were given by 3 eminent speakers: Professor Janet Thornton from University College, London, Professor John Sulston from the Sanger Centre, Cambridge, UK and Professor Doug Brutlag from Stanford University, USA.

In order to make the conference accessible to younger scientists and scientists from under-represented minority groups, the organizing committee successfully applied for funding from various agencies in Europe and North America and would like to thank the following for their support: the Commission of the European Community (Human Capital and Mobility program), National Institutes of Health (National Library of Medicine and National Center for Human Genome Research), the US Department of Energy and National Science Foundation. Reflecting the increasing interest from commercial suppliers and users of Bioinformatics software corporate sponsors including Glaxo Wellcome and Oxford Molecular Group PLC also provided sponsorship. The American Association for Artificial Intelligence provided support for the publication of these *Proceedings*. Thanks must also go to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund who as the host organization provided general administrative and financial support for ISMB-95.

In fulfillment of the hopes of the first conference that it would inaugurate a continuing series of meetings, we have already received two offers from groups wishing to host the ISMB-96 meeting in the United States of America in 1996 and expressions of interest from two groups who would like to host ISMB-97.

The planning and organization of a conference such as ISMB-95 with the commitment to publishing a high quality refereed proceedings in a short time frame relies extensively on the enthusiasm and commitment of the program committee. The organizing committee wishes to formally express their gratitude to all the members of the program committee, but especially to Rick Lathrop whose ex-

perience and enthusiasm contributed greatly to the success of ISMB-95.

In conclusion the organizing committee would like to thank at ICRF, Evelyn Boyle for secretarial support, Jack Shirazi for maintaining our World Wide Web resource and e-mail lists and Mike Mitchell for help with the conference administration databases. At Stanford thanks are due to Kevin Lauderdale for administrative support and to Mike Hamilton at AAAI press for again producing a proceedings of excellent quality.

—*Christopher Rawlings, Dominic Clark,
Russ Altman, Lawrence Hunter, Thomas Lengauer
and Shoshana Wodak*
ISMB-95 Organizing Committee