Editorial — The 25th International Conference on Genome Informatics (GIW/ISCB-ASIA 2014)

Published 29 October 2014

The International Conference on Genome Informatics, known as “GIW”, is one of the longest running annual conferences in bioinformatics or computational biology. GIW has played an important role in the development of the bioinformatics community in the Asia-Pacific region since its establishment in 1990. The first GIW was held as a Japanese workshop (called the Genome Informatics Workshop) in Tokyo, Japan in 1990. It has been held annually since then, switching from a domestic conference to an international one in 1993 and updating its official name to the current “International Conference on Genome Informatics” in 2001. GIW was held in Japan (Tokyo or Yokohama) until 2006, but since then GIW has been held in various locations in the Asia-Pacific region. The 18th GIW was held in Singapore in 2007. In the following years, GIW was held in Gold Coast, Australia (2008); Yokohama, Japan (2009), Hangzhou, China (2010); Busan, Korea (2011); Tainan, Taiwan (2012); and again in Singapore in 2013. With its long history and track record in attracting state-of-the-art bioinformatics research in general, and especially algorithmic work, GIW is arguably not only the top bioinformatics conference in the Asia-Pacific region, but also one of the most important worldwide. Now solidly established as an international conference, GIW will be revisiting its birthplace, Tokyo, for 2014 and 2015.

For GIW, 2014 is an exceptionally exciting year, being both the 25th anniversary of this conference and the first time it will be held jointly with the International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB), as GIW/ISCB-Asia 2014. The conference will be held from December 15th to 17th, 2014 at Plaza Heisei, Tokyo International Exchange Center in the Tokyo waterfront area.

This year we received 86 high-quality submissions from various fields of bioinformatics and countries. We selected 35 presentations at the conference and among them selected 9 for publication in this JBCB special issue. We believe that the selected publications should be very enjoyable to many readers. In the style of ISCB-Asia, we will also have a Highlights track this year. We received 18 submissions for this track, of which we selected 9 for presentation. Moreover, we are fortunate to have 6 leading researchers as invited speakers at the conference: Professor Janet

Kelso, Professor Alfonso Valencia, Professor Thomas Lengauer, Professor Shinya Kuroda, Professor Sang-Yup Lee, and Dr. Masami Yokota Hirai.

We would like to thank all the authors for submitting high-quality papers, reviewers for their tremendous efforts, and all the sponsors for generous financial support. We also appreciate support from ISCB and the Japanese Society for Bioinformatics (JSBi). Last but not least, we are especially grateful to JBCB for supporting our conference with this special issue.

Guest Editors

Tetsuo Shibuya

*Human Genome Center, The Institute of Medical Science,
The University of Tokyo*

Chuan Yi Tang

*Computational Systems Biology and Bio-Medicine Laboratory,
Department of Computer Science,
National Tsing Hua University*

Paul Horton

*Computational Biology Research Center,
Advanced Industrial Science and Technology*

Kiyoshi Asai

*Department of Computational Biology,
Graduate School of Frontier Sciences,
The University of Tokyo*