

PREFACE

It has been a great honor to have worked with the various program committees, keynote speakers and contributors of the Computational Systems Bioinformatics conference since its begin in 2002. The initial goal was to make engineers , mathematicians and computer scientists aware of the tremendous challenges presented by the evolving field of biology. At the same time biologists had to become more aware of how these other disciplines could help structure and solve biological problems. One example, well known to bioinformaticians is the use of hidden Markov models to simulate behavior of biological systems.

In 2001, I proposed that the IEEE Computer Society host the first CSB conference. As Bioinformatics became a discipline in its own right we created the independent Life Sciences Society, LSS, which has hosted CSB for the last four years.

Now we are entering a new phase for science graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. In a recent survey of more than a 1000 scientists at the University of California San Francisco a broad range of career aspirations such as public policy, government, precollege education, industry and even law was noted by more than 50% of the scientists surveyed. To quote Bruce Alberts “We must promote the movement of scientists into many occupations and environments if our end goal is to effectively apply science and its values to solving global problems”.

CSB will encourage presentations that apply science to global problems. Thank you for your participation in CSB and LSS and enjoy the conference.

Vicky Markstein.
CSB2009 General Chair