

Deadline: 9th April 2018

Instructions to authors

Manuscripts to be published in the EuPA news must be short (no more than four A4 pages, 2 cm margin, 1,5 space between lines in the original submission, that can be no more than two pages in the printed version of the bulletin). Use Times New Roman 12 pt font, except for the title (14 pt, bold type). The authors, affiliation and e-mail will be located at the end. A photograph of the contributor(s) will be included.

EuBIC NEWS – UPDATE ON THE EUROPEAN BIOINFORMATICS COMMUNITY (EuBIC) INITIATIVE

The **European Bioinformatics Community (EuBIC)** initiative, supported by EuPA, is an open community of both users and experts in bioinformatics with a special interest for computational mass spectrometry (MS). We provide targeted training and support for the entire community (students, researchers, companies), defining guidelines for bioinformatics solutions, development and (re)usage of tools with coordination of software implementation efforts. Our ultimate goal is to make the field of bioinformatics more accessible in the proteomics and mass spectrometry community. To achieve this, we collaboratively (1) organize bioinformatics hubs and educational workshops, (2) develop and maintain online resources that now include a job fair and a page dedicated to grants, and (3) organize international researchers/developers gatherings such as our EuBIC Winter School / developer's meetings.

1- Bioinformatics Hubs

Bioinformatics hubs provide a new platform in conferences where participants and experts come together to freely, openly, and informally exchange ideas. We organize Bioinformatics hubs at numerous conferences including EuPA, HUPO and ASMS. It allows to bring the community together, arrange discussions around specific topics and provide educational activities. The setup varies from one conference to the other depending on the organizers support. We continuously

work on identifying the attendants' needs and improve the organization of the hubs. Importantly, it has become clear that having a reserved room and an advertised program is essential for the success of the hubs. In 2017, we participated to the HUPO bioinformatics hub and we co-organized the bioinformatics hub at the ASMS in Indianapolis, Indiana (github.com/CompMS/Overview/wiki/ASMS-2017). Each day had a certain topic assigned to, where people could meet and ask the experts. In 2018, we will organize/co-organise the bioinformatics hub at the EUPA and the ASMS meetings.

2- Educational Workshops

Together with the EuPA Young Proteomics Investigators Club (YPIC - eupa.org/ypic) and the HUPO Early Career Researcher Initiative (hupo.org/early-career-researcher-ecr-initiative), EuBIC organized the Mentoring Day that took place in Dublin in September before the HUPO meeting (hupo2017.ie). Very prominent speakers lectured about their vision with respect to time management, manuscript writing, grant writing, industrial collaborations / job opportunity, giving and receiving feedback, and work-life balance. At the annual scientific meeting “Clinical Proteomics. Postgenome Medicine” in Moscow (clinprot2017.org), a half day workshop was held by two members of the EuBIC community. This concerned the topics of reusable workflows for reproducible analyses as well as advanced statistical and multivariate data analysis. In March, a half day hands-on workshop was hosted by EuBIC members at EMSC 2018 (emsc2018.sciencesconf.org). They introduced their current state-of-the-art proteomics tools. We are currently organizing a one-day workshop for the EuPA 2018 meeting that will take place in Santiago de Compostela (eupa2018.com).

3- Proteomics-academy website

In partnership with the EuPA Educational Committee (EC), the Proteomics Academy web resource (proteomics-academy.org) has become the central communication portal for the EuBIC and EC community's activities and services. Together with YPIC we developed a new job portal for proteomics / bioinformatics jobs which was launched during HUPO 2017. It provides research groups the possibility to post open positions, as well as researchers seeking jobs the

opportunity to post their CV and gain visibility to future employers. Furthermore, with over 30 covered topics, the Proteomics Academy Q&A board has become an agile resource for proteomics bioinformatics knowledge.

4- EuBIC Winter School

Besides participating to the major MS-related congresses, we organize annual meetings dedicated to computational MS. These alternate between winter schools and smaller - more hands on - developer's meetings. The first EuBIC Winter School took place in Semmering (Austria), and has been a great success, with more than 110 attendants from 17 different countries (Journal of Proteomics (PMID:28385664)). In January 2018 we organized the inaugural EuBIC developer's meeting in Ghent, Belgium (uahost.uantwerpen.be/eubic18/). It kicked off with an interactive keynote session during which several leading scientists in the field of MS proteomics illustrated outstanding issues in MS-based data analysis, and how bioinformatics plays a crucial role in solving these issues. The main focus of this meeting remained hackathon-style sessions during which the attendees split up into small groups to actively develop bioinformatics applications. The topics for the hackathon sessions were proposed by the community during an open review process and focused on three major topics: *(i)* quality control; *(ii)* workflows, protocols, and guidelines, and *(iii)* quantification. Despite the limited duration of the developer's meeting some very promising results were already achieved, which have sparked continuing international collaborations. A manuscript on the 2018 EuBIC developer's meeting in Ghent is in preparation. We are currently planning the next EuBIC Winter School that will be held in January 2019, in Zakopane, Poland. More information on this event will be announced soon.



Figure 1: Group picture of the EuBIC members at the developer's meeting 2018.

In conclusion, the EuBIC initiative has yielded substantial progress thanks to active and motivated members. We hope that the community at large will continue joining the efforts and participate in the activities organized. We would like to encourage researchers with interest in computational proteomics and mass spectrometry to join us. This can be done by subscription to our mailing list (groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/eupa-bioinfo) where larger tasks are discussed and joining our Slack platform (by contacting one of the EuBIC members) if you want to participate in our scientific discussions and the organization of the events summarized above. In summary, everyone interested in bioinformatics is welcome to join us, and can get an overview of activities on proteomics-academy.org. By joining us, you will be part of an active group with a wide range of activities.

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