First Call for Participation

EUROLAN-2017 – Summer School on Biomedical Text Processing
10 – 17 September 2017, Constanța, Romania
http://eurolan.info.uaic.ro/2017/

The 13th in the series of EUROLAN Schools

Biomedical Text Mining (BioNLP) applies natural language processing (NLP) techniques to identify and extract information from scientific publications in biology, medicine, and chemistry, in order to discover novel knowledge that can contribute to biomedical research. The growth of BioNLP over the past fifteen years is due in large part to the availability of web-based publication databases such as PubMed and Web of Science coupled with increasing access to anonymized electronic medical/health records. The large size of the biomedical literature and its rapid growth in recent years make literature search and information access a demanding task. Health-care professionals in the clinical domain face a similar problem of information explosion when dealing with the ever-increasing body of available medical/health records in electronic form. Beyond merely identifying texts relevant to a particular interest, BioNLP applies sophisticated NLP information extraction (IE) technologies (e.g., event extraction or entity-relation extraction) to identify and analyze text segments to produce information about, or even models, of phenomena such as drug or protein interactions, gene relations, temporal relations in clinical records, biological processes, etc. Overall, the application of automatic NLP techniques to unstructured text in scientific literature and medical records enables life scientists to both find and exploit this data without the significant effort of manual searching and researching.

EUROLAN-2017 has engaged several well-known researchers in the fields of BioNLP and NLP to provide a comprehensive overview of language processing models and techniques applicable to the biomedical domain, ranging from an introduction to fundamental NLP technologies to the study of use cases and exploitation of available tools and frameworks that support BioNLP. Each tutorial is accompanied by one or two hands-on sessions, in which participants will use text mining tools to explore and exploit several varieties of biomedical language resources, including cloud-based repositories of scientific publications, annotated biomedical corpora, databases and ontologies of biomedical terms, etc. The topics covered in the tutorials and hands-on sessions include:
- mining biomedical literature
- entity identification and normalization
- conceptual graphs extracted from medical texts
- annotation of semantic content, with applications in medicine and biology
- medical search engines
- deep learning for bioinformatics
- biomedical question/answering
- clinical data repositories
- big data and cloud computing in relation with biomedical textual data
- clinical relationships
- medical topic modeling
- medical language systems
- clinical text analysis
- text summarization in the biomedical domain
- event-based text mining for biology and related fields
- event extraction in medical texts

Invited Lecturers

- Mihaela Breabăn – "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi (Romania)
- Kevin Cohen – University of Colorado School of Medicine (USA) and LIMSI, CNRS, Université Paris-Saclay, Orsay (France)
- Noa Patricia Cruz Diaz – Virgen del Rocio University Hospital (Spain)
- Eric Gaussier – University Grenoble Alps (France)
- Nancy Ide – Vassar College (USA)
- Pierre Zweigenbaum – LIMSI, CNRS, Université Paris-Saclay, Orsay (France)

Venue

EUROLAN-2017 is hosted by the "Ovidius" University of Constanța, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science and Faculty of Medicine in Constanța, Romania.

The city of Constanța is the largest port on the Black Sea, in the Romanian province of Dobruja (known during the Roman Empire as Scythia Minor). The city itself was historically known as the Roman metropolis Tomis. Founded in 600 BC, Constanța is the oldest continuously inhabited city in Romania.

In AD 8, the Latin poet Publius Ovidius Naso (known as Ovid in the English-speaking world) was banished to Tomis by the emperor Augustus and spent the remainder of his life there. This year, the city is celebrating the 2000th anniversary of the poet's death. A statue of Ovid stands in the Ovid Square (Piața Ovidiu) of Constanța in front of the Old Town History Museum. One of the most famous attractions in Constanța is the Edificiul Roman cu Mozaic, comprising more than 850 m^2 of colorful Roman mosaics from the end of the 4th century AD.

Programme

Three or four tutorial and hands-on sessions will be scheduled each day, lasting 1.5 hours each. The balance of tutorials and hands-on session varies from topic to topic. The final schedule will be available on the School's website soon.

The School will commence on Sunday evening, September 10, with the registration of participants and an welcome reception. Evenings provide the occasion to go out in the city, enjoy discussions with, and make friends. A half-day excursion will be organized in the surroundings, possibly cruising to the island in the middle of the lake in front of Mamaia, an exquisite summer resort near Constanța.

Satellite event

MEDA-2017 – an workshop on Curative Power of MEdical DAta will take place during the EUROLAN Summer School. The intention of the workshop is to allow participants to present work related to biomedical data in front of practitioners, researchers, and scholars, to share with their colleagues in the School examples, interesting use cases, processing models, and to discuss ways of analysis of biomedical data. The participation with a paper in the satellite event encumbers a reduction of the registration fee for EUROLAN-2017. A MEDA-2017 call for participation is issued simultaneously with this call.

Accommodation

Low-cost accommodation for EUROLAN students is available in the University's hostel (shared double rooms). Alternatively, participants may opt for a number of hotels in the city of Constanța or Mamaia.

Registration and fee

Before 4 August: 400 EUR
5 August and later: 450 EUR

These are fees applicable only to students; for other types of participants, please see
http://eurolan.info.uaic.ro/2017/information.html.

Important Dates

- First call and pre-registration open: May 3, 2017
- Registration open: May 26, 2017
- Last day for early registration: August 4, 2017
- Last day for late registration: August 31, 2017
- EUROLAN School: September 10-17, 2017

Program Committee

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Nancy Ide – Vassar College (USA)
Dan Tufiș – Romanian Academy (Romania)

Local Organizing Committee

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Organizers

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- "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University in Iași, with the Faculty of Computer Science
- "Ovidius" University in Constanța, with the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer
Science and the Faculty of Medicine
- Vassar College
- Academy of Technical Sciences of Romania