11th Annual Bioinformatics Open Source Conference (BOSC) 2010

i. SIG Meeting Overview (description aprox. 250 words)

The Bioinformatics Open Source Conference (BOSC) is sponsored by the Open Bioinformatics Foundation (O|B|F), a non-profit group dedicated to promoting the practice and philosophy of Open Source software development within the biological research community. To be considered for acceptance, software systems representing the central topic in a presentation submitted to BOSC must be licensed with a recognized Open Source License, and be freely available for download in source code form. Many open source bioinformatics packages are widely used by the research community across many application areas and form a cornerstone in enabling research in the genomic and post-genomic era. Open source bioinformatics software has facilitated rapid innovation, dissemination, and wide adoption of new computational methods, reusable software components, and standards. We have a number of exciting sessions planned for BOSC 2010:

- OpenBio SolutionChallenge: Bioinformatics library providers will compete to solve a shared biological problem demonstrating the utility of their toolkit alongside other developers. This will provide a fun, tutorial-style overview of the Bio* projects. Conference attendees will vote on their favorite solution.
- Approaches to analyzing high-throughput 'omics data: presentation of projects that use the MapReduce framework either for parallelized analysis of possibly terabyte size data sets from next-gen sequencing and mass spec proteomics or parallelization of bioinformatics algorithms in general.
- Cloud-based approaches to improving software and data accessibility: the emergence of cloud computing has made highly scalable cluster computing available to computational biologists. Services such as the Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud combined with publicly available datasets promise to lower the overhead to participate in large scale data analyses. Talks will focus around how the community can build up resources and datasets for cloud infrastructure, as well as the sharing of insights, and the contribution of implemented workflows.
- The Semantic Web in open source bioinformatics: emerging Semantic Web technologies promise to improve data interoperability and accessibility. Session talks will be from researchers using RDF and related technologies in their research and data analyses, with a special focus on documenting how these tools can contribute to open data access.
- Open Source Software: a session for open source software that does not fit neatly into the above categories.

The abstract deadline for these sessions is April 15, 2010. Submit abstracts to http://events.open-bio.org/BOSC2010/

In addition, there will be a two-day CodeFest preceding BOSC this year, we are offering three student travel fellowships, and we will be publishing the first-ever BOSC Proceedings in BMC Bioinformatics. See our web site at http://www.open-bio.org/wiki/BOSC_2010 for details.

ii. Coordinator's name(s), affiliation and contact email (to serve as the contact regarding questions, etc)

    Kam D. Dahlquist, PhD
    Associate Professor
    Department of Biology
    Loyola Marymount University
    kdahlquist@lmu.edu

iii. SIG URL coordinates

    http://www.open-bio.org/wiki/BOSC_2010

2. Please confirm by Friday, February 26, 2010 any special requirements you might have for your SIG meeting in order to assist in planning for the budget:

a) Poster Boards - how many posters expected and when poster presentations would occur

b) Will your SIG hold a delegate dinner - (details, program format, etc.)? If yes, will it be funded by delegates with an additional fee during registration or will it be sponsored by an external organization?

    no

c) Other - please provide any details as to other activities that you may be planning.

    It is essential that wireless internet access be provided in our meeting room with enough bandwidth to accommodate all of our delegates who wish to be online. Our SIG is highly interactive with delegates exchanging ideas and code via e-mail and the web. We also need access to electrical outlets for charging delegate laptops.

3. During the 2009 SIG coordinators meeting there was discussion around the need for printed program books. I would like your feedback on the following suggestion:

a) A printed schedule (no abstracts) provided to all registered SIGs attendees

    It is essential to have a correct, printed schedule. A delegate should not have to be online to figure out which talks are going on in which rooms. It would also be useful to print out the schedule for each room and post it on the door on the day of the conference. I hope that each SIG would be given at least a couple pages in the program booklet besides the actual schedule to put in some general information about the SIG, such as a welcome letter thanking sponsors, and information about the keynote speakers, for example. This could be limited to 2 or three pages besides the schedule.

b) All SIG materials (PDF format) would be provided on a USB to registered SIGs attendees

This would be acceptable, but choice c, below, is preferable.

c) SIG participants would be notified prior to the conference that abstracts are available on the SIG website and on the USB they will receive at the conference. Should they want printed abstracts copies they would be required to print on their from the website.

This is the best option so that people could print them ahead of time if they wanted.

d) Would you be concerned if the SIG materials, if provided electronically, would be provided on the USB given to all ISMB attendees (including those not attending SIGs)?

No concerns, since we are already putting our abstracts on the web, they are public. Having the abstracts available to all ISMB attendees could have a benefit to draw interest in SIGs from ISMB attendees for the following year.