

PACIFIC SYMPOSIUM ON BIOCOMPUTING 2020

2020 marks the 25th Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing (PSB), and this year's meeting is again full of outstanding new results in cutting edge research areas. Our conference remains vibrant after a quarter century because we depend on the research community to identify emerging areas in biomedical computation. Topics span the full range of biomedicine, from genomics through proteins to clinical care. The PSB community continues to innovate in the application of AI, machine learning and pattern recognition to critical problems in biology and medicine. Just as importantly, the PSB peer review community insists on a realistic understanding of the capabilities of emerging technologies. It is our duty to continue applying appropriate pressure on ourselves to test the real-world utility of these techniques, figure out how to optimize their use for problems in biology and medicine, and ensure that we contribute to a scholarly literature that realistically portrays the power and the limitations of emerging technologies. Our focus on emerging scientific questions and methodologies is a clear strength of the conference, and one that ensures the meeting remains relevant as the technology we have long explored expands throughout biomedical research and clinical care.

The origins of PSB go back more than 27 years when Larry Hunter ran a very popular Biotechnology session as part of the Hawaii International Conference on System Science (HICSS). HICSS continues to be a success and is now in its 53rd year. Larry ran such a diverse session, that people from computer science to biology, gathered to discuss methods and applications. (Sound familiar?) It was here that Larry presented a machine learning method that Teri Klein realized could be applied to her research on the molecular basis of disease, specifically the collagen disorder, *Osteogenesis Imperfecta*. They became collaborators as well as friends. Following the second year of the Biotechnology track at HICSS, Larry and Teri realized that if they wanted to continue to have a symposium that brought people from diverse backgrounds together that they would have to create a new conference from scratch. While blowing bubbles on a foldout couch at Teri's home with her then, five and seven year old children (Jackson and Kasey), Larry and Teri (with the help of Teri's husband Dennis), came up with the type of symposium they wanted: NO parallel sessions, located in the Pacific, and with ample time for scientists to sit around and discuss science and life. Now for the name and it also had to have a catchy acronym. All kinds of acronyms were tried, with many thrown out (e.g., PBS – somehow that was already taken), so PSB was chosen, and the Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing was created. The plan initially was to have the conference move around the Hawaiian Islands (which was the case for many years) and then maybe to Singapore or Mexico – all connected by the Pacific Ocean. However, there's no place like home and the Fairmont Orchid on the Big Island of Hawaii has become the beloved home of PSB.

To Larry's credit, and Teri's negotiation skills, PSB has ALWAYS made the PSB proceedings available online for free. Doesn't necessarily seem novel in 2020, but in 1996, this was unheard of. Teri and Larry managed to put together the first year of PSB in less than nine months including securing a NIH NLM conference grant for travel awards for minorities, women, students, and post-docs. This grant continues to support PSB paper authors for travel to the symposium. In the second year of PSB, Teri recruited Keith Dunker to manage the grant and Russ Altman to handle the paper submission and review process. About five years ago, Marylyn Ritchie was recruited to help with fundraising for PSB.

Building on the HICSS model, PSB sessions are often conceived at the previous PSB meeting as people discuss trends and opportunities for new science. The typical program includes sessions that evolve over two to three years as well as entirely new sessions. This year, we revisit topics such as precision medicine and pattern recognition, while nurturing emerging interest in mutational signatures, disordered proteins and other topics.

In addition to being published by World Scientific and indexed in PubMed, the proceedings from all PSB meetings are available online at <http://psb.stanford.edu/psb-online/>. PSB has 1166 papers listed in PubMed (as of today). These papers are routinely cited in archival journal articles and often represent important early contributions in new subfields—many times before there is an established literature in more traditional journals; for this reason, many papers have garnered hundreds of citations.

The Twitter handle PSB 2020 is @PacSymBiocomp and the hashtag this year will be #psb20.

The efforts of a dedicated group of session organizers have produced an outstanding program. The sessions of PSB 2020 and their hard-working organizers are as follows:

Artificial Intelligence for Enhancing Clinical Medicine

Organizers: Roxana Daneshjou, Olga Afanasiev, Lukasz Kidziński, Jonathon Chen

Intrinsically Disordered Proteins (IDPs) and Their Functions

Organizers: A. Keith Dunker, Lukasz Kurgan, Predrag Radivojac, Joel L. Sussman

Mutational Signatures

Organizers: Max Leiserson, Teresa Przytycka, Roded Sharan

Pattern Recognition in Biomedical Data: Challenges in Putting Big Data to Work

Organizers: Brett Beaulieu-Jones, Christian Darabos, Dokyoon Kim, Shilpa Kobren, Anurag Verma

Precision Medicine: Addressing the Challenges of Sharing, Analysis, and Privacy at Scale

Organizers: Steven Brenner, Martha Bulyk, Dana Crawford, Alexander Morgan, Predrag Radivojac, Nicholas Tatonetti

We are also pleased to present four workshops in which investigators with a common interest come together to exchange results and new ideas in a format that is more informal than the peer-reviewed sessions. For this year, the workshops and their organizers are:

AI Ethics and Values in Biomedicine – Technical Challenges and Solutions

Organizers: D. Petkovic, L. Kobzik, R. Ghanadan

Can the Circle Be Squared? Navigating Ethical Quandaries with the Privacy Dilemma of Biomedical Datasets

Organizers: Gamze Gursoy, Megan Doerr, Steven E. Brenner, Haixu Tang

Packaging Biocomputing Software to Maximize Distribution and Reuse

Organizers: William S. Bush, Nicholas Wheeler, Brett Beaulieu-Jones, Christian Darabos

Translational Bioinformatics Workshop: Biobanks in the Precision Medicine Era

Organizers: Jason Moore, Ju Han Kim, Marylyn Ritchie

The PSB 2020 keynote speakers are Carole Goble (Science keynote) and Ifeoma Ajunwa (Ethical, Legal and Social Implications keynote).

Tiffany Murray has managed the peer review process and assembly of the proceedings since 2001, and plays a key role in many aspects of the meeting. We are grateful for the support of the Cleveland Institute for Computational Biology; UPenn Institute for Biomedical Informatics; Variant Bio; and the Penn Center for Precision Medicine, Penn Medicine for their support of PSB 2020. We also thank the National Institutes of Health¹ and the International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB) for travel grant support. The Research Parasite Awards benefit from support from GigaScience, Jeff Stibel, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Canon, and Drs. Casey and Anna Greene. The Research Symbiont Awards benefit from support from Springer-Nature and the DragonMaster Foundation.

We are particularly grateful to the onsite PSB staff Al Conde, Paul Murray, Ryan Whaley, Mark Woon, BJ Morrison-McKay, Cynthia Paulazzo, Jackson Miller, Kasey Miller and Nicholas Murray for their assistance. We also acknowledge the many busy researchers who reviewed the submitted manuscripts on a very tight schedule.

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The partial list following this preface does not include many who wished to remain anonymous, and of course we apologize to any who may have been left out by mistake.

We look forward to a great meeting once again. Aloha!

Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing Co-Chairs,
October 9, 2019

Russ B. Altman

Departments of Bioengineering, Genetics, Medicine & Biomedical Data Science, Stanford University

A. Keith Dunker

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Indiana University School of Medicine

Lawrence Hunter

Department of Pharmacology, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center

Marylyn D. Ritchie

Department of Genetics and Institute for Biomedical Informatics, University of Pennsylvania

Teri E. Klein

Departments of Biomedical Data Science & Medicine, Stanford University

Thanks to the reviewers...

Finally, we wish to thank the scores of reviewers. PSB aims for every paper in this volume to be reviewed by three independent referees. Since there is a large volume of submitted papers, paper reviews require a great deal of work from many people. We are grateful to all of you listed below and to anyone whose name we may have accidentally omitted or who wished to remain anonymous.

Olga Afanasiev	Tunca Doğan	Arjun Krishnan	Rosario Piro
Rocky Aikens	Mohammed El-Kebir	Bill Lacava	Sandhya Prabhakaran
Fadhl Alakwaa	Anat Etzion-Fuchs	Trang Le	Teresa Przytycka
Emily Alsentzer	Gilbert Feng	Mark Leiserson	Xiaoning Qian
Bruce Aronow	Sam Finlayson	Ben Lengerich	Predrag Radivojac
Zain Asgar	Stephanie M. Fullerton	Koby Levy	Vijendra Ramlall
Omid Azizi	Marzyeh Ghassemi	Haiquan Li	Barak Raveh
Elisar Barbar	Rajarshi Ghosh	Li Li	Zhiyun Ren
Brett Beaulieu-Jones	Mario Giacobini	Ron Li	Marylyn Ritchie
Afshin Beheshti	Nicholas Giangreco	Ruowang Li	Pedro Romero
Cosmin Bejan	Ben Glicksberg	Shantao Li	Venkata Satagopam
Carly Bobak	Saurabh Gombur	Zhandong Liu	Alfred Schissler
Valentina Boeva	Max Gordon	Thomas Lohr	Avner Schlessinger
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Hue Sun Chan	Lichy Han	Florian Markowetz	Pavel Skums
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Somali Chaterji	Jie Hao	Tejaswini Mishra	Yifeng Tao
Kumardeep Chaudhary	Yun Hao	Vikramjit Mitra	Jaelyn Taroni
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Jianlin Cheng	Max Homilius	Jason Moore	Nathan Tintle
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Anna Cichonska	Ting Hu	Quaid Morris	Vladimir Uversky
Trevor Cohen	Ting Huang	Seyed Mousavi	Anurag Verma
Jessica Cooke Bailey	Rachel Jackson	Amy Mueller	Shefali Verma
Shilpa Corben	Suraj Jaladanki	Girish Nadkarni	Francesca Vitali
Conor Corbin	Dan Jarosz	Tristan Naumann	Haohan Wang
Orkid Coskuner	Antonio Jimeno	Allen Nie	Tao Wang
Helio Costa	Travis Johnson	Morteza Noshad	Keith Weninger
James Costello	Tomi Jun	Keith Nykamp	Joshua Wetzel
Dana Crawford	Mingon Kang	Ross O'Hagan	Scott Williams
Israel da Silva	Pradeeban Kathiravelu	Layla Oesper	Damian Wojtowicz
Yulin Dai	Libusha Kelly	Christopher Oldfield	Dong Xu
Roxana Daneshjou	Saad Khan	Serguei Pakhomov	Jianyi Yang
Dason Data	Lukasz Kidziński	Gustavo Parisi	Shihao Yang
Brandi Davis-	Daisuke Kihara	Sunho Park	Li Ying
Dusenbery	Dokyoony Kim	Vikas Pejaver	Ke Yu
Jessica De Freitas	Yoo-Ah Kim	Yisu Peng	Deyou Zheng
Jeroen de Ridder	Benjamin Kompa	Bethany Percha	Jian Zhou
Spiros Denaxas	Birthe Brandt	Stephen Pfohl	Marinka Zitnik
Devendra Dhami	Kragelund	Anthony Philippakis	