

EMBnet membership goes individual

by Axel Thieffry



EMBnet AGM 2014: Axel & Domenica sharing the passion of the P&PR PC!

From its creation in the spring of 1988, EMBnet never stopped growing and gathering forces through a membership process based on the ratification of National Nodes, Specialist and Industrial Nodes.

Since 2013, opportunities for individuals to become involved and participate in EMBnet's activities have been made available, providing a wide range of training, collaboration and professional networking opportunities.

As such, I am one of the very first to join EMBnet as an individual member. I am a bioinformatics engineer, from Belgium, having specialised in next generation sequencing data analysis during my Master degree at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, in Uppsala, Sweden. Aside from working for a private French biotech company, I have now been warmly welcomed by EMBnet's Publicity & Public Relations Project Committee (P&PR PC) to help with drafting and releasing the monthly *EMBnet.digest*, bringing new ideas and generally strengthening the team. Numerous projects are currently under development and require the input and collaboration of people with skills from different horizons; the recently published Quick Guide on the Velvet & Oases *de novo* assemblers is a simple, yet concrete, example.

The reasons for joining EMBnet as an individual member are legion. As for me, I'm convinced it's vital to stay current in the methods, techniques and new software tools that bioinformatics is generating at an outstanding pace. The numerous international events, workshops and conferences in which EMBnet is involved are great ways to fulfil this need, while developing a robust and friendly international network. As an individual member, I gladly experienced that I can express ideas and opinions, which are then carefully considered and discussed in a team-oriented manner.

Finally, EMBnet allows me to communicate my passion for Science and Bioinformatics, to share knowledge through the production of materials (e.g., like Quick Guides) and *EMBnet.journal* publications, and to contribute ideas for the website, opportunities that I believe are appealing for junior and established scientists alike.



Getting COSI with a GOBLET at ISMB

by Terri Attwood



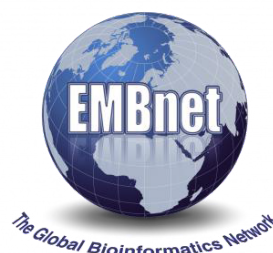
ISMB 2014 has just taken place in Boston, USA. While the buzz of the conference still rings in my ears, I thought it would be a good time to offer an update on some of its key events. As usual, it was a packed conference, and it was exhausting just trying to navigate the myriad parallel scientific sessions, special sessions, keynotes, satellite meetings, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), workshops, tutorials, Birds-of-a-Feather (BoF) and poster sessions!

Ironically, at an event this large, it's easy to feel isolated. Therefore, to try to combat the sense of 'disconnection' that many feel during this meeting, the ISCB launched a new initiative to create Communities of Special Interest (COSIs), where smaller groups of like-minded scientists can meet more readily within the main conference. One of these COSIs was on Computational Biology Education (CoBE). CoBE aims to foster a collaborative community in which bioscientists can share education and training resources and experiences, and facilitate the development of education programmes, courses, curricula, teaching tools and methods: it especially seeks, at least initially, to bring the ISCB and GOBLET communities closer together.

Other significant events within the conference were ISMB's second education poster track, where GOBLET presented some preliminary results from the 'training needs' survey it disseminated earlier this year, in part via EMBnet's email lists (see February InFocus). There was also an interesting, well-attended workshop on education in bioinformatics (WEB 2014), featuring the online world of bioinformatics education, with talks on MOOCs and gamification, followed by a panel discussion on the merits and pitfalls of online; finally, there was a GOBLET lightning presentation at the BoF session on curriculum development.

I'm happy to report that, throughout the event's formal meetings, GOBLET received a lot of support from ISCB's outgoing president, Burkhard Rost. Hopefully, with the ISCB and EMBnet communities behind it, GOBLET will go from strength to strength – I encourage you to get involved.

[GOBLET website: www.mygoblet.org](http://www.mygoblet.org)



A Hive of Activity at CPGR

Part I

by Judit Kumuthini



KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PROGRAMME *for Bioinformatics*

The Knowledge Transfer Program (KTP) is an initiative to bring together scientific experts and trainees for the purposes of transferring knowledge in a natural and cost effective way in Africa. KTP targets postgraduates, postdoctoral fellows and researchers. Expert knowledge providers are selected through peer review and matched to specific projects based on requests from a PI and the level of training required.



Bioinformatics experts are invited from around the world to establish an [accessible online database of expertise](#) for the [KTP](#). Experts can be selected from the bioinformatics experts database and assigned to relevant training projects using a match-making method.



To become part of KTP's expert panel requires prospective experts to register on the KTP website to upload their personal details and Curriculum Vitae. Applicants will be screened by a [Scientific Advisory](#) and [Review Committee](#) to assess an applicant's suitability as an expert using a predetermined scoring system. Applicants will be grouped as either junior or senior experts based on the Review Committee's assessment.

It is free to register and become involved in the [KTP](#) as an internationally recognised Bioinformatics expert. Register today on the [KTP's website](#) and see the benefits of becoming a [KTP expert](#)!

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Course registration will open with CPGR in the near future.



EMBnet.digest

EMBnet.Spotlight is a quarterly release of InFocus sections published in EMBnet.digest (www.embnet.org/embnet-digest), EMBnet's monthly publication that provides a round-up of news from the community. The InFocus section features member activities, projects, initiatives, etc., especially from new members, that may be of interest both to the network and to EMBnet's associated communities, societies and projects.