

With CHARME towards standardisation in life sciences



by **Domenica D'Elia**¹, **Babette Regierer**², **Susanne Hollmann**³

¹ CNR-Institute for Biomedical Technologies, Italy, ² SB ScienceManagement UG, Berlin, Germany, ³ University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany

On March 21st, representatives from 26 countries met in Brussels to execute the kick-off meeting of the new COST Action (Cooperation in Science and Technology) **CA15110: “Harmonising standardisation strategies to increase efficiency and competitiveness of European lifescience research (CHARME)”**. The participants exchanged information about the need for understanding formats and standards for biological data and computer models in systems biology research, and elected Chair, Vice Chair and working group leaders.

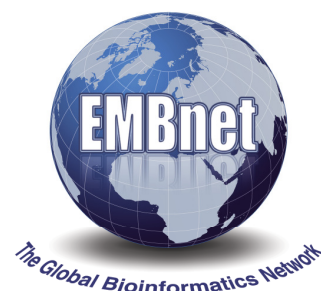
An essential prerequisite of modern life-science R&D is high quality research data. By enabling the reuse of research assets, research becomes considerably more efficient and economical. This can only be achieved reliably and efficiently if these are generated according to standards and Standard-Operating-Procedures (SOPs). Thus, standards represent important drivers in the life sciences and technology transfer because they guarantee that data become accessible, shareable and comparable along the value chain.

Several initiatives have launched the development and implementation of standards. Unfortunately, these efforts remain fragmented and largely disconnected. CHARME aims to merge different approaches in the field, with a particular emphasis on systems biology, and thus to avoid too many different solutions being generated in parallel universes that ‘in the worst case’ are neither compatible nor suitable for largescale approaches.

CHARME will increase awareness of the need for standards, enabling the reuse of research data and its interoperability within the scientific community. CHARME provides

a common ground for researchers from academia, research institutes, SMEs and multinational organisations. Representatives of each participating country can be found at: [http:// www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA15110?management](http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA15110?management).

For further information, please feel free to send an e-mail to info@cost-charme.eu. From May, further information will be available on the Action’s website: [http:// www.cost-charme.eu](http://www.cost-charme.eu)



InSyBio joins EMBnet

by Konstantinos Theofilatos

Marketing & Sales Manager, InSyBio

InSyBio (**I**ntelligent **S**ystems **B**iology) is a bioinformatics company that focuses on developing computational frameworks and tools for the analysis of complex biological data. The key objective of our analysis lies in the discovery of predictive integrated biomarkers with increased prognostic and diagnostic aspects for the personalised Healthcare Industry.

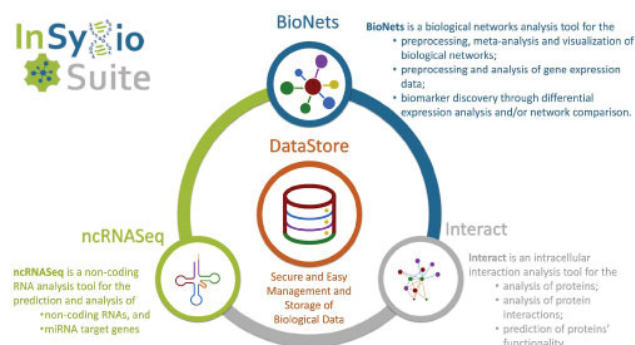
InSyBio has developed an on-line clouddriven suite of software tools – **InSyBio Suite** – that helps researchers to identify early-stage biomarkers. By contrast with existing solutions, the InSyBio Suite consists of tools that integrate data from various sources and provide comprehensive results and meaningful knowledge using advanced big data-oriented artificial intelligence methods. Some of its methodologies have already been published in international scientific journals and conferences, while others are submitted or under submission for patent approval.

InSyBio's services can save time and money from pharmaceutical, biotechnology and nutrition-focused companies by providing:

- biomarker-discovery tools from transcriptomics experiments using its unique systems-medicine pipeline and biological network-analysis tools;
- access to its supreme human proteinprotein interactions database (and protein complexes) and interactomics analysis tools;
- fast, accurate and easy-to-use bioinformatics analysis of non-coding RNAs.

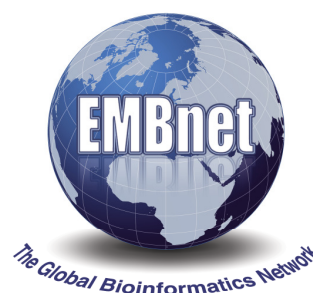
InSyBio recently launched its first commercial version, and its evaluation version is currently being tested by hundreds of users. The first feedback from InSyBio Suite's users has confirmed that it improves and significantly speeds up their biomarker discovery process.

It is noteworthy that several scientific projects, including bioinformatics tasks that have been conducted with the InSyBio Suite, have begun to be published in prestigious journals. The 3- and 12-month licences for the InSyBio Suite are being sold via Internet- and direct sales.



A demo version of InSyBio Suite is freely available at demo.insybio.com.

To request a free one-month licence or to purchase the InSyBio Suite, please email us at info@insybio.com. For more information, visit our Web page at www.insybio.com.



Bioinformatics community attracts young professionals

by Pedro Fernandes

EMBnet Portugal

In February 2016, the University of Minho (PT) held its annual bioinformatics event, [Bioinformatics Open Days](#). This student-led meeting uses a lightweight format that brings together bioinformatics students, teachers and professionals.

For students, it provides a window of opportunity to see how their newly acquired knowledge can project outside the school environment, opening their minds to contacts in an unprecedented way, not only to academic perspectives, to continue their studies, but also to the industrial world, where they may seek employment.

For teachers, it is a unique occasion to review their work and strategies for keeping their teaching content up-to-date and in consonance with external demand.

For bioinformatics professionals, it allows networking with like-minded people, promoting the discipline and best practices in its application.

At this event, I again had the chance to show that training is needed in this area, and how it can complement formal education. In this context, I explained what EMBnet provides in terms of links to worldwide bioinformatics communities, and used the opportunity to offer an 'entry package' to students; this resulted in 17 new members.

As a welcome token, these new members will not pay the 2016 membership fee. As part of



the package, all were invited to supply links to their LinkedIn profiles, which EMBnet displays in its new student-member page: <http://www.embnet.org/embnet-studentmembers>.

In this way, students may showcase their profiles to members of our community and beyond, open new possibilities for cooperation, further studies, etc. For EMBnet, the initiative is an innovative way to showcase recently qualified Bioinformatics MSc. students with a keen interest in community interactions and cooperation, and brings with it new blood.

We welcome this new cohort to our activities, and look forward to seeing how it may progress with mutual benefits.



EMBnet.digest

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