

ELIXIR Project meetings



Pedro Fernandes
Instituto Gulbenkian. Oeiras,
Portugal

Another round of meetings of the ELIXIR project, now in the last stretch of the preparatory phase, prior to the presentation of the project proposal to the EU, took place in Copenhagen, on May 18th - 21st 2009.

The meetings, this time organized by Søren Brunak of DTU and his team, were held at the Panum Institute, which hosts the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Copenhagen. More than 80 participants attended the meetings.

The main session was the Stakeholders Meeting where the reports of the several workpackages were presented by the respective committee heads. The results of the feasibility studies have also been presented by their respective leaders. The meeting was started and closed by Janet Thornton, the Director of the EBI and coordinator of the ELIXIR Project.

The spirit of mission accomplished was in the air. The material collected allows for the assembly of a very sound and solid proposal, encompassing many aspects of the task of planning an European Infrastructure for Bioinformatics. On the other hand, it was quite evidently shown that the dimension and complexity of the problem have been addressed appropriately. The final proposal is now in preparation.

Several EMBnet members serve in the ELIXIR Workpackage Committees and were involved in the discussions and preparation of reports.

Present in this meeting: Terry Attwood, Pedro Fernandes, Lubos Klucar and Endre Barta.

Current Trends in Bioinformatics:

A Seminar held in Islamabad



Nazim Rahman
Department of Biosciences,
COMSATS Institute of
Information Technology,
Islamabad, Pakistan

The EMBnet Pakistan National Node and the faculty of the Department of Biosciences at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) together organized a seminar on, "Current Trends in Bioinformatics" on April 4, 2009. Dr. Fauzia Yusuf outlined the accomplishments of the Department of Biosciences as a pioneer in the field of Bioinformatics education and research in Pakistan. Dr. Shahid Nadeem Chohan made a presentation on the Bioinformatics activities in the CIIT emphasizing on the services provided by the EMBnet Pakistan National Node. Guest speakers were invited from COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), National Center for Virology and Immunology (NCVI), and National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE).



Dr. Syed Habib Bokhari addressing the audience.



Malik Nadeem Akhtar presenting his new Gene Finder Tool.

Speakers presented their work with the following themes:

- Structural Bioinformatics and Drug Design
- Computational Biology
- Epidemics and Diseases
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The objectives of the seminar were to:

- Raise awareness about EMBnet and its services
- Invite life scientists to take advantage of the EMBnet Pakistan National Node
- Provide a platform for life science researchers to present bioinformatics tools and techniques applied in their research
- Introduce current trends and developments in bioinformatics

This was a free open access event attended by a large audience comprising of students, researchers and academicians from various universities and research centers both locally and nationally. The audience specially liked the poster session



Seminar participants.



Bioinformatics students Zeeshan Fazal and Abbas Bukhari discussing their poster.

held after the seminar which provided a forum for detailed interaction among the audience and the authors. The event was followed by an award ceremony for the best presentation and the best poster of the event.



Dr. Shahid Chohan, Dr. Raheel Qamar, Dr. Shahzad Muft.