The Bioinformatics is an emerging technology that allows researchers to try a great variety of involvement: Information Technology, Biological Systems, Mathematics and Science. Exciting opportunities are emerging for integrating molecular biology components of bioinformatics with computational, physiological, morphological, taxonomic, and ecological components. A lot of countries such as Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, China, Thailand, Indian and Taiwan etc., put bioinformatics as a priority research area.

This special issue of the Asia Pacific BioTech News (APBN) highlights recent research, education and industry results in this field of bioinformatics in Asia Pacific region.

The paper “Bioinformatics Research in Australia” by Yi-Ping Phoebe Chen and Geoff McLachlan provides a view into bioinformatics research happening in Australia. It is followed by “Bioinformatics Industry in Australia” by Tim Littlejohn who describes bioinformatics industry in Australia with an overview of bioinformatics consumers, bioinformatics suppliers, and future industry directions. Michael Poidinger and Sonia Cattley “The Status of Formalized Bioinformatic Education in Australia” reviews the current state of Bioinformatics education in Australia, outlining the award and non-award courses offered by Australian Universities and centers.

In the paper “Bioinformatics in Singapore” Limsoon Wong provides a brief overview of bioinformatics in Singapore. The paper covers aspects such as training program, research projects, and commercial sector activities in Singapore. This article also introduces some of the main centers of activities, as well as some of the bioinformaticists in these centers.

Then we have a paper written by Jingchu Luo “Bioinformatics Service, Research and Education at CBI”. This paper intends to give an overview of the activities of bioinformatics service, research and education at the Center of Bioinformatics (CBI), Peking University.

Since Data Management is an important aspects, “Bioinformatics and Oracle Extensibility” by Bruce Blackwell present an overview of Oracle features which support storage of bioinformatics data and discuss extensibility features which give the product room to grow. Some attention is given to Oracle’s own efforts to use that extensibility to exploit emerging standardization of many of the complex data and computation requirements of the life sciences.

The article “Bowling Ball ‘Bioinformatics’ hits Ninepins of Asia Pacific” by Balaji K. discusses the impact of bioinformatics in Asia Pacific — Japan, Australia, India, Singapore, South Korea, China, Taiwan, and Indonesia.

Following the above seven papers, we have selected three revised and extended research papers from the Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Conference.

The aim of this conference is to provide an international forum for researchers, professionals, and industrial practitioners to share their knowledge of how to surf this tidal wave of information.

Exciting opportunities are emerging for integrating molecular biology components of bioinformatics with computational, physiological, morphological, taxonomic, and ecological components.
In response to the first APBC Call for Papers, which was disseminated globally, we received papers from 20 countries in Asia (Armenia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand), America (US, Canada), Europe (France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, UK), New Zealand and Australia.

In conclusion, I would like to thank APBN for giving me the opportunity to prepare this special issue, the reviewers who did such an outstanding job in the execution of their duties and to all the authors who submitted manuscripts for consideration.

Yi-Ping Phoebe Chen
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