




Successful conclusion of the 20th International Conference on Bioinformatics (InCoB 2021)

By Yun Zheng

InCoB 2021 was our first attempt in offering the event in a hybrid format, with international attendees joining online and domestic attendees joining on-site. The 20th edition of the conference was organized by Kunming University, Yunnan, China from November 6 to 8, 2021. As the current pandemic of COVID-19 is still ongoing, we need to reconsider the relationship between humankind and nature. As a joint effort of the world to cope with the biodiversity and ecology problems, the UNFCCC-COP15 was held from October 11 to 24, in Kunming, China. Thus, the theme of InCoB 2021 was to understand the relationship between biodiversity and human health with a computational approach.

To provide more choices to authors, InCoB 2021 collaborated with 10 journals, namely BMC Genomics, BMC Bioinformatics, BMC Medical Genomics, Frontiers in Genetics, Genes, Journal of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (JBCB), Computational Biology and Chemistry (CBAC), Zoological Research, Plant Diversity, and Bioinformatics Advances. InCoB 2021 received around 90 submissions from a diverse range of countries and regions. Each submission was sent to at least two program committee members for review. Based on the review results, 37 paper submissions were accepted for oral presentations, which were recommended to seven (7) different journals' special issues or supplements for publication, subject to possible additional reviewing that depends on the target journal's policy. The most presented manuscripts have been published by BMC Genomics, BMC Bioinformatics, BMC Medical Genomics, Genes, and Frontiers in Genetics.










The conference program featured six (6) keynote talks (by Prof. Xuegong Zhang of Tsinghua University, China; Prof. Fanqing Zhao of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China; Prof. Xuequn Shang of Northwestern Polytechnical University, China; Dr. Lipi Thukral of CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, India; Prof. Eduardo Eyras of Australian National University, Australia; and Prof. Peter Murray-Rust of University of Cambridge, United Kingdom), 49 session talks and 10 poster presentations. InCoB 2021 included the Annual General Meeting of APBioNET on November 6. InCoB 2021 also had two open tracks, Education Track on November 7 and Community Track on November 8, which were open and free for all. In total, around 200 attendees made InCoB 2021 an exciting and important event on bioinformatics in the Asia-Pacific region, during a trying time of the COVID-19 pandemic.



InCoB 2021
Kunming · China

BIOINFORMATICS EDUCATION, SPECIAL TRACK

7 NOV 2021 | 4.20 – 6.20 PM (China Standard Time, CST)
Moderator: Yam Wai Keat (APBioNET)

  Yam Wai Keat	  Celia W.G. van Gelder
  Yo Yehudi	  Jason Williams
  Melissa Burke	

FREE ADMISSION



InCoB 2021
Kunming · China

BIOINFORMATICS COMMUNITY SPECIAL TRACK

8 NOV 2021 | 1.30 – 3.30 PM (China Standard Time, CST)
Moderator: Prash Suravajhala & Harpreet Singh

 Gitanjali Yadav	  Saharuddin Bin Mohamad
  Susumo Goto	  Santosh Kumari Duppala
 Riza Putranto	  Peter Cock
   Simon Gladman & Gareth Price	

FREE ADMISSION

We thank the Executive Committee of APBioNET for bestowing us the responsibility to host InCoB 2021, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the conference. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the sponsors for their valuable support, to keynote speakers for their insightful talks, the Honorary Chairs and ExCo of APBioNET for their valuable advice, and the Local Organizing Committee for their dedicated organizing efforts. We also sincerely thank PC Chairs, Publicity Chairs, PC members, all the authors, presenters and attendees who jointly contributed to the success of InCoB 2021!

Successful conclusion of the 5th International Symposium on Bioinformatics (InSyB 2021)

By Ayesha Fatima, Esra Büşra Işık, and Mohammad Asif Khan

The International Symposium on Bioinformatics (InSyB) 2021 was hosted by Bezmialem Vakıf University, Istanbul, Turkey. It was held from December 15 to 17, 2021 with the theme of “Bioinformatics: Going Back to the Fundamentals”. It was the first time InSyB was hosted in Turkey and was held as a virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The symposium brought together students, academics, and industry professionals, working on different aspects of biomedical sciences and healthcare, for a cross-pollination of ideas and towards building a collaborative ecosystem and lasting networks.

InSyB is a flagship annual event of the Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Network (APBioNET), one of the oldest (23 years) and notable bioinformatics organisations in the Asia-Pacific region. The other flagship event of APBioNET, the International Conference on Bioinformatics (InCoB) completed its 20th-year run in 2021, hosted by Kunming University, Yunnan, China. InSyB is a sister event to InCoB with a focus on thematic discussions targeting younger researchers in a local community. The InSyB symposium started in 2017, inaugurated in Indonesia with Universitas YARSI as the host and in 2021 it was the 5th instalment of InSyB. The symposium was founded to encourage, support and extend computational biology for translational research, primarily aimed at infusing bioinformatics into life science research and providing a forum for networking.



InSyB 2021 provided a platform for the participants to exchange ideas with luminaries from the field. Admission to the symposium was made free to remove any barrier to participation. Consequently, more than 1,100 people registered for the symposium, with 84 abstract submissions for oral and poster presentations. Submissions were received from diverse geographical regions, covering 15 countries, namely Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, China, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Turkey, UAE, and the United States of America. Over the two-and-half-day duration of the event, the symposium was actively attended by close to 600 individuals across all the platforms (Zoom and YouTube), and showcased eight (8) keynote talks, 58 accepted oral/poster presentations, and a community track with a panel discussion on “Current Topics in Computational Biology”. The event was graced with an opening keynote by Prof. Dr Hasan MANDAL, the President of The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK). The event was also supported by the International Society for Computational Biology - Regional Students Group (ISCB-RSG) Turkey, which led the community track.

- The proceedings of InSyB 2021, which include abstracts of the keynote talks and the oral and poster presentations, are published at F1000Research: <https://f1000research.com/documents/11-60>
- The symposium recordings are available at the APBioNET YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/APBioNetorg>

We thank all the participants, the members of the organizing and scientific committees, TUBITAK, ISCB-RSG-Turkey, Bezmialem Vakif University, and APBioNET for all the support and contributions towards the success of InSyB 2021. Notably, InSyB is growing out of its shadows, with numerous historic milestones achieved in 2021. The event has set the bar high with the highest ever number of registrations from a diversity of geographies, actual participants, abstracts submitted, oral presentations, and poster presentations in the 5-year history of InSyB!

Here is wishing continued success to future InSyBs.

5TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BIOINFORMATICS



15–17th December 2021
Honourable Chief Guest Opening Keynote



Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal
Turkey

Keynote Speakers



Dr. Denis Bauer
Australia



Prof. Dr. Alexandre M.J.J. Bonvin
Netherlands



Dr. Anton Feenstra
Netherlands



Dr. Yuval Itan
US



Dr. Pawel Suwinski
Malaysia



Prof. Dr. Chris Oostenbrink
Austria



Prof. Dr. Sendar Durdagi
Turkey



Dr. Tunahan Çakır
Turkey

Organized by



<http://insyb2021.bezmialem.edu.tr>

Supported by



222 Turkey

In memory of Ms. Nik Elena Nik Mohamed

By Rûmeysa Meriç & Mohammad Asif Khan



APBioNET grieves the loss of its dear colleague and a former executive committee (ExCo) member, Ms. Nik Elena Binti Nik Mohamed, who passed away on July 21, 2021. She served two terms (2014-2016 & 2016-2018) as an elected ExCo member and helmed the office bearer role of Secretary for both the terms.

She was a sweet person, caring, and was instrumental for a number of our past achievements. She was young and health-conscious, and thus her passing away shocked many and left us in denial. Memories of working with her are still vivid to APBioNET President, Dr. Mohammad Asif Khan:

“Besides dutifully serving her role as the Secretary, she helped organise the activities of the Secretariat supporting the organisation, led a number of the outreach activities, and served as the editorial board member of the organisation’s newsletter for several years.”

“We also worked together at Perdana University. I still remember my first meeting with her when I interviewed her for a position as manager of our bioinformatics lab. She was a wonderful colleague and more importantly became a dear friend to all of us in the lab. She was very much liked by others in the University given her kind demeanor and always ready-to-help attitude. She was also very good at her job and was soon requested to be moved to a new fledgling school in the university to help it grow. Soon after she was promoted as a Deputy Dean for the school, recognizing her numerous important contributions.”

Life is short, precious, and unpredictable. She leaves behind a son, who is still at a tender young age of eight. Our deepest condolences to her family and relatives. She will be deeply missed. May we find strength in her memories and may she rest in peace.

In memory of Prof. N. Srinivasan

By Shoba Ranganathan & Mohammad Asif Khan

Prof. N. Srinivasan, affectionately known to all as Srimi, of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India passed away on September 3, 2021. His research on Proteins: structure, function and evolution spanned 30 years and addressed fundamental questions in protein science such as implications of the protein evolution in biological processes and pathways, signal transduction and host-pathogen interactions. His 333 publications have been widely cited and he was awarded the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in 2007, for excellence in scientific research in India. He was a keynote speaker at the 17th International Conference on Bioinformatics (InCoB 2018) in India and at the 2nd International Symposium on Bioinformatics (InSyB 2018) in Malaysia. Dr. Yam Wai Keat, who was the chair of InSyB 2018, reminisced:

“Despite being a renowned scientist in the field of structural bioinformatics, he was very approachable and enjoyed spending time talking to students. Both me and Dr Asif Khan enjoyed our time with him, in particular his stories when he was a student of the late Prof. G.N. Ramachandran (famous for Ramachandran Plot).”

The key characteristics that govern his work are novelty, thoroughness and linking different properties, embellished with easy to understand and comprehensive figures and succinct yet simple expression. To carry on his legacy, let us explore the fascinating world of molecular machines in living systems, using bioinformatics.

May he rest in peace. Our deepest condolences to his family and relatives. May his memories give us strength.





International Conference on Bioinformatics (InCoB)

Interested in bidding to host InCoB?

Here is why.



InCoB was first organised in 2002 and will be organised for the 21st time in 2022

Prominent History

InCoB has been organised in 16 locations in the Asia - Pacific region



Region-wide Location



APBioNET/ISCB has supported over 100 students to attend InCoB from its Travel Fellowship program

Student Travel Support

InCoB has hosted over 4000++ participation regionwide since inception



Network Outreach

visit

www.incob.apbionet.org

to learn more



MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS		STUDENTS	GENERAL
Discounted registration fee to attend InCoB, InSyB and other APBioNET endorsed events		✓	✓
Discounts on APBioNet merchandise and publication		✓	✓
Early invitations and notifications to APBioNet's and affiliates events		✓	✓
Financial support to attend InCoB/InSyB or any bioinformatics related events		✓	✓
Exclusive APBioNet affiliated email		✓	✓
Eligibility to represent APBioNet at key events or AGM as official delegates			✓
Recruitment into APBioNet Student Chapter		✓	
		*from as low as \$510	*from as low as \$520

www.apbionet.org/membership