

APBIONET NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19 | DEC 2025

Advancing Bioinformatics and Allied Disciplines in the Asia-Pacific Region

UDST Hosts the 9th International Symposium on Bioinformatics (InSyB 2025)

25–26 November 2025 | University of Doha for Science and Technology

The 9th International Symposium on Bioinformatics 2025 (InSyB2025) was successfully organised by the University of Doha for Science & Technology (UDST), Doha, Qatar from 25-26 November, 2025 in collaboration with APBioNET and the Centre for Clinical Precision Medicine and Genomics, Hamad Medical Corporation. The two-day event brought together researchers, academicians from various organizations from Qatar and the region, as well as other parts of Asia to deliberate on the theme "Ecosystem-Driven Bioinformatics for Transforming Healthcare".

The event kick started with the welcome address by the Dean, College of Computing & IT, Dr. Zakaria Maamar followed by a welcome address by Dr. Harpreet Singh, President APBioNET and Dr Salha Bujassoum Al Bader, Director, Centre for Clinical Precision Medicine and Genomics, Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar. The inaugural session was followed by keynote talks from experts including Dr. Robert Hoehndorf from King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Dr. Marios Kambouris, Sidra Medicine, Doha; Dr. Dinesh Velayutham, Qatar Precision Health Institute (QPHI); Dr. Hebah Al Khatib, Qatar University; Dr. Harpreet Singh, Hans Raj Mahila Maha Vidyalaya, India; and Dr. Aziz Khan, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, United Arab Emirates covering various aspects of the symposium theme. Dr. Mohammad Asif Khan, Associate Dean, College of Computing and IT, UDST concluded day 1 by highlighting various initiatives taken by UDST towards contributing to the field of Bioinformatics in the country. This day-1 also hosted an interesting and engaging panel discussion on "Ecosystem-Driven Bioinformatics for Transforming Healthcare" moderated by Dr. Ramzan Ali from UDST, with Dr. Robert Hoehndorf, Dr. Marios Kambouris, Dr. Dinesh Velayutham and Dr. Aziz Khan as the panelists. Dr. Katherine Bradley, Dr. Asma El-Magboub, Dr. Mohammad Asif Khan and Dr. Ramzan Ali coordinated various parts of the program as session chairs. All the scientific talks ended up with engaging Q&A discussion with the audience.



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The day-2 of InSyB2025 focused on skill development in Bioinformatics through four parallel hands-on workshop sessions conducted by Dr. Katherine Bradley and Dr. Asma El-Magboub (Structural Bioinformatics: An Introductory Molecular Dynamics Workshop for Exploring Biomolecule Motion); Dr. Ayesha Fatima, Riphah International University, Pakistan and Mr. Mohamed Salah Amine Benouar (Protein Modelling-Basics to AI- Predictions); Dr. Aziz Khan (Becoming an Open and Reproducible Scientist); and Dr. Seifeddine Bouallegue, UDST (Coding for Biology: Harnessing the Power of AI). These workshops were well appreciated by the participants from various institutes.

APBioNET is grateful to UDST, as well as HMC, especially the organizing committee of the InSyB2025 and the entire leadership of UDST, including the President Dr. Salem Al Naemi, Vice President of Academics, Dr. Rachid Benlamri, Dean College of Computing & IT Dr. Zakaria Maamar; and Associate Dean, Dr. Asif. M. Khan for joining hands with APBioNET and successfully organizing the wonderful event in Doha, Qatar.





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Chairman Report: 24th International Conference on Bioinformatics (InCoB 2025)

InCoB 2025 Opens in Kolkata with Focus on Bioinformatics-Driven Therapeutic Innovations

The 24th International Conference on Bioinformatics (InCoB 2025) officially opens its doors in Kolkata, hosted for the first time by the Bose Institute. In his welcome message, Dr. Sudipto Saha, Conference Chair and member of the Department of Biological Sciences, Bose Institute, expressed pride in bringing this prestigious event to the historic city known as India's cultural capital.

The Bioinformatics Centre at Bose Institute, established in 1988 as one of the Distributed Information Centres (DIC) funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, has been a cornerstone of bioinformatics research in the country. Recognized as a Centre of Excellence in Bioinformatics (CoE) from 2004 to 2020, the centre continues to be a leading hub supported by major DBT-funded projects.

This year's conference theme, "Bioinformatics-Driven Therapeutic Innovations: Microbiome and Beyond", highlights the rapidly growing role of bioinformatics and artificial intelligence in exploring the microbiome's therapeutic potential. The theme underscores the importance of identifying key microbial markers and their products—such as metabolites and peptides—for diagnostic and therapeutic applications. Dr. Saha noted that understanding the gut and lung microbiota, often described as the body's "second brain," can pave the way for breakthroughs in treating neurological and systemic disorders linked to the gut–lung–brain axis.

InCoB 2025 promises a stimulating scientific program, featuring three renowned keynote speakers and several invited talks from emerging bioinformatics leaders. The conference received 161 abstract submissions, of which 38 (23.6%) were selected for oral presentations and 86 (53.4%) for poster sessions. In addition to these presentations, the event will host four specialized workshops covering cutting-edge topics such as Glycoinformatics and Large Models for Drug Discovery.

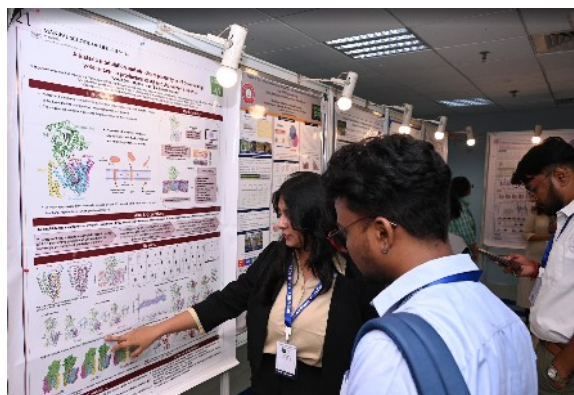




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The conference brings together participants from across the globe, including Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States, fostering an international exchange of ideas and collaboration. Dr. Saha expressed optimism that InCoB 2025 will inspire meaningful scientific collaborations and empower young researchers in the bioinformatics community. He extended heartfelt thanks to the Director of Bose Institute, the InCoB steering and local organizing committees, Bose Institute administration, sponsors, and student volunteers whose dedication made the event possible.

As Dr. Saha aptly concluded, *“We look forward to making InCoB 2025 a memorable and impactful gathering for the global bioinformatics community.”*



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Congratulations to the elected APBioNET Student Council 2025

We are pleased to announce the founding members and office bearers of the first-ever APBioNET Student Council. They will serve for the 2025–2027 term:

Office Bearers:

President: Somenath Dutta, Pusan National University, South Korea
Vice President: Masturina Md Mansor, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia
Secretary: Thomas Masding, Soka University, Japan
Assistant Secretary: Somil Sharma, University of Delhi South Campus, India
Treasurer: Loveleen Kaur, Hans Raj Mahila Maha Vidyalaya, Jalandhar, India

General Members:

Ridhima Garg, Hans Raj Mahila Maha Vidyalaya, Jalandhar, India
Jatin Joshi, University of Delhi South Campus, India
Siddhant Bhardwaj, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
Priyanka Sharma, Bennett University, Greater Noida

This marks a significant milestone for APBioNET as we formally establish a platform for student engagement, leadership, and collaboration across the Asia-Pacific region.

Congratulations to all the elected members! We wish you a successful term and look forward to seeing the Student Council grow into an empowering force for students in bioinformatics and related fields.

On behalf of the student council members, we are pleased to invite aspiring students to join APBioNET Student Council. More information can be found here:

<https://apbionet.org/sc>





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1st Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Student Council Symposium (APBSCS-2025)



Student council members and volunteers in action supporting the APBioNET booth

The APBioNET Student Council (APB-SCS) was first established early this year, in 2025. This global team consists of members from around the world such as India, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan. Our aim is to connect early career researchers worldwide and provide a platform for us to network, collaborate, and grow in the field. Moving forward, the student council plans to organise webinars, workshops, symposiums and other activities to support students and also to enrich their journey in research. Community building is at our core, and we are grateful for this opportunity to be at this exciting intersection of science, communication and outreach.

Overview of symposium

The first APBioNET Student Council Symposium (APB-SCS) was held on 20th September 2025 at Bose Institute, Kolkata, India, as part of the International Conference on Bioinformatics (INCOB 2025). Organized in collaboration with Bose Institute, this student-led symposium brought together participants from diverse academic and professional backgrounds for an inspiring evening of panel discussions, keynote talks, and interactive sessions. The symposium began with an opening address outlining the vision and mission of the newly established APBioNET Student Council (APBSC).



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1st Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Student Council Symposium (APBSCS-2025)

This was followed by flash talks from two of our core members, who shared their unique perspectives on global and regional research experiences. Somenath Dutta, President of the Student Council, delivered a talk titled “Local to Global”, emphasizing the importance of connecting local research communities to international platforms and fostering collaboration across borders. Following this, Thomas, Secretary of the Student Council, presented an engaging session on “Research Opportunities in Asia”, highlighting emerging trends, funding avenues, and regional networks that support early-career researchers in bioinformatics.



President of the Student Council, on connecting local research to global platforms.

The event then transitioned into a panel discussion featuring distinguished members of the APBioNET Executive Committee—Dr. Harpreet Singh, Prof. Shoba Ranganathan, Dr. Kiyoko F. Kinoshita, and Dr. Sarinder Kaur. The panelists shared their insights on the evolution of bioinformatics, interdisciplinary collaboration, and career development across the Asia-Pacific region. Students actively participated by posing thoughtful questions about networking, mentorship, and professional growth within APBioNET and the broader bioinformatics community.



Guiding the next generation: our expert panel supports students and early-stage researchers.

Additionally, the symposium featured a keynote address by Bivas Nag, a PhD student at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), who spoke about his journey to securing a PhD position and his experiences conducting research at a world-leading institute. The evening concluded with an interactive bioinformatics quiz, which added a fun and engaging dimension to the event. The symposium also marked a moment of growth for the APBioNET Student Council, as several new volunteers joined our team, eager to contribute to future initiatives and strengthen the student network within the Asia-Pacific bioinformatics community.

The evening concluded with a closing prize-giving ceremony, where all the participants of the quiz and tokens of appreciation were distributed to participants and invited guests. The event successfully combined learning, networking, and celebration—marking a memorable start to the APBioNET Student Council’s journey in fostering collaboration and student engagement across the region. Conclusively, the success of the event was made possible through the dedicated efforts of the Student Council members and a team of hardworking and enthusiastic volunteers, who worked tirelessly to coordinate logistics, prepare event materials, organize merchandise, and engage with participants throughout the day. Their teamwork and commitment ensured that every part of the symposium ran smoothly and fostered a welcoming, collaborative atmosphere.



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UPCOMING EVENT



MORE INFO:

<https://incob.apbionet.org/incob2026>

"Bridging Ideas, Building Futures"

2024 STUDENT COUNCIL

Call for Participation

- **Advocate and Innovate:**
 - Serve as the leading voice for students in bioinformatics, driving initiatives that cater to their needs and aspirations
- **Network and Collaborate:**
 - Forge meaningful connections with peers, academicians, and industry leaders in the field of bioinformatics, opening doors to new learning and career opportunities
- **Expand Horizons:**
 - Engage with other bioinformatics societies and foster collaborative projects



Application deadline: May 10th, 2024

More info: <https://www.apbionet.org/student-council>

APBioNETTalks

Discover and Share Bioinformatics

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Benefits:

- Increasing awareness of state-of-the-art research
- Certificate

Open for students, academics, professionals, and anyone passionate about sharing bioinformatics-related research, expertise, and skills with the community.

<https://bit.ly/APBioNetTalksSpeakerForm>

<https://apbtalks.apbionet.org>

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