



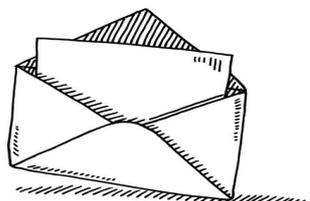
Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education & Training

Second Quarter 2017 Newsletter

Letter from the Executive Board

The Executive Board has been busy with a flurry of activities to ensure that GOBLET delivers on its 2017 objectives. In particular, we're pleased to share the news that we finalised the administrative details to hire a technical intern, Andrew Lonsdale, to assist the Technical Committee with its work. We also completed writing up the GOBLET survey, which we submitted as a *BioRxiv* preprint, alongside an accompanying Correspondence piece in *Nature*; we then compiled an extended review of the state of the field, which we submitted to a future Special Issue of *Briefings in Bioinformatics*. In March, we presented GOBLET's activities at the ELIXIR All-Hands meeting in Rome, where we continued to work closely with ELIXIR to further develop the Train-the-Trainer programme. In May, we also presented GOBLET at the BD2K International Workshop on Data Science Training at Huntington Beach. Earlier in the year, we prepared a write-up of our 2016 AGM for SEB's spring newsletter, and are currently busy with final preparations for ISMB/ECCB17 in Prague and for this year's AGM.

This newsletter brings updates on several of these activities, including special features on recent accomplishments of the Standards Committee and a spotlight on bioinformatics.ca. In addition, Maria Doyle gives details of the GOBLET hackathon held in Cambridge in May and Annette McGrath provides a write-up of the BD2K Workshop. We'd like to draw your particular attention to our participation in ISMB/ECCB17 – please email the Outreach & PR Committee (pr@mygoblet.org) if you plan to attend and would like to help! We also encourage you to start organising your schedules to join us for the AGM in Oeiras in November.



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GOBLET 2017 AGM – Oeiras, Portugal



Oeiras, venue of the 2017 AGM

We are currently preparing the agenda for the 2017 AGM, which will take place from 22-24 November in Oeiras (Portugal). As usual, alongside the formal business agenda, the meeting will include various discussion sessions. These will include a review of the new GOBLET portal, and a discussion on defining standards for training materials.

<http://www.mygoblet.org/about-us/goblet-events/goblet-agm-2017-oeiras>



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: bioinformatics.ca

Bioinformatics.ca, hosted by the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research in Toronto, Canada, offers one- to seven-day hands-on workshops focused on teaching researchers how to analyse data from new, high-throughput sequencing technologies. Francis Ouellette, the scientific coordinator, is a strong advocate for Open Access. Bioinformatics.ca workshop lectures and tutorials are available at bioinformaticsdotca.github.io and recordings of the lectures are available on YouTube. The bioinformatics.ca website also features a jobs board for bioinformatics positions available in Canada and around the world.



Have your institute spotlighted! Contact pr@mygoblet.org.



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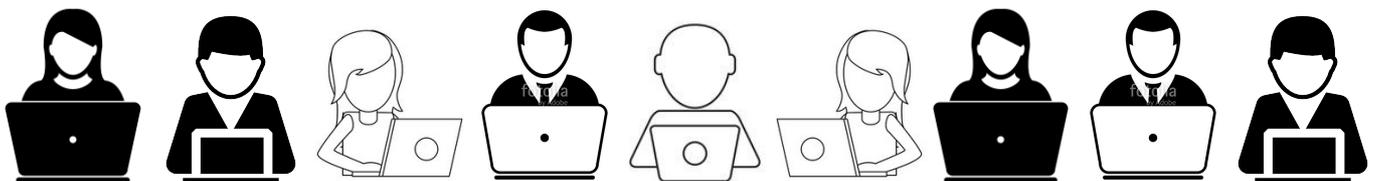
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ELIXIR/GOBLET/GTN hackathon for Galaxy training materials re-use

Organised by ELIXIR, GOBLET and the Galaxy Training Network (GTN), a hackathon was held for Galaxy training material re-use in Cambridge, UK from 22-24 May. The 3-day workshop was organised by Gabriella Rustici (UK), Frederik Coppens (BE), Björn Grüning (DE) and Celia van Gelder (NL), and it brought together people actively involved in Galaxy training from across the world - Belgium, Germany, France, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom, Australia and United States.

The main objectives were to build on an existing collection of Galaxy training materials (<https://github.com/galaxy-project/training-material>), which was initiated at the 2016 Galaxy Community Conference. Materials had been created for several topics, including Genome annotation, RNA-seq, ChIP-seq, Exome-sequencing, MethylC-seq and Galaxy Tool Development, with varying degrees of completeness.

During the hackathon, the attendees discussed, brainstormed and worked on the materials, improving and adding slides, datasets, tools, workflows, metadata (Bioschemas and EDAM), Docker containers and interactive tours. Github was used to track tasks and issues, and the GTN Gitter channel was used as a chat room (<https://gitter.im/Galaxy-Training-Network/Lobby>). A new structure for the training material repository was also discussed and agreed on, and new topics were worked on, such as small RNA-seq, genome assembly and metabolomics. Much was achieved and the work will continue post hackathon and at the 2017 Galaxy Community Conference in Montpellier, France June 26-30 (<https://gcc2017.sciencesconf.org>).



Share your GOBLET-related event! Email pr@mygoblet.org.



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FEATURE ARTICLE: The Standards Committee



More than ever, the awareness, adoption and adherence to standards matters in the biosciences. High-throughput technologies are generating biological data at unprecedented rates, and gaining insights and understanding from these data requires the development of rigorous data-stewardship practices and deployment of training. As data science is an emerging field, training programmes are just being created, and best practices in data curation and in data-science training are being formulated.

The GOBLET Standards Committee is a group of people who care about standards in training and for training. The Committee includes representatives from across the world (Australia, Europe, South Africa), who bring wide-ranging expertise in and experience with training-related standards.

The Standards Committee has recently started to build a GOBLET Standards 'Pool of Experts', a group of colleagues active in standard initiatives that are relevant for GOBLET to learn from and interact with. The group currently comprises four experts: Pascale Gaudet (SIB and the International Society for Biocuration-ISB), Peter McQuilton (BioSharing, Biocuration and ELIXIR-UK), Niall Beard (TeSS, ELIXIR-UK and Bioschemas) and Saravanan Dayalan (Metabolomics Australia and EMBL-ABR).

The Standards Committee operates via monthly calls. Members are encouraged to take their participation seriously and hence to contribute on a regular basis. The meetings have a rolling collaborative agenda, shared via Google docs. The agenda, notes and actions from the meetings are shared openly at our web page: <http://www.mygoblet.org/content/standards>.

Earlier this year, the committee presented a poster at the Biocuration Meeting, (<https://f1000research.com/posters/6-327>), and is presenting another at ISMB. The committee also launched a survey, led by EMBL-ABR with Biosharing, about standards awareness and adoption within the biosciences. Please help us to spread this survey (<https://www.embl-abr.org.au/standards-in-biosciences/>) across the bioscience community.

The committee also collaborates with Bioschemas, and is actively reviewing the existing Bioschemas specifications for training materials. Learn more about this effort at our dedicated web page: <http://www.mygoblet.org/document/standards-training-materials-descriptors>.



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Recent GOBLET Publications

1. Brazas et al. (2017) Training: Plug gap in essential bioinformatics skills. *Nature*, 544, 161.
2. Brazas et al. (2017) A global perspective on bioinformatics training needs. *BioRxiv*, <https://doi.org/10.1101/098996>
3. Horro et al. (2017) BioCIDER: a Contextualisation InDEx for biological Resource discovery. *Bioinformatics*, doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btx213
4. Attwood et al. (2017) A global perspective on evolving bioinformatics & data science training needs. *Brief. Bioinform.* (2017), submitted.
5. Attwood et al. (2016) Defining a lingua franca for the ELIXIR/GOBLET e-learning ecosystem. *Zenodo* (2016), <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.166378>



All members have the potential to shape the future of GOBLET, and to leverage its collective bioinformatics training expertise to further the missions of their own organisations. We therefore encourage you to get involved, and to exploit the environment it provides for trainers to network, support each other and share expertise.