Letter from the Executive Board

Terri Attwood, Michelle Brazas, Celia van Gelder, Annette McGrath

Since our last newsletter, we have been busy running the key events in GOBLET’s calendar, including our AGM at the OICR in Toronto in November, which incorporated both a Bioschemas workshop (building on the GOBLET-ELIXIR collaboration to develop standards for disseminating training information), and a workshop for high-school teachers, as part of the Science Teachers’ Association of Ontario (STAO) 2018 Conference. We also continued work with Antonio Santovito, of Creative, and the Technical Committee to coordinate the redevelopment of our website, which will be deployed later this year.

In terms of publications, we have been building a new collection of ‘Critical Guides’ and ‘Practical Guides’, high-quality, open training materials that adhere to a standardised format. Separately, work to develop a Mastery Rubric for Bioinformatics has been deposited as a pre-print in bioRxiv. In parallel, we have continued work with ELIXIR to develop standardised Train-the-Trainer (TTT) materials, and will publish the first trainer resources later this year; progress on the ELIXIR-GOBLet Joint Training Strategy was presented to the ELIXIR Training Coordinators’ meeting in May. Also in May, under the auspices of H3ABioNet, Nicky Mulder organised a Bioinformatics Education Summit in Cape Town (ZA), with support from ELIXIR, ISCB and GOBLET; outcomes from that meeting will be augmented during the Education COSI day at ISMB/ECCB 2019 in Basel. During this period, we agreed to establish an annual GOBLET travel fellowship to support speakers to attend the COSI event. We are happy to announce that the first award will go to Vicky Nembaware, University of Cape Town, whose keynote talk will present The African Genomic Medicine Training Initiative.

This newsletter brings reports and updates on some of these activities, and a spotlight on bioinformatics.ca. We are currently preparing posters and a booth for ISMB/ECCB 2019 – email the Outreach & PR Committee (pr@mygoblet.org) to lend a hand! In August, we contribute again to the advanced bioinformatics module for the CODATA-RDA Research Data Science Summer School in Trieste; and from 9-11 September, our AGM will be held in conjunction with InCoB2019, where we aim to run RNAseq and TTT workshops; Eija Korpelainen will give the GOBLET keynote. Please join us in Jakarta – for registration details, visit the website: genomicyarsi.id/goblet-agm-2019.

To learn more, visit www.mygoblet.org and lend your support. Not yet a member? Then join us!
A New Collection of Standardised Training Resources

In September 2018, we announced the publication of the first in a new collection of standardised training resources: 1) ‘Critical Guides’ (part of the Introduction to Bioinformatics series) offer teachers and students background information and exercises to help familiarise themselves with key bioinformatics software tools and databases; ‘Practical Guides’ (part of the Bringing Bioinformatics into the Classroom series) offer teachers background information on various life-science topics, and related exercises to guide students through particular bioinformatics analysis tasks. The first Practical Guide (based on materials presented at the STAO conference in Toronto in 2014) was published in March 2019; the second Practical Guide (based on materials presented as part of the 4273π Bioinformatics Education Project) was published in June.

**Practical Guides**


**Critical Guides**

In 2016, Makerere University embarked on an ambitious education programme – establishing Master’s and Doctoral training in Bioinformatics. With support from the Fogarty International Center and H3Africa, the curricula were developed, reviewed and accredited by the National Council for Higher Education in January 2019. These postgraduate courses have generated a lot of interest, and the university has received ~160 applications across Uganda and Kenya to be considered for admission for the next academic year.

Although proud that the university is beginning to deliver postgraduate education in bioinformatics, provision of sound training is an enormous task, as bioinformatics is a relatively new discipline in Uganda.

As a representative of Nurturing Genomics & Bioinformatics Research Capacity in Africa (BRecA) from Makerere University, I was fortunate to participate in the recent Bioinformatics Education Summit in Cape Town, co-organised by H3ABioNet, ELIXIR, ISCB and GOBLET. It was a timely and well-organised event that provided us with opportunities to reflect on our curricula and our preparedness for training. Overall, it was a great learning experience, full of activities that aimed to strengthen bioinformatics training in Africa: from definition of concepts like ‘curriculum’, to a thorough discussion of competencies for bioinformatics degree programmes and non-degree courses, mapping curricula to competencies, trainers’ support and guidelines for endorsing curricula by international bodies. When I returned, I shared this experience with colleagues, and we agreed as a department to study the materials and gradually implement all that we find useful.

- By Dr Caleb Kibet, Makerere University

For more information, see: [www.h3abionet.org/categories/training/bioinformatics-education-summit](http://www.h3abionet.org/categories/training/bioinformatics-education-summit)
GOBLET @ ISMB/ECCB 2019

GOBLET will again have a presence at ISMB/ECCB 2019 in Basel (CH). Two posters will be presented during the Education COSI’s poster track; there will also be a short talk on the Mastery Rubric for Bioinformatics, and GOBLET will jointly host a booth with the Education COSI. We look forward to seeing you there!

For further details, see: www.iscb.org/ismeccb2019

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: bioinformatics.ca

Bioinformatics.ca through its Canadian Bioinformatics Workshops (CBW) series began offering one- and two-week short courses in bioinformatics, genomics and proteomics in 1999, in response to an identified need for a skilled bioinformatics workforce in Canada. In partnership with the Canadian Genetics Diseases Network and Human Resources Development Canada, and under the scientific direction of Director, Francis Ouellette, the CBW series was established. This initial series continued for eight years.

In 2007, bioinformatics.ca moved to its new host at the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, and the CBW began developing a new series of exciting workshops. With the introduction of new technologies and scientific approaches to research, having the computational biology capacity and skill to deal with these new data has become increasingly important. The new workshops provide training on these advanced technologies, bringing awareness of the latest approaches being used in computational biology to deal with the new data types. The CBW has been developing and offering this new series of workshops since 2008.

For more information visit:
Website: bioinformatics.ca
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bioinformaticsdotca/
Twitter: @bioinfodotca

GOBLET Election

We need you! GOBLET is in an election year: we are now seeking individuals for open positions on the Executive Board and for each of the Committee Chairs. The formal nomination process is open now – we warmly encourage you to step forward, to help drive GOBLET’s current projects and steer the Foundation’s future.

In the meantime, if you would like to contact us informally, please email us at info@mygoblet.org
Save the Date

GOBLET Annual General Meeting 2019
Co-located with InCoB 2019
September 9-10, 2019
Universitas YARSI, Jakarta, Indonesia
https://genomicyarsi.id/goblet-agm-2019/

Register Now!
genomicyarsi.id/goblet-agm-2019

GOBLET-ELIXIR Collaboration

Terri Attwood and Celia van Gelder gave a presentation on the GOBLET-ELIXIR collaboration at the ELIXIR Training Coordinators' meeting on 15 May 2019. Slides from the presentation are available here: bit.ly/goblet-elixir2019

Registration is open for the 2019 GOBLET AGM in Jakarta, Indonesia, 9-10 September 2019. GOBLET will be speaking at the co-located INCOB conference, and hosting a workshop in RNA-seq analysis. There is also interest in a Train-the-Trainer workshop, so do participate and lend a hand in these training sessions.
Call for GOBLET AGM 2020 Proposals

Are you interested in hosting our next AGM? Send your expression of interest or full proposal to info@mygoblet.org.

Format

- Proposals, not exceeding one side of A4, should contain:
  - the name and institution of the local organiser
  - details of the proposed venue (for ~20-30 participants)
  - the range of dates available for the meeting
  - estimate of costs (including venue, catering, hotel, local transportation)
  - outlines of any plans to attract additional sponsorship
  - Suggestions for satellite events/workshops to reach out to the local community

Where GOBLET has been over the years:

2019 – Jakarta, ID (upcoming)
2018 – Toronto, CA
2017 – Oeiras, PT
2016 – Brisbane, AU
2015 – Cape Town, ZA
2014 – Toronto, CA
2013 – Norwich, UK
2012 – Amsterdam, NL

For information about previous meetings, see: mygoblet.org/about-us/goblet-events

Join GOBLET!

Connect to international resources and colleagues to network and exchange experiences

Access to world-class trainers

Gain international visibility as a trainer

Not a member? Join us today!

Develop better bioinformatics course

Contribute and influence global bioinformatics education and training

Keep up-to-date with the latest developments in the training

@mygoblet.org  info@mygoblet.org  @mygobletorg