Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education & Training

On 25-26 October 2016, the NETTAB 2016 Workshop, whose theme was 'Reproducibility, standards and SOP in bioinformatics' was held in Rome, co-organised with the CHARME COST Action and EMBnet. This year, the event also brought together many people from Europe who are active in training and training organisation, in order to participate in various training-focused events.

The first event was a GOBLET/ELIXIR-IT Train-the-Trainer (TtT) tutorial [1], held on 24 October, which was led by Sarah Morgan, Pedro Fernandes and Allegra Via. The TtT initiative forms part of the ELIXIR and GOBLET joint training strategy [2]. On 25 October, the ELIXIR Training Coordinators held their own face-to-face meeting, which was followed on 26 October by a special session on Education and Training [3], chaired by Terri Attwood and Allegra Via. This session provided an interesting overview of various collaborative training strategies and activities from, amongst others, GOBLET, the ELIXIR Training Platform, CHARME, Software/Data Carpentry and EDISON. The GOBLET presentation, which was given by Celia van Gelder, focused on '*Working towards FAIR bioinformatics training*' [4]. The session finished with a panel discussion on '*Challenges in the training arena in the context of reproducibility and standards in bioinformatics',* and closed the meeting.

The Rome event marked the16th edition of NETTAB, an international series of workshops on NETwork Tools and Applications for Biology. It was hosted by the ELIXIR-IT Node and held at the headquarters of the Italian National Research Council.

NETTAB Workshops focus on innovative ICT tools and their applications in bioinformatics. These events are held at different locations in Italy every year, each time with a different theme – such as XML in Bioinformatics, Workflow management, Semantic Web, Biological wikis, Social and mobile applications, Integrative Bioinformatics, and so on. The full list of NETTAB Workshops can be found at the NETTAB webpage → http://www.nettab.org/.

[1] http://www.igst.it/nettab/2016/programme/tutorials/

[2] https://www.elixir-europe.org/news/elixir-and-goblet-publish-joint-training-strategy

[3] http://www.igst.it/nettab/2016/programme/scientific-programme/

[4] http://www.igst.it/nettab/2016/files/2016/11/NETTAB2016_vanGelder.pdf

http://www.igst.it/nettab/2016/

GOBLET/ELIXIR thematic hackathon for metagenomics training materials re-use – follow up
Alex Mitchell

A GOBLET/ELIXIR metagenomics training materials exchange 'hackathon' was held at EMBL-EBI in Hinxton (UK), on Apri 7 2016. The meeting brought together bioinformatics trainers from different institutes around the world, to discuss optimal course design and best practice in training material preparation. The principal aims were to collate a set of metagenomics training materials for broad dissemination; to define a working framework for curating training materials to make them available via the TeSS and GOBLET portals; and to prepare a best-practice report (including the framework for material curation and guidance on the use of such material in the development of new courses), to propagate the approach to the ELIXIR and GOBLET communities.
http://www.mygoblet.org/about-us/goblet-events/joint-gobletelixir-metagenomics-training-material-curation-hackathon

A major outcome of the materials exchange was cross-pollination of ideas and experiences between trainers. It also helped foster collaborative training: following discussions at the meeting, Morgan Langille of Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia (CA) joined the EMBL-EBI trainers and other outside speakers to provide a 3-day EMBL-EBI Metagenomics Bioinformatics course in October. The course was three times over-subscribed and proved highly successful, with very positive feedback highlighting both the content and the quality of the hands-on sessions and training materials.
https://www.ebi.ac.uk/training/events/2016/metagenomics-bioinformatics-1

EMBL-ABR/GOBLET Hands-on training: RNA-seq data analysis

The event from EMBL-ABR HUB and GOBLET was hosted by University of Melbourne, organized by Vicky Schneider and Christina Hall. Dr Eija Korpelainen from the CSC-IT Center for Science (Finland) was the invited international faculty. Over one and a half days (14 and 15 of November 2016) participants were given a hands-on introduction to RNA-seq data analysis, from raw sequence reads to differentially expressed genes. Trainers introduced the theory, analysis tools and file formats involved during short lectures and hands-on exercises.
https://www.embl-abr.org.au/gobletnov2016/

Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education & Training

New member benefits

During 2016, additional membership benefits were introduced to make it easier to join GOBLET and for members to become more engaged with the Foundation's activities.

Specifically, we introduced:

Discounted fees for individuals and organisations residing in low- and middle-income countries, based on the World Bank classification

Multiple-year membership options, to facilitate payment during periods of plentiful funding (the cost is pro rata, based on the number of years and chosen level of membership)

Opportunities for organisational members to nominate additional participant(s) from their organisations to join committees: one additional participant for silver members, and two for gold and platinum members.

GOBLET's 2016 election results

GOBLET members voted for the next GOBLET Officers in October. The results of the elections were announced at the AGM.

Terri Attwood (Chair) and **Michelle Brazas** (Secretary) are joined by **Celia van Gelder** (Treasurer) and **Annette McGrath** to form the new Executive Board.

The new Committee Chairs are **Bruno Gaeta** (Fundraising), **Pedro Fernandes** (Learning, Education & Training), **Ann Meyer** (Outreach & PR), **Vicky Schneider** (Standards), and **Carlos Horro** (Technical).

THANK YOU to the past chairs for all your hard work and WELCOME to the new chairs!

If you wish to join one of the committees, please send an email to the committee chair.

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.