BIOINFORMATICS AND DATA SCIENCE: CAREERS FOR LIFE SCIENTISTS IN THE INFORMATION AGE

In the era of “big data”, life scientists have unprecedented access to new sources of information and increasing career opportunities in fields like bioinformatics, data science, and other interdisciplinary areas. In the 5th Annual Joint Career Development Forum, co-organized by SABPA and UCSD Postdoc Association (PDA), we have invited scientists and senior managers from these fields to an interactive panel discussion. The panelists will share their experience and career path in bioinformatics and data science and opportunities for life scientists seeking to move into these exciting fields.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 18th, 2019

5:30 – 6:15 PM Registration and Networking Dinner
6:15 – 6:30 PM Welcome by SABPA ECD and UCSD PDA
Peter Huang, Ph.D., SABPA
Ying Zhao, Ph.D., UCSD Postdoc Association
6:30 – 8:00 PM Panel Discussion
8:00 – 8:30 PM Networking

WHERE: Roth Auditorium, Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine 2880 Torrey Pines Scenic Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037

Moderators
Cathy Cen Guo, PhD, Member, SABPA; Clinical Pharmacologist, Pfizer
Prerna Bali, Co-vice chair, PDA, Post-doctoral Researcher, UC San Diego

PANELISTS
Fred Chang, Ph.D., Data Scientist, Johnson & Johnson

Dr. Fred Chang received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from UC Berkeley and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from Harvard University. During his PhD, he studied how homologous chromosomes find each other during the process of meiosis. There, he developed new imaging and statistical signal processing approaches to directly image the 3D dynamics of single molecules inside living systems. On his free time, Dr. Chang enjoys repairing neglected home appliances.

Christopher Longhurst, M.D., M.S., CIO and Associate CMO, UC San Diego Health

Dr. Christopher Longhurst serves as chief information officer and associate chief medical officer for quality and safety at UC San Diego Health. As CIO, Dr. Longhurst oversees all operations and strategic planning for information and communications technology. He is responsible for planning and developing all administrative and clinical information systems related to operating UC San Diego Health hospital and clinical facilities and leading the creation and execution of a comprehensive information strategy to meet the future needs of UC San Diego. Dr. Longhurst most recently served as chief medical information officer for Stanford Children's Health. He completed his residency at Stanford Medical School and earned his medical degree and MS in medical informatics from UC Davis. He holds a BS in molecular biology from UC San Diego. He is a board-certified pediatrician and clinical informaticist. Dr. Longhurst is an elected fellow of the prestigious American College of Medical Informatics.
Tatiana Khasanova, Ph.D., Executive Director, Rancho BioSciences

Dr. Tatiana Khasanova is an Executive Director of Contract Research at Rancho Biosciences. She leads the team of data curators, bioinformaticians, and IT specialists to support knowledge management projects for pharmaceutical industry and non-profit and governmental organizations. Tatiana has over 15 years of experience working with complex, customer-oriented projects in science. As a member of a medicinal chemistry team at BioFocus DPI Tatiana worked on the therapeutics for neuropathic pain, treatments for inflammatory and cardiovascular diseases. Several US and International patents were filed as a result of this work. Tatiana then continued her career at GeneGo (acquired in 2010 by Thomson Reuters) shifting the focus towards knowledge management projects. Tatiana has accumulated significant experience working with many open source tools and platforms, including tranSMART, Cytoscape, Connectivity map and many more. Tatiana earned her Bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Moscow State University in Russian Federation. She completed her PhD in Physical Organic Chemistry at University of Nevada, Reno under the mentorship of Professor Robert Sheridan. Postdoctoral training was completed at the University of California, Irvine with Professor James Nowick in the area of peptidomimetics, Alzheimer’s and Huntington’s diseases.

Tao Xie, Ph.D., Senior Principal Scientist, Pfizer

Dr. Tao Xie is Senior Principal Scientist at Pfizer Oncology R&D. He received his Ph.D. in Computational Biology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and did his post-doctoral fellowship with Dr. Leroy Hood at the Institute for Systems Biology (ISB). In Pfizer, he is responsible for genomics based translational studies for multiple projects in current Pfizer ORD’s pipeline from preclinical to early/late phase clinical trials. Dr. Xie is also interested in developing cutting-edge NGS genomic solutions for cancer diagnostics and immuno-oncology. Before joining Pfizer, Dr. Xie worked at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and Merck/Rosetta.

Xiang Yao, Ph.D., M.S., Principal Scientist, Computational Science, Johnson & Johnson

Dr. Xiang (Sean) Yao, is a Principal Scientist in Computational Biology at the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson. He received a M.S. degree in Computer Engineering and a Ph.D. degree in Molecular Biology from the University of Southern California. He worked in Drug Discovery, R&D IT, Data Sciences and Discovery Sciences organizations. His work spans a wide range of informatics and analytics solutions supporting drug discovery and preclinical development in Neuroscience, Immunology, Cardiovascular & Metabolism and Regenerative Medicine therapeutic areas. He currently leads efforts on building global infrastructure for NGS and Omics data management and computing, integrating internal and external data, and applying meta-analysis for such as target and biomarker identification and nonclinical safety profiling. He also directly works with scientists in Janssen La Jolla and other sites on data analysis in various research projects.

Planning Committee

UCSD: Abhilash Kizhakke Pullyakote, Ellen Lee, Prerna Bali, Dinghong Zhang, Nirakar Rajbhandari, Nelly El-Sakkary, Ola Leszcynska
SABPA: Tracy Yeo, Runquan Zhang, Max Xiaojun Xu, Yixian Cui, Cathy Cen Guo