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GMR Genetics and Molecular Research
EVOLUTION AND TECHNOLOGY

Section for the International Conference on Bioinformatics and Computational Biology

Molecular Research has greatly benefited from recent progress in Bioinformatics, Computational Biology, Structural Biology, High-throughput Analysis of Gene Expression, Molecular Evolution, and Genomics. Brazil has entered the Genomics era by running several EST (starting with the publication by Franco et al., 1995) and genome projects (the sequencing of the first plant pathogen, *Xylella fastidiosa*, by Simpson et al., 2000 being a landmark), which - together with basic research interests (presently represented by PhD programs on Bioinformatics) - has stimulated the research community to host important conferences on Molecular Research. Amongst these are: the International Conference on Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (ICoBiCoBi), the Workshop on Bioinformatics (WOB), Biomathematics Symposia (BioMat), and Algorithms and Computational Methods for Biochemical and Evolutionary Networks (CompBioNets). There have also been dedicated symposia and poster sections in meetings of the Brazilian Societies for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SBBq) and Genetics (SBG). Next year, there will be the 1st International Conference of the Brazilian Association for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, the annual meeting of the newly formed South American ISCB regional affiliate (October 4-7, 2005). AB^3C will be the official host for the 2006 ISMB conference that will take place in Fortaleza, Brazil. This society arises to coordinate and support the progress of the field in the country, inserting Brazil in the world's evolving genomics science scenario.

This number of Genetics and Molecular Research publishes selected papers from the second ICoBiCoBi, which took place in Angra dos Reis, Brazil, in October 2004. The conference hosted over 300 participants and was composed of five lectures, eight symposia, two technical sections, and 124 posters.

ICoBiCoBi assembled an Editorial Committee with associate editors and at least two "ad hoc" referees per manuscript. Accordingly, full papers shall be considered peer reviewed. From around 30 submissions, 11 full papers were initially accepted. All papers were also reviewed and corrected by the editorial staff of Genetics and Molecular Research.

Recently, Genetics and Molecular Research became the first Brazilian journal to open a section on Bioinformatics. A collaborative effort has joined the Associate Editor, Vasco Azevedo, to a Guest Editorial Committee composed by ICoBiCoBi organizers, presided by J. Miguel Ortega, to organize a pioneering section starting in this number of the journal.

Articles cover topics that range from recent progress in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (Opinion) to novel algorithms and applications addressing problems in the evolving field of modern Genetics and Molecular Research. We hope that a passion for this field will keep students, researchers, and professors advancing knowledge in Brazil and in the world. This passion is represented by the song "Isabela," composed during the meeting, and is evident in the pictures taken at the event. For more details please visit the ICoBiCoBi site at http://www.icobicobi.com.br.

REFERENCES

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