

Systems biology research at the SBB young scientists school series

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The Institute of Cytology and Genetics of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ICG SB RAS) hosts the International Multi-conference on Bioinformatics of Genome Regulation and Structure/Systems Biology (BGRS/SB) every two years, beginning from 1998. From BGRS/SB'2008 onwards, the Young Scientists School on Systems Biology and Bioinformatics (SBB) runs as a satellite event following the BGRS/SB conference or as a standalone annual event. Since the first meeting, the SBB has grown into a large international event. Gradually, the initial focus has been extended from systems biology and classical bioinformatics topics to gene network analysis and reconstruction, and omics technologies [2].

The Journal of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (JBCB) publishes special issues on bioinformatics, algorithms, network analysis dedicated to BGRS/SB. The first JBCB special issue in 2006 highlighted BGRS/SB-2006 [3]. Then JBCB published special issues on the 2012, 2014, and 2016 conferences [4–6]. Additionally, the journal publishes reports from the SBB schools. For instance, JBCB has published proceedings of SBB-2015 on modeling of gene network based on material presented at earlier BGRS/SB meetings [3, 5, 6].

The Institute of Cytology and Genetics SB RAS organized in 2017 the Belyaev Conference-2017 on genetics and evolution, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Academician, Professor Dmitry K. Belyaev (1917–1985), an outstanding scientist, evolutionist and geneticist [7]. The works reported at Belyaev Conference-2017 and SBB'2017 School on Computational Biology were recently covered in the special issues of several international journals: BMC Evolutionary Biology [7], BMC Genetics [8], BMC Plant Biology, BMC Genomics, BMC Neuroscience, Vavilov Journal of Selection and Breeding (<http://vavilov.elpub.ru/jour/issue/view/32/showToc>). Meanwhile, a recent JBCB special issue presents materials from SBB'2017 School on Systems Biology and Bioinformatics (SBB'2017), organized in June 2017 in Yalta, Russia [1].

Integration of bioinformatics data is central point of the meetings and Schools organized in Novosibirsk. Journal of Integrative bioinformatics (<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/jib>) collects papers on Integration of Data, Methods and Tools, Big Data [9].

Overall, we continue the organization of special journal issues collected works on bioinformatics and biomedical applications presented by young scientists, thus extending traditions of post-conference special journal issues of the BGRS/SB conference series. This year's series will highlight materials presented at BGRS/SB-2018 multiconference; special issues are planned at several BMC journals, and Frontiers in Genetics, and JBCB. The JBCB special issue on BGRS-2018 is currently open for submission at the journal

web-site; it is our pleasure to invite authors to submit materials to the JBCB BGRS-2018 special issue.

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