Editorial

From October 5–7, 2005, Hamburg hosted the German Conference on Bioinformatics (GCB 05) and this journal section contains a selection of the material which eventually became full-length papers. The conference (GCB) has been run every year since 1994, moving between host institutions and attracting contributions from around Europe. This gathering had 235 registrants and 126 posters. From 73 extended abstracts and a first round of review and revision, the Program Committee chose 19 oral presentations. The seven papers in this issue were accepted after going through another round of refereeing in the journal’s normal review procedure.

The selection of papers for publication was based purely on quality and no attempt was made to survey the interests of the meeting, which was more diverse. This selection certainly does not reflect the amount of activity in the analysis of microarray data or the curation of specialized nucleotide and protein datasets. It also does not convey the breadth of topics amongst the plenary speakers. These ranged from molecular dynamics simulations (Case, USA) to evolutionary landscapes (Schuster, Austria). The plenary lectures also included some very topical themes such as the use of sequence analysis in detecting bio-attacks (Slezak, USA) and the story of the SARS virus from the point of view of its genetics and epidemiology (Guo-Ping Zhao, China/USA) and structural biology (Hilgenfeld, Germany).

The running of the meeting relied on a bevy of helpers who may be unnamed, but not unappreciated. Scientifically, the process relied on the expertise of the Program Committee and the additional reviewers they drafted. Finally, these papers also reflect the suggestions of a large number of anonymous referees.

Andrew E. Torda and Thomas Lengauer

ADDITIONAL REVIEWERS
Mohamed I. Abouelhoda
Jannis Apostolakis
Rolf Backofen
Michael Beckstette
Fabian Birzele
Torsten Blum
Nicoleta Bondar
Bogdan Costescu
Zoe Cournia
Pierre Dönnies
Qunfeng Dong
Katrin Fundel
Jan Erik Gewehr
Niels Grabe
Volker Heun
Andreas Hildebrandt
Matthias Hilmenschmädle
Annette Höglund
Peta Imhof
Andreas Kerzmann
Robert Küflner
Jan Küntzer
Vandana Kurkal
Alessandro Macri
Lars Meinhold
Kei Moritsugu
Dirk Neumann
Frank Noe
Heike Pospisil
Jörg Rahmenführer
Durba Sengupta
Florian Sohler
Marc Sturm
Sebastian Will

PROGRAM AND ORGANIZATION COMMITTEES
Thomas Dandekar
Roland Eils
Robert Giegerich
Oliver Kohlbacher
Stefan Kurtz
Hans-Peter Lenhof
Hans-Werner Mewes
Matthias Rarey
Knut Reinert

Dietmar Schomburg
Jeremy Smith
Peter Stadler
Andrew Torda
Martin Vingron
Ute Willhöft
Ralf Zimmer

The Author 2006. Published by Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. For Permissions, please email: journals.permissions@oxfordjournals.org