The Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education & Training

GOBLET/ISCB – Interim Meeting
Berlin, 19 July 2013

The meeting commenced with a brief 'tour de table', during which participants introduced themselves and their organisations, as follows:

Terri Attwood: EMBnet
Marie-Claude Blatter: SIB, CH
Erik Bongcam-Rudloff: SeqAhead, SGBC
Cath Brooksbank: EBI, UK
Aidan Budd: Individual Member, DE
Manuel Corpas: Itico, UK
Angela Davies: Nowgen, UK
Javier De las Rivas: SoIBio
Bruno Gaeta: APBioNet
Andreas Heger: CGAT, UK
Jaap Heringa: NBIC, NL
Rubina Kalra: TGAC, UK
Eija Korpelainen: CSC, FI
Judit Kumithini: CPGR, ZA
Fran Lewitter: ISCB
Sarah Morgan: EBI, UK
Patricia Palagi: SIB, CH
Kristian Rother: Observer
Vicky Schneider-Gricar: TGAC, UK
Stacy Slagor: ISCB
Allegra Via: Chair, BTN
Mick Watson: EdGe, UK
Lonnie Welch: ISCB

Represented by proxy:
Pedro Fernandes: IGC, PT
Pascale Gaudet: ISB
Nicky Mulder: ASBCB
Susanna Sansone: BioSharing, UK

Additional invited speakers:
Niklas Blomberg: ELIXIR
Ana Conesa: CIPF, ES
Anupama Jigisha: ISCB Student Council

Review of Actions from the Kick-Off Meeting (Terri Attwood)
The meeting proper began with a review of Actions from the Kick-Off (KO) meeting held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 28 November 2012. There, 12 tasks had been Actioned, most of which were now complete or in progress (see Table below): these included writing and circulating the KO meeting report; establishing a bank account and sending out the first invoices; progressing the website based on feedback from the KO; submitting a proposal for funds to support a meeting in Toronto; exploring the feasibility of SEB hosting a meeting

in 2014; and investigating the possibility of hosting an interim meeting alongside ISMB/ECCB2013. Three Actions were incomplete/partially complete: two of these were picked up during this meeting (committee names and journal article), and the outcomes are described later in this report.

The principal business goals of this meeting were hence: i) to provide an update on work carried out since the KO, including reports from three task-force rapporteurs, ii) to continue previous discussions and finally agree a framework for GOBLET's fee/benefit structure, and iii) to agree nomination and election processes for its future Executive Board members and Committee Chairs.

Responsible	Action	Status	Comment
Rafael Jimenez, Itico	Progress website based on kick-off meeting feedback	✔	Work in progress – report to follow
Task-force Champions	Contact members, agree action list, assign tasks to members	✔	Done – reports to follow
Acting Exec	Write & circulate kick-off meeting report	✔	Done & posted on website
Acting Exec	Set up bank account (payments by Treasurer to be signed off by Exec)	✔	Done
Acting Exec	Send invoices for 2013 annual fee	✔	Ongoing – report to follow
Michelle Brazas, bioinformatics.ca	Check eligibility & prepare grant application to host next meeting in Toronto	✔	Done & resubmitted
Fran Lewitter, ISCB	Investigate hosting an interim GOBLET meeting alongside ISMB/ECCB 2013	✔	Done
Terri Attwood, EMBnet	Explore hosting a GOBLET workshop with SEB in 2014	✔	Ongoing
Exec	Establish nomination/election processes for Executive Board & Committee Chairs	✔	Report & discussion to follow
All	Suggest better names for the committees	✗	No suggestions received – discussion to follow
Exec	Draft article for PLoS or other journal & circulate	✔ ✗	A report is to be published in *EMBnet.journal* – article proper (& volunteers) are still needed
All	Look for possible admin assistant in your organisation who could support the Executive Board	✔ ✗	No suggestions received – Barbara van Kampen (CMBI) is currently on the Exec & supporting the Treasurer

Executive Update (Terri Attwood)

Having reviewed the Actions from the previous meeting, Terri summarised progress on a range of activities following the KO.

The MoU now had 26 signatories. Representatives of 21 organisations were present or present by proxy at this meeting. Several others had wanted to attend,

but were unable to do so owing to their travel schedules or to prior involvement in ISMB SIGs (Michelle Brazas and Francis Ouellette (bioinformatics.ca), Manuela Helmer-Citterich (BITS), Gert Vriend (CMBI), Dan Maclean (TSL)).

Meetings Held, Attended & Planned

Several meetings had been held jointly with GOBLET, or were in the process of being planned. These included the 1st ELIXIR-UK/GOBLET Workshop, 25-26 March 2013. This had been a very energetic and highly successful event, hosted by Mario Caccamo and Vicky Schneider-Gricar at TGAC, Norwich, with funding from UK Research Councils, BBSRC, MRC and NERC (see press release).


The 1ˢᵗ ELIXIR-UK/GOBLET Trainers Workshop, held at TGAC, Norwich, UK

During this workshop, several task-forces had been set up with complementary aims to those of existing GOBLET task-forces. However, ELIXIR-UK can't formally commence activities until ELIXIR itself is confirmed as a legal entity later this year; once this happens, it will clearly be important to ensure maximal synergy between the ELIXIR-UK and GOBLET task-forces.

GOBLET was also presented at the *NextGenBug* meeting held at the Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh, UK, 10 June 2013. We are grateful to Mick Watson for giving Allegra Via the opportunity to introduce GOBLET to bioinformaticians in Scotland.

On 7 July, Vicky Schneider-Gricar and Cath Brooksbank attended the *Materials and Workshops for Cyberinfrastructure Education in Biology* at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), University of Maryland, USA. Vicky briefly introduced GOBLET to the participants, including members of the Soft-ware Sustainability Institute and Software Carpentry. It is hoped to resume some of the discussions held there at a forthcoming workshop at TGAC in November.

The Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education & Training
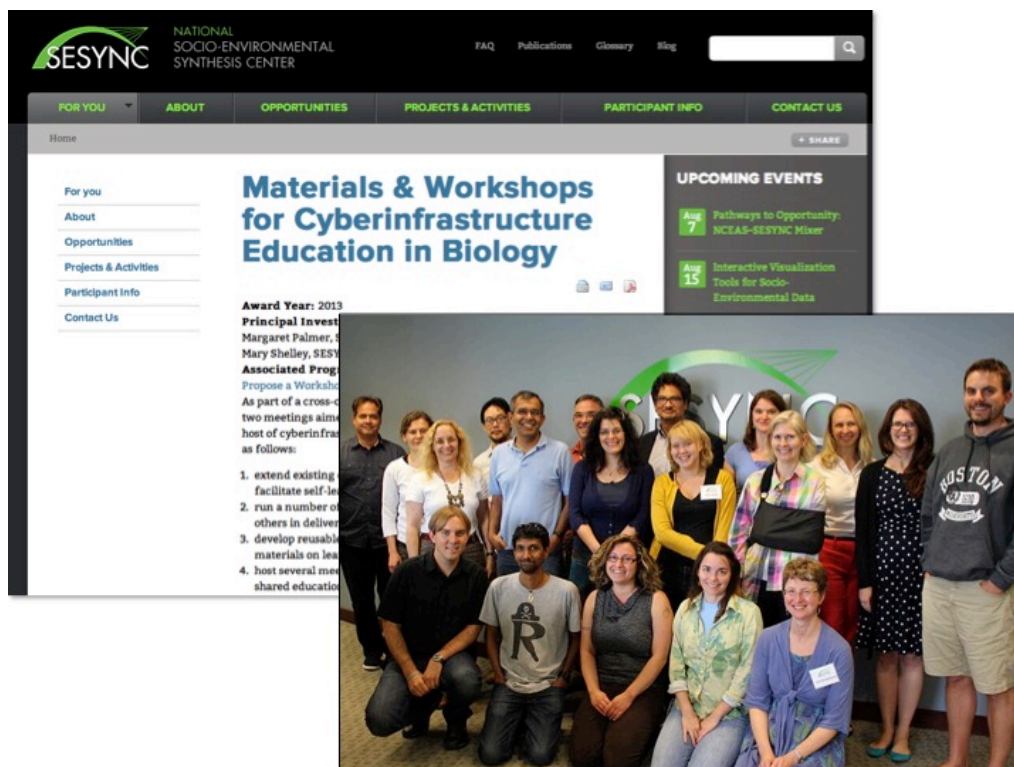
Participants in *Materials & Workshops for Cyberinfrastructure Education in Biology*, Maryland, USA

In terms of meetings planned, a proposal had recently been submitted to ELIXIR director, Niklas Blomberg, to fund a workshop, as an ELIXIR 2nd-wave Pilot Action, to be held at TGAC, Norwich, UK, 4-5 November 2013. The workshop would bring together key ELIXIR, GOBLET, Software Carpentry, Software Sustainability and industry stakeholders, and provide an opportunity to start formulating a coherent training strategy for ELIXIR. As well as members of GOBLET, the event would involve, amongst others, members of ELIXIR-UK, ELIXIR-NL, ELIXIR-CH and ELIXIR-FI.

If the workshop isn't funded, the intention is to run it anyway (albeit with a slight change of emphasis), and to align it with the 2013 GOBLET Annual General Meeting (AGM). The original plan had been to hold the AGM in Toronto, but Michelle Brazas' application to the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) wasn't successful, despite scoring 4.52/4.60. Michelle thus resubmitted, and the results will be announced on 1 November. This date is obviously too late to allow us to plan a meeting in Toronto in 2013. However, were the proposal to be successful this time, the funds would be good for a year, and would hence allow us to align a GOBLET meeting with the ISB AGM in Toronto, 6-9 April 2014.

Discussions were also in progress with Sarah Blackford to organise a GOBLET workshop alongside SEB's 2014 AGM, to be held in Manchester towards the end of June/beginning of July. The idea for the workshop was largely inspired by the results from the survey SEB conducted earlier in the year, which attempted to ascertain the bioinformatics training needs of life scientists. The results of the survey, and motivation for the workshop, are described in a little more detail later in this report.

![GOBLET logo] **The Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education & Training**

Accomplishments & Outputs

In terms of outputs, a paper had recently been accepted in *Briefings in Bioinformatics:* **Best Practices in Bioinformatics Training for Life Scientists**, by Via *et al*. This is not a GOBLET article *per se*, but nevertheless introduces GOBLET as the natural evolution of the BTN.

The 'open letter' originally planned to announce the creation of GOBLET, a draft of which had been circulated by Terri several months ago, was really little more than a bland meeting report. In order to reformulate this as a paper suitable for a prominent journal like *PLoS One* or *Nature Biotech.,* it clearly needed to be 'beefed up'. There hadn't yet been sufficient time to do this; meanwhile, as the report itself was ready to be published 'as is', it was submitted to *EMBnet.journal* and will appear in volume 19, issue number 1, around the end of July.

Report on GOBLET to appear in *EMBnet.journal* **19(1)**.

To help take the preparation of a 'high profile' publication forward, volunteers were solicited during the meeting. The following names were collected: Terri A., Marie-Claude B., Erik B-R., Manuel C., Angela D., Javier DlR., Bruno G., Rubina K., Eija K., Judit K., Patricia P., Vicky S-G., Allegra V., Mick W. and Lonnie W., with Cath B. agreeing to drive the initiative. This would be a publication of the entire consortium, not just of the named volunteers.

Action: **Cath Brooksbank to contact co-authors and move this forward.**

During the year, we also worked closely with the ISCB in order to create an education poster track for ISMB 2013. Twenty posters were accepted, including ours: thanks are due to all who helped to refine it, and to Vicky Schneider-Gricar for submitting it.

The first GOBLET poster, presented at ISMB 2013, Berlin

A further interesting development was the survey on training needs run by Sarah Blackford (SEB). The motivation for the survey was to ascertain, for those life scientists currently using bioinformatics tools and resources, the areas and formats in which they felt they most needed training. A very brief summary of the more than 200 responses is shown in the Table below.

	Observation
Countries	75% Europe
Respondents/career stage	35% PD/RA, 32% MSc/PhD
Respondents/discipline	33% plant science
Current learning method	76% self taught/colleagues
Level of confidence	33% level 3 (scale of 1-5)
Training required	67% analysis/interpretation
Preferred delivery method	74% workshops/57% e-learning

Most respondents were European, about a third of them postgraduate students, another third early-stage researchers. Interestingly, the largest response by discipline was from plant scientists – it isn't yet clear whether this reflects SEB membership, or some other underlying trend. Three-quarters of respondents

said they were self-taught or guided by colleagues, a third putting themselves in the middle of the scale in terms of overall confidence in using bioinformatics tools and resources. Two-thirds said that the area in which they most needed training was with data analysis and interpretation, most saying they'd like to see more workshops becoming available for this purpose, more than half suggesting that e-learning facilities would also be helpful. The free-text feedback was extremely constructive and surprisingly enthusiastic – a flavour is given below:

- *"Although I am aware of bioinformatics courses, there is not enough publicity or not enough of them to cover our needs."*
- *"It would be great to provide slides from courses."*
- *"Interpretation is more important than the analysis."*
- *"Bioinformatic training is imperative - it should be taught in LS disciplines at the university. I highly support your initiative."*
- *"There are so many bioinformatics techniques, softwares, etc, it would be great to have a central wiki devoted to introducing people to packages & analysis methods."*
- *"I think what you are doing is of great value!"*
- *"More training in this area is vital for plant scientists to develop their employability."*
- *"There are several initiatives out there. It would be great to compile resources in one place."*
- *"Large data statistical analysis skills & software are lacking. Need to train more people on this."*
- *"We need an accreditation mechanism similar to board certification for MDs & the Bar for lawyers."*
- *"This is an enormously important questionnaire. Thank you."*

Overall, then, even from this small survey, some clear training needs emerged. Reassuringly, the feedback suggests that GOBLET is heading in the right direction, and is positioning itself well to address a number of real issues. To explore some of the findings in more detail, we're planning to hold a workshop with the SEB in Manchester next year, alongside their AGM.

Finances

GOBLET's bank account has been set up in the Netherlands, where the GOBLET Stichting is registered. The current financial position is shown in the Table below. Invoices (denoted I in the Table) were sent out to 15 organisations according to fee levels agreed during the KO meeting: either €1,000 or €500. Those not present at the KO, or present by proxy, weren't invoiced, as we didn't know the level of fee those organisations would be able to pay (marked by ?).

Most organisations who'd been invoiced had already paid; the rest had indicated that the invoices were being processed, or that they were having issues with PayPal (denoted OK). Organisations that can't pay (so can't be formal members of GOBLET), either because they're constitutionally unable to do so or because they aren't legal entities (*e.g.*, SeqAhead, a European COST Action, and the BTN, the precursor network that gave rise to GOBLET), are marked with a dash.

In addition, two individuals were invoiced for €50. Hence, the total invoiced was €12,600, with total receipts to date of €10,050.

	Organisation	Invoice	Fee	Status
1	EMBnet	I	1,000	✔
2	ISCB	I	1,000	✔
3	NBIC	I	1,000	✔
4	ISB	I	500	✔
5	APBioNet	I	1,000	OK (PayPal problems)
6	ASBCB	I	500	OK
7	EBI	I	1,000	OK
8	SolBio	-	?	
9	SeqAhead	-	-	Can't pay
10	BTN	-	-	Can't pay
11	CMBI	-	1,000	✔
12	TGAC	I	1,000	✔
13	SIB	I	1,000	✔
14	bioinformatics.ca	I	500	✔
15	SEB	I	500	✔
16	ABN	I	500	✔
17	CSC	I	1,000	✔
18	SGBC	I	1,000	✔
19	IGC	I	1,000	OK
20	TSL	-	?	
21	CPGR	-	?	
22	Itico	-	?	Fee to be set against website work
23	BITS	-	?	
24	EdGe	-	?	
25	Nowgen	-	?	
26	CGAT	-	?	
27	BioSharing	-	?	
	Individual			
1	Allegra Via	I	50	OK
2	Aidan Budd	I	50	✔
	TOTAL	**12,600**	**10,050**	

A key component of the business portion of this meeting was to build a more detailed picture of the fee/benefit structure outlined during the KO. This would allow the remaining organisations to decide the level of fee to which they would be able to commit, and for GOBLET to invoice them accordingly. To this end, a draft fee/benefit document had been circulated prior to the meeting, and was to be discussed in break-out groups during Discussion Session 1. It's vital that organisations wishing to participate in the elections (proposed to take place during September-October) make a commitment as soon as possible. We'll then have a more complete financial picture at the November AGM, where the newly elected Executive Board and Committee Chairs will be announced.

Before looking at the results of the break-outs, it's important to remember why an annual fee is necessary and what the funds are for. If GOBLET can accrue a

sustainable bank balance, we will be able to finance our activities and meetings without being always dependent on external funding bodies. We can, of course, still apply for grants for specific activities, but having our own financial resources provides greater flexibility during 'lean' funding periods.

A crude financial plan was drawn up during the KO meeting, as follows:
1. Web portal (€5k)
2. Future meetings (€10k)
3. OA publications (€5k)
4. Admin support (€20k)
5. Auditor (€1k)

The tally was thus ~€40K/annum, which is clearly ambitious; equally clearly, we can still start to do a lot with a lot less! The good news is that we're about a third of the way there in seven months, and still have eight organisations to invoice. During the meeting, three of those (CGAT, CPGR and SoIBio) indicated fee levels for which we could invoice them.

Action: TSL, BITS, EdGe, Nowgen, BioSharing to confirm fee level.
Action: Exec, to invoice remaining organisations as appropriate.

Emerging Structure for Steering GOBLET's Activities

The principal components of GOBLET's mission, as stated on our website, are to:
i.   provide a global, sustainable support structure for bioinformatics educators/trainers & students/trainees (including a training portal);
ii. facilitate capacity development in bioinformatics in all countries;
iii. develop standards & guidelines for bioinformatics education & training;
iv. act as a hub for fund gathering;
v.   reach out to, amongst others, teachers at high schools, to bridge the gap to the next generation of bioinformaticians;
vi. foster the international community of B³CB trainers.

During the KO, 4 broad committees had coalesced around these components:
- Education & Training (i, ii, iii, v, vi)
- Technical (i)
- Outreach & PR (ii, v, vi)
- Fund-Raising (iv)

Understandably, Education & Training was the largest, touching on almost every facet of GOBLET's mission. In order to galvanise the work of the committees, each had been broken down into task-forces: these included 'Train the Trainer', 'Train the Teacher', 'Capacity Development', 'Standards & Guidelines', 'Recognition/Accreditation', 'Website', 'Virtualisation', 'Advocacy'.

It's important to ensure that these are sensible focal points for GOBLET's work and that the designated committees are able to foster this work appropriately. An outstanding action from the KO had thus been to suggest alternative committee names, in case the original descriptions weren't optimal. To continue the discussion, suggestions for possible new names, and/or for new committees, were collected during the meeting. For the Education & Training Committee, it

was suggested to include the word 'Learning'. For the Technical Committee, the name and purpose were self-evident, so there was no discussion. There was, however, much debate about the name and scope of the Outreach & PR Committee, and a suggestion to merge it with Fund-Raising. Eventually, however, it was agreed to retain the name, but to ensure that this Committee included activities relating to Advocacy and Organisation Advancement; following a strong steer from Stacy Slagor, it was also agreed to keep Fund-Raising as a separate Committee (Stacy, ISCB's Director of Corporate Relations and Development, attended the meeting to learn more about GOBLET and to begin investigating ways to help). Finally, a new 'Standardisation' Committee was proposed, with activities to be championed by Judit, and team members to include Allegra, Lonnie and Mick.

Terri concluded the executive update with a reminder that, for ease of continuity with the BTN Organising Committee, GOBLET was being run by an interim 'Acting' Exec, comprising Allegra Via (Secretaris), Celia van Gelder (Treasurer), Barbara van Kampen (Member), and Terri (Chair). Given their experience of working together for the BTN, it had been expedient to use this group to establish the Stichting; but this would need to be done formally in future.

The second key component of the business portion of this meeting was therefore to prepare the groundwork for *officially electing* the Executive Board and Committee Chairs later in the year. The proposed scheme was as follows: to nominate the Executives and Committee Chairs online during September; to conduct the election of candidates online (by secret ballot) during October; to announce the results at the AGM in November. The relevant paperwork had been circulated prior to the meeting, and was to be discussed in break-out groups during Discussion Session 2.

Participants in the GOBLET/ISCB meeting, Berlin Hilton, Berlin, DE

Update Education & Training/PR Task-forces (Vicky Schneider-Gricar)

Vicky gave a brief update on 4 main task-forces of the Education & Training Committee: 'Train the Trainer', 'Train the Teacher', 'Accreditation & Recognition' and 'Curriculum'; she also gave an overview of the 'Outreach & Community Engagement' task force.

Train the Trainers

A survey had been designed to collate what's already been done and to identify gaps – contributions are still welcome. To help share best practice in developing new trainers, a skills matrix had been circulated during the meeting – feedback was again welcomed. Members were also encouraged to join the Bioinformatics Training & Education for Life Scientists LinkedIn Group to discuss trainer support with the wider community. A mailing list had been set up to facilitate communication within this group (ttt@mygoblet.org); Cath Brooksbank is the task-force champion.

Train the Teachers

In order to explore what high-school bioinformatics teaching is and how it's organised, a prototype survey had been designed, to which all were welcome to suggest additions/changes. The survey captured a range of aspects, such as course design and content, course formats, materials provided, existing websites, problems encountered, how GOBLET might be able to help, and so on. To date, the survey had been 'road tested' by IGC, NBIC, WI and SIB.

The next steps were to finalise the questionnaire and make it available via the GOBLET Training Portal. Depending on the results, it might be possible to write a paper on how high-school bioinformatics teaching is organised in GOBLET countries. Contact Marie-Claude, the task-force champion, for more details.

Curriculum

The purpose of this task-force is to construct a set of template curricula for bioinformatics courses at Masters (or similar) level, primarily by studying existing successful programmes.

This would require, i) appropriate bioinformatics training programmes to be identified; ii) programmes with loosely similar objectives to be grouped and compared, and their curricula to be analysed; iii) elements of comparable curricula that might form a template for similar programmes to be identified and evaluated; and iv) searches of literature describing relevant curricula to be conducted in order to gather further information and views. For more details, contact Pedro Fernandes, the task-force champion.

Accreditation & Recognition

The purpose of this task-force is to facilitate recognition and accreditation of *competent individuals* (*i.e.*, not training material, institutions, organisations) involved in delivery of B^{3}CB training, where the training doesn't take place in a degree program. B^{3}CB is defined here as Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Biocuration, Computational Biology – *i.e.*, fields using computers to analyse biological data; recognition involves public acknowledgement (*i.e.*, presented and available in a publicly-accessible way) that a particular person has carried

out some activity associated with delivery of B^{3}CB training; and accreditation involves recognition (as defined above) that is, in addition, associated both with an 'official' awarding organisation and with transparent, measurable, criteria.

This task-force aims to:

1. Review the pros/cons of having a 'Rate my trainer' facility within the GOBLET Training Portal;
2. Review ways of assigning *DOIs* to GOBLET training materials;
3. Review how organisations similar to GOBLET accredit/recognise;
4. Identify possible *criteria* that could be used, in general, for accreditation;
5. Assess how comparable such criteria might be in different training contexts;
6. Identify approaches to reach community agreement on these criteria;
7. Propose criteria for the 'Trainer' and 'Organiser' labels on GOBLET pages;
8. Propose criteria for awarding a *Golden GOBLET* (Silver and Bronze too?);
9. Explore *Open Badges* as an accreditation instrument;
10. Decide which mechanism we will use to give accreditation.

Current proposal drafts are available for review in a shared [GoogleDoc](#).

Outreach & Community Engagement

The purpose of this task-force is to perform outreach and community engagement with GOBLET's core stake-holder community (*i.e.*, B^{3}CB trainers both within and outwith GOBLET), with the aim of promoting a feeling of *belonging* amongst community members. 'Outreach' here is defined as two-way (or more!) communication between GOBLET and others (as distinct from primarily one-way communications like press releases, flyers, posters, *etc.*).

This task-force will:

1. Propose aims and decision-making responsibilities of this Outreach & Community Engagement task-force;
2. Prepare a stakeholder analysis;
3. Propose aims for Twitter use, and recommend a hash-tag, account name, and draft guidelines for content;
4. Propose aims for LinkedIn use, and plans for doing this;
5. Propose an outline concept for local face-to-face GOBLET meetings.

Current proposal drafts are available for review in a shared [GoogleDoc](#).

Vicky concluded by thanking everyone for their contributions, and encouraging all to continue to interact, to commit and to contribute!

Update Fund-Raising Task-force (Patricia Palagi)

The purpose of this task-force is to oversee funding opportunities, to lead fund-raising activities, and to advocate for new funding policies. The goals are to seek funds for GOBLET's various activities; to stimulate common projects amongst GOBLET members; to lobby funding agencies, research and infrastructure bodies; and ultimately to gain independence from exclusive reliance on membership fees.

Patricia Palagi gave a brief update on the main actions already initiated by the Fund-Raising task-force. These included listing/identifying funding possibilities:

- funding agencies and funding programs (*e.g.*, EU Lifelong Learning, COST Actions, CIHR)
- Sponsors/donators/partners (*e.g.*, pharma companies, Pistoia Alliance, ELIXIR)
- Crowd-sourcing (*e.g.,* Microryza, Kickstarter)

Patricia noted that some 'GOBLETeers' had already started to apply for funds to support meetings and workshops, as outlined in the Table below.

Funding body	Scope	Date & location	Deadline	Applicant	Decision
CIHR	GOBLET meeting to stimulate collaboration among individuals or groups from a variety of backgrounds	Tentatively, Nov.'13, Toronto, CA	15.02.13	M.Brazas	Not funded
CIHR	Ditto	Tentatively April '14, Toronto, CA	17.06.13	M.Brazas	Resubmission. Decision: 01.11.13
ELIXIR	2nd-wave ELIXIR Pilot Action – an ELIXIR-GOBLET workshop to help define a training strategy for ELIXIR	Nov. 5-6 '13, TGAC, Norwich, UK	Submitted 14.06.13	V.Schneider, T.Attwood (ELIXIR-UK, ELIXIR-CH, ELIXIR-NL, ELIXIR-FI)	Decision: unknown

Of course, this is just the start; more work needs to be done to continue the list, to create a sponsors' package, and to identify common, fundable projects to galvanise GOBLETeers! To this end, help will be needed from all.

Meanwhile, in the short-term, the task-force aims to:
- become better organised, with monthly virtual meetings
- engage more GOBLETeers in the task-force(s)
- define clear actions
- galvanise and work with other committees
- nominate a leader

An email list (frtf@mygoblet.org) had been set up to facilitate communication within this group. Suggestions, comments, ideas are welcome, and may be added to the shared GoogleDoc or emailed to Patricia. Patricia concluded by thanking members of the task-force for their contributions and all for their attention.

Update Technical Task-force (Manuel Corpas)
The purpose of this task-force is primarily to support and maintain the website and Training Portal, the mailing lists and online payment system.

Manuel Corpas presented an update on work completed on the GOBLET website since the KO meeting. He began by outlining the 'rights/privileges' of various user roles (anonymous users, guest users, members and moderators); he showed the membership pages and encouraged everyone to complete their profiles (to date, 19 people had entered data); he also pointed to the FAQ and, in particular, highlighted the facility to add new publications to the website simply by providing the PubMed ID.

The current list of training materials and course pages was briefly illustrated, along with the filtering tool that allows information to be filtered, for example, by audience, by topic, *etc*. Manuel also showed how to add training materials and course pages to the portal, and encouraged all to start making contributions.
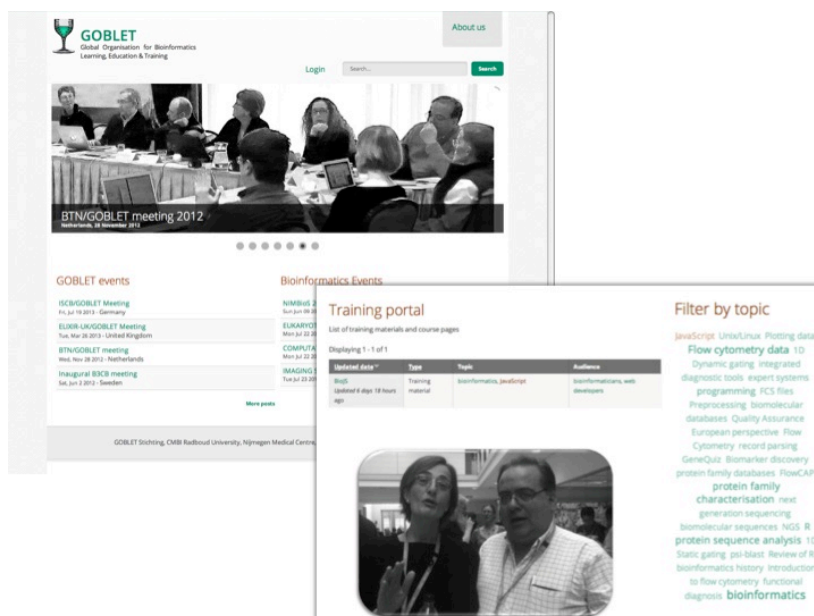
The 'new-look' GOBLET website and the 'filter by topic' option from the Training Portal.

Inevitably, the website is still under development, and several things remain to be done, *e.g.*:

- improving the Training Portal
- distinguishing members from non-members in the Trainers Table
- adding training facilities
- allowing download of multiple materials from Materials Pages
- including DOIs, *etc*.

This isn't an exhaustive list, and members are encouraged to contact Manuel and/or Rafael Jimenez for more info – a mailing list had been set up to facilitate communication within this group (ttf@mygoblet.org).

Manuel concluded by thanking everyone for their contributions, and especially Rafael for his hard work in progressing the website and Training Portal.

Fee/benefit structure for organisations & individuals
(Discussion session 1)

During the KO meeting, a range of potential fees had been discussed: some participants felt that their organisation might be able to contribute an annual fee of €1,000; others felt that €500 would be more realistic; all agreed to contribute more than the suggested base-level fee of €250. Some discussion of the benefits associated with these different fees ensued, but time was limited and the debate concluded without a complete picture of a meaningful fee/benefit structure.

To progress the discussion, a document outlining possible benefits relating to different categories of membership had been made available online prior to the

meeting – this expanded on the picture from the KO meeting, with a suggestion of bronze, silver, gold and platinum organisational members (with fees of €250, €500, €1,000 and €2,500 respectively), the platinum level representing corporate members; individual members were either students or PIs/postdocs/*etc.* (with fees of €15 and €50 respectively).

To 'sanity check' this scheme, meeting participants were organised into 3 break-out groups, and asked to select a 'rapporteur'. Each group was given a copy of the draft benefits document, and asked to tick those aspects with which the group was in agreement, or cross them if in disagreement. At the end of the review period, each rapporteur was asked to transfer the group's *consensus* view to a 'master document' – the overall feedback is summarised in the Table below.

	Individual		Organisational (incl. corporate)			
Fee	€15	€50	€250	€500	€1,000	€2,500
Bursaries to attend co-sponsored meetings/events	✓					
Membership of 1st global bioinformatics trainer network	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Networking opportunities via mailing lists & meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities to join Committees & their Task-forces	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities to lead Task-forces	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monthly copies of newsletter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discounted publications in *EMBnet.journal*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities to galvanise new training activities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discounts to attend co-sponsored meetings/events	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities to seek joint funding		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Upload & share training materials		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Organise/disseminate course pages		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Publicity for training activities via website		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Possibility to become a GOBLET-sponsored trainer		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Right to vote in elections		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Right to run for Executive position			✓	✓	✓	✓
Waived fee for organising an AGM			✓	✓	✓	✓
Publicity for organisation via website			✓	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities to seek event sponsorship			✓	✓	✓	✓
Subsidised AGM attendance if elected to Executive position				✓	✓	✓
Subsidised AGM attendance					✓	✓
Marketing opportunities						✓

Most of the feedback wasn't contentious. The principal change to the proposed scheme was to de-couple the platinum fee from corporate membership, such that any organisation could pay any level of fee, with the relevant benefits – thus, *any* organisation could choose platinum membership, and SMEs, say, wouldn't be disadvantaged by having only platinum membership available to them. It was also suggested to allow 'multiple payments' for several years in advance (note that, in addition, the GOBLET statutes allow donations).

During the KO meeting, it had already been agreed that the different levels of fee would be associated with specific benefits, but that a greater fee would not allow organisations to 'buy' more votes. The benefits Table above has been arranged to better highlight the differences between the different types of membership (note that 'Executive position' here is intended to encompass membership of the Executive Board or Committee Chair).

Action: **Exec & Itico, to finalise/upload the fee/benefits table to the website.**

Nomination/election processes for Executives & Committee Chairs (Discussion Session 2)

Now that GOBLET is a legally registered entity and, moreover, is solvent, it is important to have an officially elected Executive body in place – *i.e.*, members of the Executive Board and the Committee Chairs who, together, will form the 'Operational Board' – ideally in time for the next AGM.

To expedite this process, a document outlining possible nomination and election processes had been made available online prior to the meeting. For the benefit of those who hadn't had a chance to read it beforehand, a copy was circulated during the meeting, and participants were given 5-10 minutes to read it carefully. To focus the discussion, they then returned to their break-out groups, where they were asked to review the document and to tick those aspects of the processes with which their group was in agreement, or cross them if in disagreement. At the end of the review period, the rapporteurs were again asked to transfer their group's *consensus* view to a 'master document'. The results were fairly congruent, the following process receiving majority approval:

Executive Board
- Any organisational member may nominate him/herself for the Executive Board, but self-nominations must be seconded
- Any member may nominate an organisational member for the Executive Board, but must first seek approval from that member
- Members running for the Executive Board must complete the online form, stating why they're running, and what they'll bring to, or aspire to achieve for, the Board during their 3-year term
- The online form would open for nominations during the month of September
- Voting for nominees would take place online during the month of October
- The results would be shared at the AGM in November

Committees
- Any eligible member may nominate him/herself to Chair a Committee, but self-nominations must be seconded
- Any member may nominate any eligible member to Chair a Committee, but must first seek approval from that member
- Members running for a Committee Chair must complete the online form, stating why they're running, and what they'll bring to, or aspire to achieve for, the Committee during their 3-year term
- Online forms would open for nominations during the month of September
- Voting for nominees would take place online during the month of October
- The results would be shared at the AGM in November

The online forms would take something like the following form (see Table below): the proposer would be named first (if self-nominating, the proposal would need to be seconded; if nominating somebody else, the nominee would need to approve); the name of the nominee would follow; this would be followed by a link to a statement, detailing why the candidate was running, and what she/he hoped to bring to, or aspire to achieve for, the Board or relevant Committee.

Position (Executive Board or Relevant Committee)			
Proposer	Seconded/Approved	Nominee	Profile

Voting

The discussion around the voting process was a little more complicated, largely because not everyone present was familiar with the rules that govern Stichtings. Nevertheless, the following process received majority approval:

- At least two-thirds (2/3) of the eligible constituency must cast a vote
- Nominees must achieve 60% of votes cast to be electable
- Four (4) members need to be elected to the Executive Board (who will work with the Committee Chairs as the Operational Board)
- One (1) member needs to be elected to each of the Committee Chairs
- Where these conditions aren't met, votes will need to be re-cast
- Members could not be simultaneously elected to the Executive Board and to Chair a Committee

The online forms would take something like the following form (see Table below): the name of the nominee would be indicated; each member would be allowed to cast a single vote for or against each nominee, or to abstain.

Position (Executive Board or Relevant Committee)			
Nominee	Yes	No	Abstain

The online forms and voting module will be added to the website as soon as possible, and by end August at latest!

Action: Exec, to finalise the online forms following this meeting.
Action: Itico, to implement the online nomination and voting forms.

Presentations

The afternoon session was devoted to talks from four invited speakers. Lonnie Welch (ISCB) began by presenting some of the work of ISCB's Education Committee in developing curricula for education and training programmes in bioinformatics and computational biology. The findings of the Committee's Curriculum Task-Force had been published as a report in PLoS Computational Biology in June 2012.

Action: All interested in further discussions about bioinformatics curricula, contact Lonnie Welch (welch@ohio.edu).

Ana Conesa (CIPF, ES) introduced the concept of developing multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional training programmes, potentially at PhD level. She outlined

the need for novel approaches for training in computational biology that combine both wet and dry lab practices, and presented some of the challenges. Various funding schemes were discussed – Marie Curie (albeit European not global) looks to be the closest model to the one proposed, so might be a way forward. Ana will follow this up and invited those with an interest to join.

Action: All interested in creating multidisciplinary training programmes, contact Ana Conesa (aconesa@cipf.es).

Niklas Blomberg (ELIXIR) presented the current status of ELIXIR, which now has ~15 national signatories. The next stage is to secure the Consortium Agreement (CA) – once the CA has been signed by five partners, ELIXIR will be a legal entity. Until then, various initiatives are on hold. Nevertheless, Niklas spoke about how ELIXIR might interface with organisations like GOBLET, especially through ELIXIR-UK, a dedicated ELIXIR Training Node. Unfortunately, he couldn't comment on the likelihood of funding the 2nd-wave Pilot Action proposal recently submitted by members of ELIXIR-UK to hold a joint workshop with GOBLET and other ELIXIR partners at TGAC.

Action: All interested in working more closely with ELIXIR via ELIXIR-UK, contact Terri Attwood (teresa.k.attwood@manchester.ac.uk) and/or Andreas Heger (andreas.heger@dpag.ox.ac.uk).

Finally, Anupama Jigisha (ISCBSC) introduced the ISCB Student Council Intern Initiative. The initiative is intended to benefit computational biology students from developing nations. Anupama described how applicants are evaluated and matched to host institutions or labs that offer internship positions; she reported that, since 2009, six interns had been placed in labs around the world. Although an extremely valuable scheme, the principal obstacle to its success was funding – so far, this had come entirely from the host labs. Anupama was hence keen to explore new funding avenues, possibly with future support from GOBLET. With the help of GOBLET, the initiative could also gain better outreach.

Action: All interested in contributing to the ISCB SC intern initiative, contact Anupama Jigisha (anupama.jigisha@gmail.com).

Action: Exec, to request slides from speakers & upload to website.

Wrap-up (Terri Attwood)

This was an extremely cordial and constructive meeting – much had been achieved and the day disappeared in a trice! Terri closed the meeting by thanking all for their valuable contributions throughout the day, with particular thanks to the ISCB for hosting the meeting, and to Fran Lewitter for local organisation and for making the meeting happen!

Action: Exec, draft meeting report and circulate for comments.