



9th Annual Bioinformatics Open Source Conference

BOSC 2008

1. Welcome

Welcome to BOSC 2008! This is the 9th annual Bioinformatics Open Source Conference held as a Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting in conjunction with the Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology Conference.

BOSC is sponsored by the Open Bioinformatics Foundation (O|B|F), a non-profit group dedicated to promoting the practice and philosophy of Open Source software development within the biological research community. Many Open Source bioinformatics packages are widely used by the research community across many application areas and form a cornerstone in enabling research in the genomic and post-genomic era. Open source bioinformatics software has facilitated rapid innovation and dissemination of new computational methods as well as informatics infrastructure.

Since the work of the Open Source Bioinformatics Community represents some of the most cutting edge of Bioinformatics in general, the overall theme for the conference this year is “Tackling Hard Problems with Emerging Technologies.” Session topics under this umbrella include cyberinfrastructure, grid computing and workflow management and discovery, and visualization. In keeping with this theme, we welcome our keynote speaker, Julian Lombardi. Dr. Lombardi is one of the original architects of the open source, peer-to-peer OpenCroquet platform for creating and deploying deeply collaborative multi-user online applications and virtual worlds. We will also hear updates about the main Open Source Bioinformatics Software suites.

One of the hallmarks of BOSC is the coming together of the open source developer community in one location. A face-to-face meeting of this community creates synergy where participants can work together to create use cases, prototype working code, or run bootcamps for developers from other projects as short, informal, and hands-on tutorials in new software packages and emerging technologies. We have two formats to facilitate these collaborations: lightning talks (short, 5 minute talks for focused ideas and demos) and Birds of a Feather sessions where small groups gather around a common interest. In short, BOSC is not just a conference for presentations of completed work, but is a dynamic meeting where collaborative work gets done.

Next year will mark the 10th Anniversary of BOSC. In preparation for this milestone, we invite you to join the O|B|F (application forms are available) and the BOSC 2009 planning committee.

Finally, BOSC 2008, our keynote speaker, and student travel fellowships were made possible by Helicos Biosciences Corporation and an anonymous donor. Thank you.

Organizing Committee

Kam Dahlquist (Chair)
Darin London
Hilmar Lapp
Jason Stajich
Chris Dagdigan

Sponsorship



