



GOBLET NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Teresa Attwood, Michelle Brazas, Fran Lewitter, Vicky Schneider

At a [meeting](#) held alongside EMBnet's 24th Annual General Meeting (AGM), in Uppsala (SE), June 2012, leaders of 10 bioinformatics, biocuration and computational biology societies and networks agreed to establish an umbrella organisation to coordinate bioinformatics training activities worldwide. The vision was to work together to solve a common problem: specifically, how to deliver tangible benefits to local communities with limited funds and just a handful of time-pressed volunteers. The founding partners – EMBnet, ISCB, APBioNet, ASBCB, SoIBio, ISB, EBI, NBIC, SeqAhead, BTN – thereby created GOBLET, the Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education and Training.

Within months, GOBLET was established as a legal foundation, to provide a global, sustainable support structure to foster international communities of bioinformatics trainers and trainees. The foundation aims to facilitate bioinformatics capacity development in all countries; to develop standards and best-practice guidelines, and branded materials and courses, to help drive up the quality of bioinformatics training; and to reach out to high-school teachers, to bridge the gap to the next generation of bioinformaticians.

Remarkably, GOBLET is already preparing for its 5th AGM, and membership has grown more than threefold. As with all volunteer-based organisations, GOBLET relies on the commitment and passion of its members – the goodwill is tangible, and the outputs impressive for such a young organisation. Notable highlights include:

- building and publishing the [GOBLET portal](#);
- publishing an overview of [GOBLET's activities](#) in PLOS CB;
- publishing a [joint training strategy with ELIXIR](#);
- running a major survey of global bioinformatics training needs;
- co-organising several training workshops (e.g., in

Manchester (UK), Boston (USA), Dublin (IE), Norwich (UK), Toronto (CA), Ljubljana (SI) with ELIXIR-SI, Sao Paulo (BR), Cape Town (ZA));

- working with the ISCB to launch the Computational Biology Education Community of Special Interest, to foster relationships between ISCB and GOBLET's training communities;
- presenting posters in ISMB's education track and securing promotional booths at ISMB and ECCB conferences;
- winning small grants to support GOBLET's AGMs; and
- planning the 5th AGM, to be held 7-9 November 2016, in Brisbane (AU).

To consolidate the outputs of some of its workshops, GOBLET is preparing two more articles for publication, and further workshops and activities are planned for the coming year. To learn more about GOBLET visit www.my-goblet.org and [get involved!](#) Not yet a member? Then [join us!](#)



Participants of the inaugural meeting in Uppsala 2012

REPORT ON GOBLET TRAIN-THE-TRAINER WORKSHOP

Nicola Mulder

GOBLET and [H3ABioNet](#) teamed up to run a bioinformatics Train-the-Trainer workshop at the University of Cape Town (UCT) Medical School, 16-17 November 2015. H3ABioNet is a Pan-African bioinformatics network that aims to build bioinformatics capacity for genomics research. The workshop was attended by more than 40 bioinformatics trainers: participants travelled from 24 different countries, including several in Africa, Europe, Australia, Canada and the USA. On the first day, participants were exposed to training concepts, teaching methods

and course design, through lectures and interactive sessions, led by Sarah Morgan from the European Bioinformatics Institute, and Gabriella Rustici from the University of Cambridge, UK. This was followed by discussions on trainer recognition, best practices and development of core competencies for targeting training to different audiences. The workshop was reported in the [EMBL newsletter](#).



Photo of Gabry, one of the trainers, and Prof. Tromp, one of the participants, during a reportage session.



Group photo of Train-the-Trainer workshop participants.

GOBLET AGM, CAPE TOWN, NOVEMBER 2015

MICHELLE BRAZAS

GOBLET's 2015 AGM was held 18-20 November 2015 at the President Hotel, Cape Town (ZA). The meeting brought together 26 organisational and individual members, as well as other experts in bioinformatics education and training, to discuss GOBLET's future priorities and work-plan in delivering state-of-the-art bioinformatics education and training. It was a beautiful locale and our host, Nicola Mulder (ASBCB), organised a wonderful event, complete with GOBLET-branded cupcakes!

The full agenda, presentations and meeting minutes can be found on our [website](#).



The GOBLET-branded cupcakes



2015 AGM Cape Town, South Africa



CALL FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE 2016 ELECTIONS

It's been 3 years since elections to GOBLET's officer positions were first held. The forthcoming AGM in Brisbane marks the completion of the 3-year terms of the first elected officers: several of those will be up for re-election, while others are standing down. We're therefore seeking motivated candidates for all positions: vacant seats include the Chairs of the Technical, Standards and Fund-raising Committees, and two positions on the Executive Board. A formal call for candidates will be made soon. These roles are

critical to work that will shape GOBLET's future. Once the call is announced, we warmly urge you to step forward to join the team that will drive GOBLET forward.

CALL FOR HOSTING THE AGM 2017

During the 2016 AGM in Australia, voting will take place for the location of the 2017 annual meeting. If you would like to host the next AGM, please prepare a short proposal, including cost estimates for the venue, together with likely catering, hotel and local transportation costs. Plans for fund-raising/sponsorship of the event would also be helpful and ideas for

themes of satellite events and/or links with related, co-located meetings would be welcome. Please submit your proposals (1-page max) and/or direct any queries to the Exec: info@mygoblet.org

SAVE THE DATE: GOBLET AGM 2016 AND WORKSHOPS

Annette McGrath

Planning has begun for the GOBLET AGM, which will be held 7-9 Nov 2016, in Brisbane, (AU). This year's AGM will be held in conjunction with the second annual conference of the Australian Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Society (ABACBS – pronounced ab-a-cus) and associated events at the Queensland University of Technology. An outline of these events can be found at <http://www.abacbs.org/conference/>.

GOBLET workshops will be held between the ABACBS conference and before the GOBLET AGM, from 3-4 Nov. If you have any suggestions for workshops aimed at the GOBLET and wider Australian

bioinformatics training communities, I'd be very happy to hear them.

If you are interested in delivering training workshops to biologists with more flexible timing, before or after the AGM, please let me know.

In order to help me to make appropriate arrangements, it would be very helpful to have an idea of expected numbers. While I realise it is still quite some time away, if you are considering attending the AGM or if you definitely plan to attend please contact me at annette.mcgrath@csiro.au.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN BRISBANE IN NOVEMBER!



Photograph by Martin Canning

UPCOMING EVENTS

- GOBLET/ELIXIR [hackathon for metagenomics training materials re-use](#), 7-8 April, Hinxton (UK)
- [Biocuration workshop](#) on training needs for biocuration, 13 April, Geneva (CH)
- [Lifelong Learning in the Biomedical Sciences](#), 5-7 July, Heidelberg (DE)
- ISMB, [Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology](#), 8-12 July, Orlando (USA)
- ECCB, [15th European Conference on Computational Biology](#), 3-7 September, The Hague (NL)
- [NETTAB/ELIXIR/GOBLET/EMBnet](#) special session on education, in 26 October, Rome (IT)
- GOBLET AGM, 7-9 November, Brisbane (AU)