

# Preface

The RECOMB conference series – with the full name of the Annual International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology – was started in 1997 by Sorin Istrail, Pavel Pevzner, and Michael Waterman. The 19th RECOMB conference, RECOMB 2015, was held in Warsaw, Poland during April 12–15, 2015 and was hosted by the University of Warsaw.

This volume contains the 36 extended abstracts selected for oral presentation at RECOMB 2015 by the Program Committee (PC) out of 170 submissions. Each submission was assigned to at least three PC members and reviewed with the help of many external reviewers. Following the initial reviews, there was an extensive discussion of the submissions among the members of the PC, leading to the final decisions.

In 2015 RECOMB allowed for parallel submissions to the proceedings and a journal. Papers accepted for oral presentation that have simultaneously been submitted to a journal are published as 2-page abstracts. Parallel submissions which have not appeared in a journal by the time of the conference were to be deposited in the preprint server arxiv.org. All other papers that were accepted to RECOMB 2015 were invited for submission in an edited journal version to a special issue of the *Journal of Computational Biology*.

In addition to the paper presentations, RECOMB 2015 featured six invited keynote talks by leading scientists world-wide. The keynote speakers were M. Madan Babu (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology), Bonnie Berger (Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT), M. Magda Konarska (Rockefeller University and University of Warsaw), Michael Levitt (Stanford University), Bas van Steensel (Netherlands Cancer Institute), and Ulam's lecture by Wacław Szybalski (University of Wisconsin-Madison).

Following the tradition started at RECOMB 2010, RECOMB 2015 also featured a special highlights track containing computational biology papers that were published in journals during the last 18 months. There were 38 submissions, 8 of which were selected for oral presentation.

The success of RECOMB depends on the effort, dedication, and devotion of many colleagues who have contributed to the organization of the conference. I thank the PC members and external reviewers for the timely review of the assigned papers despite their busy schedules; Mona Singh for chairing the highlights track; Lenore Cowen for chairing the posters track; the Steering Committee and its chair, Martin Vingron, for many excellent suggestions on the organization of the conference; the Local Organizing Committee members, especially the Co-chairs Jerzy Tiuryn and Bartek Wilczyński, for hosting the conference and providing administrative, logistic, and financial support; and the authors of the papers, highlights, and posters and all the attendees for their enthusiastic participation in the conference. We also thank our generous sponsors, including the International Society of Computational Biology (ISCB), the US National

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