

Preface

This year marked the 20th Annual International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology. RECOMB 2016 was held in Santa Monica, CA, during April 17–21, 2016. This volume contains the 35 extended or short abstracts selected for oral presentation at RECOMB 2016 by the Program Committee (PC). Each of the 172 submissions consisted of a full paper, and was assigned to at least three PC members and reviewed with the help of many external reviewers. Following the initial reviews, final decisions were made after an extensive discussion of the submissions among the members of the PC. In 2016, RECOMB allowed parallel submission to the proceedings as well as to a journal. Papers accepted for oral presentation that had simultaneously been submitted to a journal are published as short abstracts. Parallel submissions that had 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 for RECOMB 2016 were invited for submission to an edited journal version of a special issue of the *Journal of Computational Biology*. In addition to the paper presentations, RECOMB 2016 featured six invited keynote talks by leading scientists worldwide. The keynote speakers were Karen Adelman (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at the National Institutes of Health), Phil Bradley (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center), Peter S. Kim (Stanford University), Rob Knight (University of California, San Diego), Leonid Kruglyak (University of California, Los Angeles), and Teresa Przytycka (National Center for Biotechnology Information at the National Institutes of Health). Following the tradition started at RECOMB 2010, RECOMB 2016 also featured highlight talks presenting computational biology papers that were published in journals during the last 18 months. There were 29 highlight submissions, six of which were selected for oral presentation at the main conference.

The success of RECOMB depends on the effort, dedication, and devotion of many colleagues. I especially thank the Organizing Committee chair, Eleazar Eskin, for hosting the 2016 conference and marshalling the entire endeavor, including the Mike Waterman Symposium, three satellite meetings, and the main conference; Ting Chen for substantial organizational help; Danielle Everts for administrative support; the Steering Committee and especially its chair, Bonnie Berger, for help, advice, and support throughout the process; Teresa Przytycka (Program Chair of RECOMB 2015) for answering my many questions and sharing her experiences with me; Donna Slonim for chairing the highlights track; Fabio Vandin for chairing the posters track; Fengzhu Sun for organizing the Mike Waterman Symposium; Carl Kingsford, Alex Schoenhuth, Fabio Vandin, and Barbara Engelhart for chairing the satellite meetings; the main conference and satellite PC members and external reviewers for their timely reviews of assigned papers despite their busy schedules; the authors of the papers, highlights, and posters for their scientific contributions; and all the attendees for their enthusiastic participation in the conference. We also thank the International Society of Computational Biology (ISCB) and the National Science Foundation for student support.

Finally, on this occasion of the 20th anniversary of RECOMB, the entire RECOMB community thanks Sorin Istrail, Pavel Pevzner, and Michael Waterman for having the vision to start this conference series back in 1997.

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