

Preface

RECOMB, the Annual International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology started in 1997, under the leadership of Sorin Istrail, Pavel Pevzner, and Michael Waterman. This year marks its 21st anniversary. RECOMB 2017 was hosted by The University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong during May 3–7, 2017. This volume contains the 38 extended or short abstracts selected for oral presentation at RECOMB 2017 by the Program Committee (PC). Each of the 184 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.

Even though RECOMB 2017 did not allow parallel submissions, authors of accepted papers were given the option to publish short abstracts in the proceedings and submit their full papers to a journal. The papers for which the proceedings feature short abstracts had appeared in a journal by the time of the conference and were to be deposited in the preprint server arxiv.org. All other papers that appear as long abstracts in the proceedings were invited for submission to RECOMB 2017 special issues by either *Cell Systems* or the *Journal of Computational Biology*.

In addition to the paper presentations, RECOMB 2017 featured six invited keynote talks by leading scientists worldwide. The keynote speakers were Colin Collins (Vancouver Prostate Centre), Joe Gray (Oregon Health Sciences University), Wang Jun (iCarbonX), Laxmi Parida (IBM T.J. Watson Research Center), Ben Raphael (Princeton University), and Michael Schnall Levin (10X Genomics).

Following the tradition started at RECOMB 2010, RECOMB 2017 also featured highlight talks presenting computational biology papers that were published in journals during the last 18 months. There were 32 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, Siu Ming Yiu (The University of Hong Kong), and Kevin Yip (The Chinese University of Hong Kong), for hosting RECOMB and RECOMB-Seq 2017, the RECOMB satellite meeting on Massively Parallel Sequencing; Sumaiya Nazeen (MIT) for website design and technical support; the Steering Committee and especially its chair, Bonnie Berger (MIT), for help, advice, and support throughout the process; Mona Singh, the Program Chair of RECOMB 2016 (Princeton), for answering my many questions; Mathieu Blanchette (McGill) for chairing the highlights track; Paul Medvedev (Penn State) for acting as the publications chair; Alex Schoenhuth (CWI) for acting as the publicity chair; Fereydoun Hormozdiari (UC Davis) and Jian Ma (CMU) for chairing RECOMB-Seq; the main conference and RECOMB-Seq 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

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