



Conference Call Minutes Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Present: Roger Hall, Lisa Henderson, Steve Jennings, Andrey Ptitsyn, Bill Slikker, Weida Tong, Jonathon Wren, Dawn Wilkins

Absent: Russel Bruhn, Anne Maglia, Stephen Winters-Hilt

Minutes from the March 3, 2004 meeting were approved.

Bill gave an update regarding the *DNA and Cell Biology* papers. Thirteen papers were reviewed. Nine papers have been revised and are ready to submit forward. He is waiting on the other four, which are in various stages of completion. The editor of the journal indicated that October publication is possible. Weida is helping with the cover, and Bill is writing an introduction letter about MCBIOS. Bill described his plan for the contents of the letter and asked for suggestions from the board.

Lisa updated the board on plans for the 2004 conference. The dates are October 6-9 and the location is The Peabody, located in the River Market area. The contract with The Peabody includes no charge for meeting space and special menus. An excellent conference rate of \$79 for a single plus \$10 per additional person was negotiated. Attendees will have until Tuesday, September 14th to take advantage of the conference rate.

The theme proposed by the conference planning committee is "Bioinformatics: A Systems Approach". The board members liked the idea and generality of the theme.

After some discussion of deadlines, the following dates were selected:

Abstracts due: Wednesday, September 1

Notification: Wednesday, September 8

Early Registration: Monday, September 13

An increase in the conference rate by \$30 for professionals and \$25 for students was recommended and approved. The 2003 and new 2004 rates are as follows:

	2003		2004	
	Early	Regular	Early	Regular
Professional	120	145	150	175
Student	30	40	55	65

The poster sessions for MCBIOS and the Arkansas BRIN Research Symposium will be held at two different times and in different locations in the hotel. Lisa was working to ensure that there would be enough bulletin boards.

Friday lunch will again be “on your own”. The board thought this would give attendees an opportunity to explore the River Market area.

Roger noted that some changes have been made to the website, but not all of them have been posted. Bill suggested adding a photograph of David Mount to help promote the “science” of the organization. Since Alan Leshner, Chief Executive Officer of AAAS, has been confirmed as a keynote for the 2004 conference, it was suggested that his photo and bio also be added.

There was much discussion regarding the conference call for papers. The primary questions were about the timing of the call and whether abstracts or full papers would be requested. It was felt that the timing would be too tight to make a change for 2004, but the discussion was good and should continue for the 2005 conference.

Alternatives to sending full papers to *DNA and Cell Biology* were discussed. Jonathon volunteered to check on *BMC Bioinformatics*. The journal *Bioinformatics* was also mentioned as a possibility.

Jonathon suggested writing a Public Library of Science (PLOS) article to promote MCBIOS. The board thought this was an excellent idea and Jonathon will follow up. *The Scientist* and *Genome Technology* were suggested as other outlets for similar articles.

The idea of a recognition award was discussed. The award would probably be more recognition than money, but it might be nice to have a sponsor for the award. Other groups/conferences have similar awards, for example ISMB. After some discussion about the logistics, it was decided to delegate the task of establishing the guidelines and procedures to the **membership committee**. Some ideas were to have the membership committee solicit nominations this summer and have the MCBIOS members vote in the fall. The winner could be announced at the conference, or maybe earlier and asked to give an invited talk at the conference. There was concern expressed about publishing the membership list when soliciting nominees.

Ideas for conference sponsorship were discussed. No space for industry booths will be available at the conference site, so other benefits to sponsors should be offered. Sponsors can be solicited to pay for a break, meal, award, dinner speaker, etc. Steve Jennings will coordinate the sponsors so we don't over-commit. Potential sponsors mentioned include: Sun, Insightful, Oracle and Affymetrix.

It was announced that the first local chapter of MCBIOS, the Oklahoma Bioinformatics Society (OKBIOS) has been formed. Jonathon Wren is President of the chapter and there

are 16 founding members. The URL for the group is
http://w3.ouhsc.edu/surgery/pancan/OKC_bioinfo2/

Steve is continuing to work on the by-laws for local chapters.

The next conference call is scheduled for September.

There was no other business, so the meeting was adjourned.