

Dear Friends

We would like to thank you all for participating in the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Israeli Society of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, IBS2013, which was held at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev 27.6.13.

The IBS meetings are surely the highlight events of our society. This year especially was a unique festival, celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and 18<sup>th</sup> birthday of the society. We had outstanding talks of senior and young researchers, two intriguing keynote lectures and a record number of 106 posters and over 400 registrants.

Before moving to plan the next meeting we first would like to **congratulate** the four students who won the **Best Poster Awards**:

**Special Epigenetics prize in memory of Eran Cohen:**

**Asaf Zviran** (Yaqub Hanna's group, Weizmann)

*Deterministic direct reprogramming of somatic cells to pluripotency.*

**Raphael Cohen** (Michael Elhadad's group, BGU)

*Towards understanding of medical Hebrew.*

**Mor Lurie-Weinberger** (Uri Gophna's group, TAU)

*Contribution of lateral gene transfer to the adaptation of Methanosphaera stadtmanae to the mammalian gut.*

**Alon Diament** (Tamir Tuller's group, TAU)

*Three-Dimensional Genomic Organization of Fungal Genes is Strongly Correlated with their Expression and Function.*

Each of the winners will receive a prize of \$250. The **Special Epigenetics Prize** was donated by the Cohen family in the memory of their son, Eran, who was a student in the computational biology program at HUJI. Two of the other poster awards were in courtesy of the **Safra Center for Computational Biology in TAU and an additional award was donated by an anonymous sponsor from BGU.**

We also have a long list of people to thank:

- Our **speakers** who gave excellent and inspiring talks: **Isaac Kohane, Ohad Birk, Ron Shamir, Zohar Yakhini, Tommy Kaplan, Naama Barkai, Eytan Rupp, Ruth Hershberg, Michal Linial, Tamir Tuller, Yifat Millar and Sarel Fleishman.**
- All the **poster presenters**. We had an impressive number of 106 posters of outstanding scientific quality.

- The organizing committee from BGU headed by **Michal Ziv-Ukelson: Eitan Rubin, Eitan Bachmat, Chen Keasar, Vered Caspi, Esti Yeger-Lotem, Dan Mishmar, Klara Kedem, Sanya Mimran.**
- The program committee: **Yael Mandel-Gutfreund, Roded Sharan, Michal Ziv-Ukelson, Chen Keasar, Eitan Rubin, Rotem Sorek, Ramit Mehr, Nir Friedman.**
- The **Poster Prize Committee** (too long to list) headed by **Chen Keasar, Esti Yeger-Lotem and Dan Mishmar.**
- **Ina Aviv** for her outstanding intensive and dedicated efforts to make the conference run flawlessly.
- **Prof. Shlomi Dolev**, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, for his help with administrative approvals.
- **The students of BGU: Tamar Pinhas, Nimrod Milo, Ilan Smoly, Hagai Drory, Shoval Tirman, Maayan Daniel, Omer Basha, Ruth Barshir, Nofar Geifman, Pini Koma, and Omri Tel**, for their help in setting up the conference and operating the registration desk.
- **Shoval Tirman** who created and managed the IBS13 website.
- **Maayan Daniel for her help in planning and preparations for the symposium.**
- **Inbal Paz** who manages the ISBCB website and designed the beautiful meeting poster.
- **Irit Orr** who maintains and operates the ISBCB mailing list.

Last and not least, the meeting would not have taken place without the generous support of our **sponsors.**

- **The Lynne and William Frankel Center for Computer Science, Ben Gurion University of the Negev**
- **The Computer Science Department, Ben Gurion University of the Negev**
- **The Faculty of Natural Sciences, Ben Gurion University of the Negev**
- **The Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben Gurion University of the Negev**
- **The Rector, Ben Gurion University of the Negev**
- **The President, Ben Gurion University of the Negev**
- **Edmond J. Safra Center for Bioinformatics, Tel Aviv University**
- **Lorry I. Lokey Center of Interdisciplinary Studies for Life Sciences and Engineering, Technion**
- **Levi and Zafra Cohen**
- **Evogene LTD**
- **Eisenberg Bros. LTD**
- **LifeMap Sciences**
- **An anonymous Sponsor from BGU**

And finally we would like to thank everyone that showed up and participated.

We look forward to see you again at our next IBS meeting in Bar Ilan University!

(For updates please check our website <http://isbcb.technion.ac.il/>)

**Michal Ziv-Ukelson, Roded Sharan and Yael Mandel-Gutfreund**