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News

- Erik Bongcam-Rudloff participated in the [Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference 2016](#), 20-24 June, Belgrade (RS), and gave a presentation entitled, "Next Generation Biotechnologies, the bad & the good: a look into the future". The conference was a great success with many attendees, and high-level presentations and discussions.



The full programme and further information can be found on the [conference website](#).

- Terri Attwood & Domenica D'Elia attended the first conference of the COST Action CHARME (CA15110), [The CHARME of standardisation in life sciences](#), 21-22 June, Warsaw (PL). Terri presented [GOBLET's CHARME](#), an overview of GOBLET's scope and aims, and integration plans and activities with the [CHARME's Working Group 5](#). Domenica talked about objectives and basic actions of [CHARME's Working Group 4](#), with a presentation on *Development of a strategic dissemination plan to support a successful European standardisation strategy*. Management Committee & parallel WG meetings were held on 21 June. The Conference had more than 70 participants, including MC members and representatives of large European standardisation initiatives, projects and consortia.
- Pedro Fernandes & Domenica D'Elia participated in [BITS 2016](#), the *13th Annual Meeting of the Bioinformatics Italian Society*, 15-17 June, Salerno (IT). In a [satellite event](#) organised by the ELIXIR-IT Training Programme, Pedro gave a talk on "Effective academic teaching: learning principles & didactic strategies that will transform your way of delivering bioinformatics courses". Domenica presented a poster on the [CHARME](#) COST Action.

Job opportunities

- Applications are invited for a [postdoctoral position](#) in Computational & Functional Genomics at [IMGT](#), the International ImMunoGeneTics information system, Montpellier (FR).

Challenges for modern biology: reproducibility, standards & SOP in bioinformatics

by **Domenica D'Elia, Allegra Via, Paolo Romano, Pedro Fernandes, Teresa K. Attwood, Erik Bongcam-Rudloff**

Computational reproducibility poses new challenges for scientific replication. Part of the problem is that research papers don't effectively support reproducibility of computational analyses. Companion websites that make data and software shareable may be useful, but are not enough. Frameworks for creating descriptive and interactive publications by linking them with associated objects (e.g., software source code, data-sets and annotations, data pipelines and workflows) are needed.

A prerequisite of modern life-science R&D is high-quality research data. By enabling the reuse of research assets, research becomes considerably more efficient and economical. This can only be achieved reliably and efficiently if these are generated according to standards and Standard-Operating Procedures (SOPs). Thus, standards are important drivers in the life-sciences, because they guarantee that data become accessible, shareable and comparable along the value chain.

To discuss these challenges, the EU COST Action, [CHARME](#) (Harmonising standardisation strategies to increase efficiency & competitiveness of European life-science research), [EMBnet](#) (The Global Bioinformatics Network) and [NETTAB](#) (International Workshop Series on Network Tools & Applications for Biology) are organising a workshop on [Reproducibility, standards & SOP in Bioinformatics](#), to be held in Rome (IT), 25-26 October 2016.



Invited lectures by Chris Evelo, Barend Mons, Susanna Anna Sansone, Jacques van Helden, Reza Salek and Peter McQuilton are planned, alongside oral and poster presentations selected from submitted abstracts. **The abstract [submission deadline](#) is 15 July 2016.**

The workshop will be preceded by a GOBLET/ELIXIR-IT tutorial and an ELIXIR hackathon on Monday 24 July. The workshop programme also includes a special session organised by GOBLET/ELIXIR-IT on "*Reproducibility & standards in bioinformatics: challenges for training*". This session includes talks from Patricia Palagi (ELIXIR-CH), Celia van Gelder (ELIXIR-NL) and Eija Korpelainen (ELIXIR-FI), and concludes with a panel discussion chaired by Erik Bongcam-Rudloff.

These events, hosted by ELIXIR-IT, will be held at the Italian [CNR](#) (National Research Council) headquarters in Rome. For further information, please visit the workshop [website](#) or contact us directly at: nettab.workshops@gmail.com.

