Memorandum of Understanding
to establish a
Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education & Training (GOBLET)

The Presidents, Heads and representatives of:
EMBnet (Global Bioinformatics Network)
ISCB (International Society for Computational Biology)
APBioNet (Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Network)
ASBCB (African Society for Bioinformatics & Computational Biology)
SolBio (IberoAmerican Society for Bioinformatics)
ISB (International Society for Biocuration)
EBI (European Bioinformatics Institute)
NBIC (Netherlands Bioinformatics Centre)
SeqAhead (Next-Generation Sequencing Data Analysis Network)
BTN (Bioinformatics Training Network)
bioinformatics.ca (Canadian Bioinformatics Workshops)
SIB (Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics)
IGC (instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência)
SEB (Society for Experimental Biology)
ABN (Australian Bioinformatics Network)
TGAC (The Genome Analysis Centre)
Itico (non-profit Private Limited Company supporting the iAnn project)
CPGR (Centre for Proteomic and Genomic Research)
TSL (The Sainsbury Laboratory)
SGBC (SLU Global Bioinformatics Centre)
BITS (Italian Bioinformatics Society)
CSC (IT Center for Science)
EdGe (Edinburgh Genomics)
Nowgen (Centre of Excellence in PE/education/professional training in biomedicine)
CGAT (Computational Genomics: Analysis and Training)
BioSharing (at University of Oxford e-Research Centre),
hereafter, the “Signatories”:

- **wish to** harmonise world-wide initiatives in bioinformatics learning, education and training;
- **envisage** mutual benefits in increased collaboration across national and international boundaries;
- **believe** bioinformatics training to be critical for reaping the benefits of the computational tools and resources that underpin the life sciences (especially in light of the emerging challenges of NGS and 3Gen data generation, storage and maintenance);
- **have decided to** establish an umbrella organisation, GOBLET, based on criteria of training- and pedagogical excellence;
- **propose that** GOBLET shall be the means by which world-wide bioinformatics training initiatives are coordinated by, amongst other things: organising international events; acquiring funds to support certain activities; and establishing and providing a joint, community-based, Web-based portal for training information, materials, tools, documents, etc., open to international bioinformatics teachers and students, to maximise the synergy and value derivable from investments and efforts made in local initiatives world-wide; and
- **propose that** the Signatories will work together to establish and operate GOBLET, according to the activities outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), as follows:
Article 1: Purpose and Nature of this MoU
1. The purpose of this MoU is to summarise the intent of the Signatories, and the steps required, to establish and operate a Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education and Training (GOBLET), and to register it as a foundation in The Netherlands.
2. The MoU is a declaration of intention only, not a legally binding contract.
3. The Signatories agree to share relevant information to implement the MoU.

Article 2: Implementation of a Legal Structure
1. The Signatories agree to use reasonable endeavours to undertake the steps necessary to establish GOBLET as a foundation within one (1) month from the date of entry into force of this MoU in accordance with Article 4.
2. The Signatories agree to negotiate in good faith details of the statutes that will form the legal basis of the GOBLET foundation under Dutch Law, which will ultimately require approval by all Signatories.
3. The Signatories agree to set up a Foundation Governing Board.
4. The principal tasks of this Board will be:
   • to undertake the daily operation of the business of GOBLET
   • to ensure that GOBLET develops as an open, global bioinformatics learning/education environment that benefits all contributors and the broader bioinformatics skill-level in life sciences, and
   • to garnering further membership.

Article 3: Contributions
Each Signatory declares its will to evaluate the possibility of:
1. Contributing to the operational budget of GOBLET (financially or in kind);
2. Contributing to the assembly of educational materials that form the core of the GOBLET joint resources; and
3. Supporting the foundation with relevant computational infrastructure.

Article 4: Coming into effect,Duration and Termination
1. This MoU shall come into effect between the Signatories that have signed it at the date of its fifth signature. It shall then come into effect regarding each subsequent Signatory at the date of signature by that Signatory.
2. It shall remain in effect until the foundation statutes are approved by the signatories and ratified by a notary.
3. Any Signatory may decide to terminate this MoU earlier. A Signatory so deciding shall inform the remaining Signatories in writing, who may still decide to maintain the MoU in effect among them.
4. If this MoU is terminated by one, several or all Signatories, no Signatory shall be liable to any other for any monetary or other losses that may result.

Article 5: Assignment
No rights or obligations of any of the Parties arising from this MoU may be assigned or transferred in whole or in part to any third party without the other Signatories’ prior written approval.
Article 6: Conflict Resolution

Any conflicts that arise in relation to this MoU shall be settled amicably. If no amicable solution is possible, the Signatories shall terminate this MoU.

In witness whereof, the undersigned representatives, after completion of their respective organisational procedures, have signed the present MoU:

For **EMBnet:**

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T.K.Attwood, Chair

For **ISB:**

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P.Gaudet, President

For **ISCB:**

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B.Rost, President

For **EBI:**

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C.Brooksbank, Head of Training

For **APBioNet:**

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S.Ranganathan, President

For **NBIC:**

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R.Kok, Managing Director

For **ASBCB:**

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N.Mulder, President

For **SeqAhead:**

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E.Bongcam-Rudloff, Chair
For **SoIBio:**

O. Trelles (Education area)

For **BTN:**

A. Via, Chair

For **SIB:**

M. Robinson-Rechavi (Chair, Education Board)

For **bioinformatics.ca:**

F. Ouellette, Director

For **SIB:**

R. Appel, Executive Director

For **SEB:**

Sarah Blackford, Head of Education

For **SIB:**

M. Peitsch, Board of Directors

For **SEB:**

P. Hutchinson, Chief Executive Officer
For IGC:

For ABN:

Jonathan Howard, Director

David Lovell, Director

For TGAC:

Sarah Cossey, Finance and Operations Manager

For CPGR:

Reinhard Hiller, Managing Director

For Itico:

Manuel Corpas, Director

For TSL:

Dan MacLean, Head of Bioinformatics

For SGBC:

For BITS:

Erik Bongcam-Rudloff, Director

Manuela Helmer-Citterich, President
For CSC:

Kimmo Koski, Managing Director

For EdGe:

Mick Watson, Head of Bioinformatics

For Nowgen:

Angela Davies, Training Manager

For CGAT:

Chris Ponting, Director

For BioSharing at OeRC:

Susanna-Assunta Sansone, OeRC Associate Director

26th signatory, 29 May, 2013