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News

- On 21 March, the new [CHARME COST Action](#) held its kick-off meeting - for details, see the InFocus. Erik Bongcam-Rudloff, Endre Barta and Domenica D'Elia attended the meeting as members of the Management Committee (MC). Erik was nominated as project Vice Chair, and Domenica Chair of Working Group 4 "Development of a strategic dissemination". Terri Attwood is the UK MC substitute.
- The **EMBnet 2016 workshop**, in collaboration with **NETTAB**, will be co-organised with the CHARME COST Action. More information will become available via the EMBnet and CHARME websites.
- This month also saw the release of [GOBLET's first newsletter](#).

Events

- [The 4th Plant Genomics Congress](#), 9-10 May 2016, London (UK)
- [Genomic Epidemiology of Malaria](#), 5-8 Jun 2016, Wellcome Genome Campus, Cambridge (UK). **Registration deadline:** 10 May
- [17th European Congress on Biotechnology](#), 3-6 Jul 2016, Krakow (PL)
- **HiCOMB 2016 - 15th IEEE International Workshop on High Performance Computational Biology**, 23 May 2016, Chicago (US)
- [GCC2016: 7th Galaxy Community Conference](#), 25-29 Jun 2016, Bloomington (US)

Jobs

- Two positions in [A. Mathelier Group](#) in **Computational Biology & Gene Regulation**, University of Oslo (NO):
 - [PhD Candidate](#)
 - [Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) (3 years)

Up-coming courses

- EMBL Course: [Quantitative Proteomics: Strategies & Tools to Probe Biology](#), 11-15 Jul 2016, Heidelberg (DE). **Application deadline:** 22 Apr
- EMBO Workshop: [Integrative Modelling of Biomolecular Interactions](#), 4-9 Jul 2016, Barcelona (ES). **Application deadline:** 1 May
- **Bioinformatics.ca**, Toronto (CA):
 - [Exploratory Analysis of Biological Data using R](#), 7-8 Jun 2016
 - [Next-Generation Methods for Mapping Genomic Features & Clinical Traits](#), 18-19 Jul 2016

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With CHARME towards standardisation in life sciences

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On March 21st, representatives from 26 countries met in Brussels to execute the kick-off meeting of the new COST Action (Cooperation in Science and Technology) **CA15110: "Harmonising standardisation strategies to increase efficiency and competitiveness of European life-science research (CHARME)"**. The participants exchanged information about the need for understanding formats and standards for biological data and computer models in systems biology research, and elected Chair, Vice Chair and working group leaders.

An essential 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 represent important drivers in the life sciences and technology transfer because they guarantee that data become accessible, shareable and comparable along the value chain.

Several initiatives have launched the development and implementation of standards. Unfortunately, these efforts remain fragmented and largely



disconnected. CHARME aims to merge different approaches in the field, with a particular emphasis on systems biology, and thus to avoid too many different solutions being generated in parallel universes that 'in the worst case' are neither compatible nor suitable for large-scale approaches.

CHARME will increase awareness of the need for standards, enabling the reuse of research data and its interoperability within the scientific community. CHARME provides a common ground for researchers from academia, research institutes, SMEs and multinational organisations. Representatives of each participating country can be found at: http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA15110?management.

For further information, please feel free to send an e-mail to info@cost-charme.eu. From May, further information will be available on the Action's website: <http://www.cost-charme.eu>

