Basel Computational Biology Conference

Report

Julieth Murillo

October 18, 2021

The ISB Travel Scholarship awarded by the International Society for Biocuration gave me the opportunity to participate in the Basel Computational Biology Conference [BC2], from 13 to 15 September at the Congress Center in Basel-Switzerland.

The subscription payment to this event allowed me to present my work in a 15-minute talk at the BionetVisa workshop. The work I presented encompassed the biocuration (in the Reactome database) and computational modelling of pathways determining *Leishmania*-host interaction outcomes, using existing RNA-seq data. This work involved a novel combination of transcriptomic data curation/analysis paired with dynamic computational modelling. Experts in modelling gave me valuable feedback that I will implement in my Ph.D. thesis.

In general, my participation in the BC2 conference helped me to strengthen my professional network, with modelers and other curators. In particular, I had the opportunity to speak with Tom Heilikar, the leader of the Cell Collective, a web-based logic model software. From this interaction, I was able to troubleshoot issues with a model that I had previously created in Cell Collective. This opened the doors for future collaborations. Also, I met my mentor Henning Hermjakob, leader of different databases like Reactome, from whom I always get meaningful insights. I also had the opportunity to meet Sylvain Soliman, a Senior Software Developer at Biochem. This interaction resulted in Sylvain as one of my future thesis examiners.

Although it was a short conference, I think it was a very productive experience and one of professional and personal growth. I was also able to visit beautiful places and meet old friends who are currently working in Switzerland. Thanks to the ISB for this opportunity, and I hope that other curators can benefit from this scholarship.