

# BIOTECHNO 2016

## Foreword

The Eighth International Conference on Bioinformatics, Biocomputational Systems and Biotechnologies (BIOTECHNO 2016), held between June 26 - 30, 2016 - Lisbon, Portugal, covered these three main areas: bioinformatics, biomedical technologies, and biocomputing.

Bioinformatics deals with the system-level study of complex interactions in biosystems providing a quantitative systemic approach to understand them and appropriate tool support and concepts to model them. Understanding and modeling biosystems requires simulation of biological behaviors and functions. Bioinformatics itself constitutes a vast area of research and specialization, as many classical domains such as databases, modeling, and regular expressions are used to represent, store, retrieve and process a huge volume of knowledge. There are challenging aspects concerning biocomputation technologies, bioinformatics mechanisms dealing with chemoinformatics, bioimaging, and neuroinformatics.

Biotechnology is defined as the industrial use of living organisms or biological techniques developed through basic research. Bio-oriented technologies became very popular in various research topics and industrial market segments. Current human mechanisms seem to offer significant ways for improving theories, algorithms, technologies, products and systems. The focus is driven by fundamentals in approaching and applying biotechnologies in terms of engineering methods, special electronics, and special materials and systems. Borrowing simplicity and performance from the real life, biodevices cover a large spectrum of areas, from sensors, chips, and biometry to computing. One of the chief domains is represented by the biomedical biotechnologies, from instrumentation to monitoring, from simple sensors to integrated systems, including image processing and visualization systems. As the state-of-the-art in all the domains enumerated in the conference topics evolve with high velocity, new biotechnologies and biosystems become available. Their rapid integration in the real life becomes a challenge.

Brain-computing, biocomputing, and computation biology and microbiology represent advanced methodologies and mechanisms in approaching and understanding the challenging behavior of life mechanisms. Using bio-ontologies, biosemantics and special processing concepts, progress was achieved in dealing with genomics, biopharmaceutical and molecular intelligence, in the biology and microbiology domains. The area brings a rich spectrum of informatics paradigms, such as epidemic models, pattern classification, graph theory, or stochastic models, to support special biocomputing applications in biomedical, genetics, molecular and cellular biology and microbiology. While progress is achieved with a high speed, challenges must be overcome for large-scale bio-subsystems, special genomics cases, bio-nanotechnologies, drugs, or microbial propagation and immunity.

The BIOTECHNO 2016 conference also featured the following symposium:

- BIOCOMPUTATION 2016 - The International Symposium on Big Data and BioComputation
- 

We take here the opportunity to warmly thank all the members of the BIOTECHNO 2016 Technical Program Committee, as well as the numerous reviewers. The creation of such a high quality conference program would not have been possible without their involvement. We also kindly thank all the authors who dedicated much of their time and efforts to contribute to BIOTECHNO 2016. We truly believe that, thanks to all these efforts, the final conference program consisted of top quality contributions.

Also, this event could not have been a reality without the support of many individuals, organizations, and sponsors. We are grateful to the members of the BIOTECHNO 2016 organizing committee for their help in handling the logistics and for their work to make this professional meeting a success.

We hope that BIOTECHNO 2016 was a successful international forum for the exchange of ideas and results between academia and industry and for the promotion of progress in the fields of bioinformatics, biocomputational systems and biotechnologies.

We also hope that Lisbon provided a pleasant environment during the conference and everyone saved some time for exploring this beautiful city.

**BIOTECHNO 2016 Chairs:**

Stephen Anthony, The University of New South Wales, Australia

Birgit Gersbeck-Schierholz, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany

Hesham H. Ali, University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA

Ganesharam Balagopal, Ontario Ministry of the Environment - Toronto, Canada