

Report on the Marie Curie Training Network IDPbyNMR

Intensive Training Course (ITC): Bioinformatics and structural biology of IDPs

The first Intensive Training Course of IDPbyNMR was held in Hotel Rubin, Budapest, Hungary (<http://www.hotelrubin.com/>), October 10-14, 2011. The course was organized by the organizing committee:

András Dinnyés (BIO)
Isabella C. Felli (CERM)
Roberta Pierattelli (CERM)
Beáta Szabó (ENZIM)
Peter Tompa (ENZIM)

In all, we invited 50 people to the course (see list of participants attached), such as: IDPbyNMR ESRs (11), IDPbyNMR ERs (2), IDPbyNMR partner supervisors (9): invited speakers (11), external PhD students (17). The course was organized around 5 themes in 5 days (see program attached), such as:

- 1) Introduction, history and theory (day 1)
- 2) Databases and bioinformatics (day 2)
- 3) Biophysical techniques (day 3)
- 4) Interplay of structure and function (day 4)
- 5) Selected examples (day 5)

The program provided talks by distinguished scientists of the IDP field (11 speakers, 45 min). IDPbyNMR partners also introduced their organisation, research and opportunities (9 speakers overall, 45 min), including the introduction to the next IDPbyNMR course (Introduction to Complementary Skill Course I, 7-10 February 2012, St. Moritz, Switzerland).

ESRs also gave short talks on their prior activities, plans for research done within IDPbyNMR and progress already made (13 talks). The format of these talks was 15 min plus 5 min discussion, which provided plenty of opportunity to discuss planned projects. ERs already hired already introduced their work. The program also included 4 blocks of practical training, each lasting for 3 hours. The organizers provided laptops to all students with the appropriate software tools installed. Teachers presented actual research problems which the students had to solve themselves under supervision, by downloading sequences, running prediction algorithms and interpreting data obtained.

The program also contained daily brainstorming sessions, which culminated in a 3-hour round-table discussion on the last day. This provided an opportunity to discuss general issues related to the field of protein disorder. The ESRs also selected Cesyen Cedeno (VIB), to represent them at the Supervisory Board meetings. Social programs included two dinners that helped also form the ESRs form a coherent group. In all, the meeting had a very open, friendly and discussive atmosphere.



Peter Tompa (ENZIM, VUIB)

Oct. 14, 2011, Budapest