

Lecture Notes in Bioinformatics

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Pierpaolo Degano Roberto Gorrieri (Eds.)

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Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the 7th Conference on Computational Methods in Systems Biology (CMSB 2009), held in Bologna, from August 31 to September 1, 2009.

The first CMSB was held in Trento in 2003, bringing together life scientists, computer scientists, engineers and physicists. The goal was to promote the convergence of different disciplines aiming at a new understanding and description of biological systems, firmly ground in formal models, supported by computational languages and tools, and offering new methods of analysis. The conference then moved to Paris in 2004, Edinburgh in 2005, Trento in 2006, Edinburgh in 2007 and Rostock/Warnemünde in 2008.

This year the conference attracted about 45 submissions from 18 countries, mainly from Europe and North America, but also from Asia and Australia. We wish to thank all authors for their interest in CMSB 2009. After careful discussions, the Programme Committee eventually selected 18 papers for presentation at the conference. Each of them was accurately refereed by at least three reviewers, who delivered detailed and insightful comments and suggestions. The Conference Chairmen warmly thank all the members of the Programme Committee and all their sub-referees for the excellent support they gave, as well as for the friendly and constructive discussions. We also would like to thank the authors for having revised their papers to address the comments and suggestions by the referees.

This year we also had a poster session, hosting ten short presentations, each refereed by at least two members of the Programme Committee. We would like to thank their authors for the bright presentations of their work-in-progress. The abstracts of these posters are collected in a separate Technical Report, available at <http://compass2.di.unipi.it/TR/Files/TR-09-09.pdf.gz>.

The conference programme was enriched by the outstanding invited talks of Rita Casadio, John K. Heath and Corrado Priami, whom we warmly thank. Their contributions are also included here.

The conference this year was jointly organized with CMSB 2009, emphasizing the close connections and similarities between concurrent, artificial systems, and biological, natural systems. The joint invited talk by Corrado Priami further illustrated this correspondence.

We would like to thank all the people who contributed to the organization of CMSB 2009, and the generous support from the Alma Mater Studiorum – Università degli Studi di Bologna and from Microsoft Research Cambridge. We are also grateful to Andrei Voronkov, who allowed us to use the wonderful free conference software system EasyChair, which we used for the electronic submission of papers, the refereeing process and the Programme Committee work.

Pierpaolo Degano
Roberto Gorrieri

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