



**BIOGRID
AUSTRALIA**
Health through information

Project Director: Dr Marianne Hibbert

July 2009

Public Seminar

[Interdisciplinary team wins international data-mining competition](#)

[Bangalore Bio 2009 presentation](#)

[BioGrid Technical Team attend IDUG](#)

[BioGrid Services](#)

[Interested in joining BioGrid?](#)

[Looking for Research Funding?](#)

[SAS Enterprise Training Dates](#)

Editor: Vicki Vlekkert

Visit our website:

www.biogrid.org.au

Contact us with any feedback:

admin@biogrid.org.au

BioGrid Australia presents a public seminar:
***“Efficient Health Research –
 Improving research outcomes using technology”***
Lovell Theatre, RMH Function Centre
Monday 24 August, 2009 12:30-2:00pm

This talk will profile health research in epidemiology and health from leading researchers from The Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. The data is enabling research which is improving our knowledge of disease processes and treatment. The talk will also highlight the technologies used including both innovative data collection as well as technologies to connect distributed health data in a privacy protected manner.

Guest Speakers are from the Karolinska Institutet which is one of Europe's largest medical universities and is Sweden's largest centre for medical training and research.

Their mission is to improve the health of mankind through research and education.

Prof Jan-Eric Litton - Professor of Biomedical Computing Technology since 2002, Director of Informatics, Karolinska Institutet Biobank, and Head of IT and Computing, at the Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

A/Prof Magnus Stenbeck - Director of Database InfraStructure Committee (DISC,) Chair of the Nordic eInfrastructure collaboration, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. DISC exercises overall national responsibility for research databases as infrastructure.

Dr Ruslan Fomkin – Research Assistant, Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (MEB), Karolinska Institutet, Sweden.

Everyone is welcome. For more information please check Upcoming Events on our website

www.biogrid.org.au



**Karolinska
Institutet**



The Swedish team will also combine with BioGrid to give a workshop on linkage technology at the HIC 2009 in Canberra. Prof Jan-Eric Litton will be a guest speaker on day two in Canberra.

<http://www.hisa.org.au/hic09>

Prof Jan-Eric Litton will be a guest speaker at the Bio21 Cluster Symposium, August 18-19 2009.

“Computational Biology and Informatics: What are the possibilities?” www.bio21.com.au



**Dr Marianne
Hibbert
Project
Director**

BioGrid presents at Bangalore Bio 2009 – June 18-20

Pranabh Jain, Database Administrator attended and gave a presentation titled **'BioGrid Australia: Linking Health data for research - clinical and genomic'** at the Bangalore Bio 2009 this month.

Pranabh's talk commenced with a video showcasing the work of BioGrid Australia followed by a PowerPoint presentation.

Pranabh reported: *"There were many questions from the audience regarding how to access data from BioGrid Australia, how genomics data is used and when can Indian researchers get support for such an infrastructure."*



Bangalore Bio is the premier Indian biotech conference. Over the last eight years, Bangalore Bio has emerged as one of the largest gatherings of India's Biotech community, generating tremendous interest and response worldwide. Presentations were sought by the Victorian Government who is committed to raising the profile of the Victorian biotechnology industry and to explore partnership and investment opportunities through participation at a range of international conferences. The Victorian Government has supported Bangalore Bio for the last three years with a view to facilitate a greater exchange of ideas, knowledge and information and establish alliances that provide the resources needed to develop Victorian products for global markets.

BioGrid Technical Team attend IDUG

The BioGrid Australia Database Administrators, Kee Ming Kong and Pranabh Jain and Technical and Systems Manager, Naomi Rafael attended the 2009 DB2 International User Group (IDUG) Australasia in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 18-20 March 2009.

Naomi Rafael gave the presentation, **'IBM InfoSphere Federation Server at BioGrid Australia'**. This presentation highlighted BioGrid's use of federating database technology to link heterogeneous data from remote sites into a virtual single data source. IDUG proved to be great value for money for the BioGrid database administrators:

Kee Ming enjoyed *"Attending conference in Melbourne was great. They provided many real life experiences, for example, how to resolve problems in different ways. In addition I learned tips from attendees from different industry backgrounds. In conclusion, the IDUG 2009 conference was a benefit for the BioGrid Australia technical team."*

Pranabh Jain comments *"Attending IDUG 2009 at Melbourne was a rewarding experience and an opportunity to gain knowledge and improve skills in DB2. A workshop was held on March 17 to prepare for the DB2 administrators certification tests. The workshop and the test were free of charge for IDUG attendees. It was valuable in itself to improve skills and I am now a certified DB2 Administrator. The presentations were exceptionally good and many of them were on automation of the DB2 database. It was valuable to hear John Hornibrook from the IBM Toronto Lab speak about the automation of providing statistics in DB2, Melanie from IBM about Materialised Query Tables and many more. The most valuable were about 5 presentations from Scott Hayes from DBI Technology Distribution about DB2 performance tips."*



Interdisciplinary team wins international data-mining competition

An interdisciplinary University team has won first prize in the KDD cup, an annual international data-mining competition. The team was ranked first of 453 entrants, which included entries from major industry research teams such as IBM.

“Data-mining, as the name suggests, is concerned with extracting useful information from data, typically when there is lots of it,” Hugh Miller, a PhD student and head of the University’s winning team explained.

“n=7”, the University’s team, comprised PhD students from Mathematics and Statistics - Hugh Miller, Sandy Clarke, Stephen Lane, David Lazaridis, Mathematics and Statistics lecturer Owen Jones, Lecturer from the Department of Information Systems Andrew Lonie, and Slavé Petrovski a PhD student in the Department of Medicine (RMH). **Slavé also conducts research with BioGrid Australia.**

This interdisciplinary approach is *“typical of data-mining generally, since it involves a combination of statistical thinking as well as computational ability”*, Hugh said.

For this year’s competition, sponsored by European telecommunications giant Orange, teams were provided with 15,000 pieces of information for each of a group of the company’s mobile phone customers - 50,000 in total. The teams also received information about three of customers’ possible subsequent behaviours after an advertising campaign - whether they left for another mobile phone company, whether they responded to promotional material, or whether they upgraded to a more expensive plan.

The team had to then build a model to calculate which customers would exhibit these behaviours. And as if that wasn’t confusing enough, for the actual competition part of the challenge, the team was also provided with information on another 50,000 customers, but were not told what their subsequent behaviour was - instead they had to build a model that would predict this behaviour.

The teams that best predicted the actual behaviour of these customers won the competition. Awards in other sections of the competition went to IBM research nodes in China and New York.

This makes the University’s win even more remarkable. Hugh said that the University team restricted their efforts *“to what could be achieved on a typical desktop computer”* and they used mostly free, open source software, to create their winning model.

The team has won 500 Euros of travel, a 1500 Euro cash prize and an award certificate as well as opportunities to publish.

Need BioGrid Services for your next research project? Applying for a grant?

Below are the services that BioGrid currently offers. If you have a particular requirement not listed, please email or call to let us know about your project to see how BioGrid can help.

Data collection

- Access data (patient, treatment, outcome, genetic, etc) on more than 3 million records*
- Design a dataset, modify an existing one or create software to prospectively collect clinical data.
- View your patient treatment data in real time and tailor your own reports for auditing and reporting.

Database linkage

- Link your database with diverse hospital, university and government databases (death dates, etc).
- Link Biospecimen data to clinical data.

Data analysis

- Statistical analysis software and services.
 - Assistance with data exploration, analysis or easy to read charts.
- ### ***Project Management***
- Project management to establish data collection for a multi-site clinical project.
 - Grant submission and project design assistance.

**Visit www.biogrid.org.au to see a complete range of existing BioGrid datasets (access subject to ethics and data owner approval), current and prospective partner sites, fees and data collection support services.*

Interested in Joining BioGrid Australia?



There are a number of ways in which you can join and work with BioGrid Australia:

- ✓ **Join the BioGrid Australia Collaboration as a full member**
- ✓ **Collaborate with BioGrid Australia using a Collaborative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA)**
- ✓ **Collaborate with BioGrid Australia for a limited term one off project using a project specific agreement**

The first two options assume an ongoing active collaboration between BioGrid and the member or collaborator, the third being limited in term and scope.

Full Membership

This model is where potential long term collaborators join the BioGrid Australia Collaboration with a full voting seat on the BioGrid Australia Management Committee and also become members of the limited liability (not-for-profit) public company that has been incorporated and licensed by the Collaboration members to operate the data linkage platform.

For new members that wish to join the BioGrid Australia Collaboration, the steps are as follows:

1. BioGrid Australia Limited provides the prospective member with the following documents:
 - ◆ BioGrid Australia Limited Constitution ;
 - ◆ The Collaboration Agreement Establishing the BioGrid Australia Collaboration (and all Schedules and Annexure) (**Collaboration Agreement**);
 - ◆ An Application Form to join as a member of BioGrid Australia Limited; and
 - ◆ Deed of Accession to join the BioGrid Australia Collaboration Agreement.
2. The prospective member completes, executes (ie. signs) and returns the documents to BioGrid Australia:
 - ◆ Application Form to join BioGrid Australia Limited as a Member ; and
 - ◆ Deed of Accession to join the BioGrid Australia Collaboration Agreement.
3. The Management Committee (of BioGrid Australia Collaboration) then considers the Application & Deed of Accession signed by the prospective member.
 - ◆ The Management Committee is required to pass a unanimous resolution consenting to the admission of the prospective member.
4. BioGrid Australia Limited receives and accepts the Application Form to join as a member and enters the new member details in the BioGrid Australia Limited Register of Members.
5. BioGrid Australia Limited invites the new member to take up one position on the Management Committee that meets monthly.

Non-Member Collaborator

For a new prospective Collaborator that prefers to participate in the BioGrid Australia Collaboration as a non-Member Collaborator (that is, without any right of representation on the Management Committee and without membership or voting rights in BioGrid Australia Limited), the steps are as follows:

1. The Prospective non-member collaborator executes (ie. signs) a Collaborative Research and Development Agreement (**CRADA**).
2. BioGrid Australia Limited executes (ie. signs) the CRADA.

Project Agreements

These are short term one off project agreements developed in line with the specific project.

If your organisation has not yet joined as a member or a collaborator, but you would like to engage our services, BioGrid can help. Contact us and we will develop a one-off project agreement in line with your specific research needs.

For more information see our website www.biogrid.org.au or contact admin@biogrid.org.au

Looking for Research Funding?

Want to know the latest news from the Melbourne Research Office, University of Melbourne?

The latest edition of the Melbourne Research & Grants Bulletin is now available at

<http://www.research.unimelb.edu.au/researchbulletin/researchbulletin.asp>.

Wednesday, 22 July 2009	National Breast Cancer Foundation	National Collaborative Breast Cancer Research Grant Program - Phase 2*
Wednesday, 22 July 2009	The Spitfire Memorial Association	Research Program Grants in Cancer Pharmacogenomics
Friday, 24 July 2009	Leukaemia Foundation	Research Grants-in-Aid Preliminary Proposals*
Friday, 24 July 2009	Leukaemia Foundation	Clinical & Post Doctoral Research Fellowships*
Friday, 24 July 2009	Leukaemia Foundation	Philip Desbrow Senior Research Fellowship*
Friday, 24 July 2009	Leukaemia Foundation	Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia Research Initiative *
Friday, 24 July 2009	Leukaemia Foundation	CCL8 Roche Personalised Healthcare Grant-in-Aid*
Thursday, 30 July 2009	Australian Rotary Health Research Fund	Pilot project on young Australians with mental health*

If you would like to use BioGrid services, please contact us or download a Research Grant Quote Form from our website at www.biogrid.org.au. A quote and a justification of BioGrid services (to be included in your grant application) will be sent to you within 2 working days.

SAS Training dates – 2009 WEHI Training Room

Tuesday 21 July & 20 October
Wednesday 26 August & 18 November
Thursday 17 September
SAS full day training comprising:

Introduction to SAS Enterprise Guide (2hours)
Introduction to Web Report Studio (1hour)
Introduction to SAS Enterprise Guide – data analysis (3hours)

Please fill in the [SAS Training Registration Form](#)

Email to: vicki.vlekkert@biogrid.org.au

Check our website: www.biogrid.org.au

BioGrid Australia Staff Support Dry July

Seventeen BioGrid Australia staff are taking part in the national Dry July challenge. Dry July encourages healthy attitudes towards alcohol consumption and helps to raise funds for adult cancer services. Funds raised by Victorian participants will be donated to The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

“BioGrid Australia and The Royal Melbourne Hospital share an important partnership in terms of both location and cancer research collaboration. The staff were keen to support the hospital’s delivery of cancer services” said Daniel Compston, Dry July Team Leader for BioGrid Australia.

To check on the team’s progress or to donate, please visit:

<https://www.dryjuly.com/profiles/biogridaustralia>.

