



isCB Student
αCOUNCIL

3

SYMPOSIUM 2007

21 July 2007 - Vienna, Austria

EVALUATION

isCB Student
αCOUNCIL

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY





Evaluation of the 3rd ISCB Student Council Symposium

On Saturday, July 21, immediately preceding ISMB/ECCB 2007 in Vienna (Austria) the ISCB Student Council held its 3rd annual Student Council Symposium. The symposium was targeted at young computational biology researchers who are keen to develop their research communication skills, want to meet like minded colleagues, network with accomplished scientists and learn about career opportunities. The majority of the attendees of the Student Council Symposium were graduate students, but there were post docs and undergraduate students in the audience as well.

The Student Council evaluated the success of the symposium by means of a questionnaire that was handed out to approximately 100 attendees, out of which 46 returned their questionnaire. The following evaluation is based on those 46 questionnaires. Attendees were asked to rate various aspects of the Student Council Symposium and its organization on a five step scale ranging from very negative to very positive.

Demographic information and feedback on general Student Council activities were collected as well.

The original questionnaire has been included on pages 16 and 17.

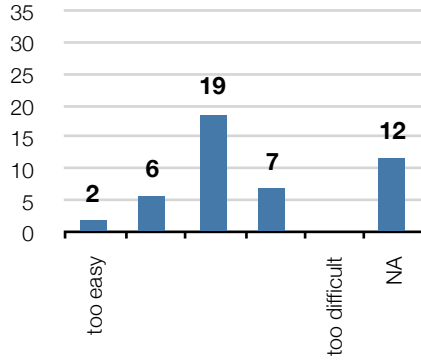
For the Organizing Committee
Nils Gehlenborg & Crina Samarghitean

September 19, 2007

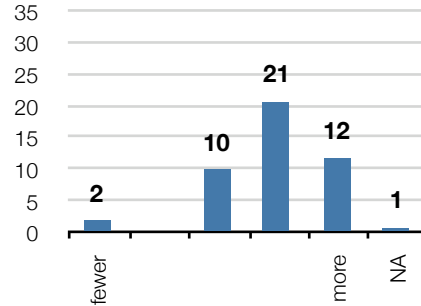


Keynote Talks

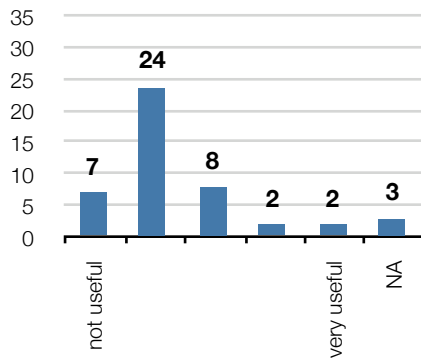
What did you think of the level of the keynote talks?



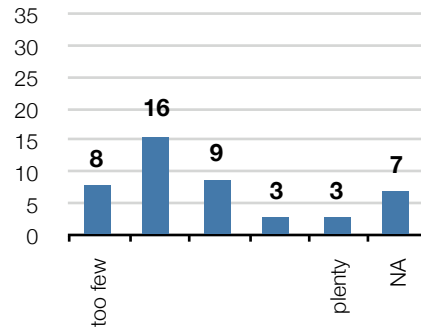
Would you like to see fewer or more keynote talks?



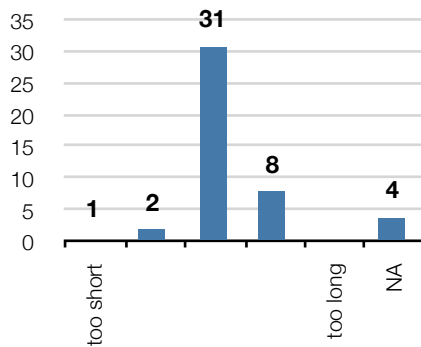
How useful were the keynotes to your own research?



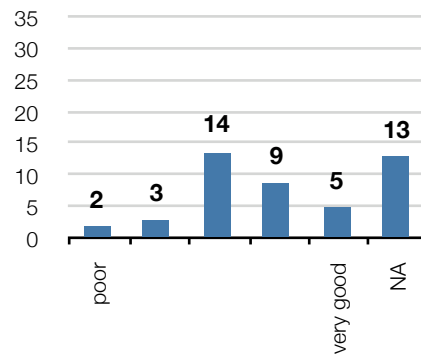
Were there enough opportunities to discuss topics further?



What did you think about the length of the keynote talks?

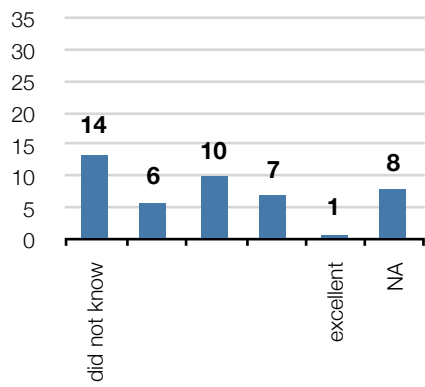


What did you think of the survey to select the speakers?





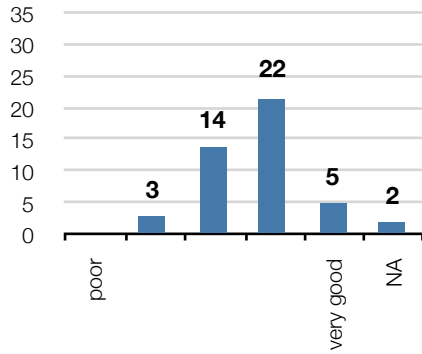
Do you think the survey was well-communicated?



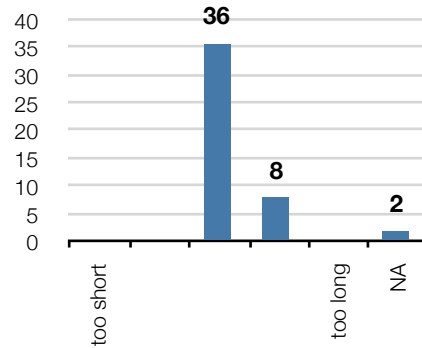


Student Presentations

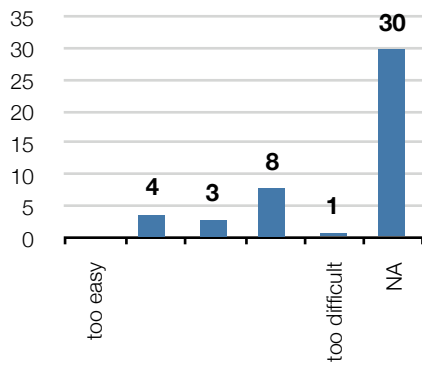
How was the scientific quality of the student presentations?



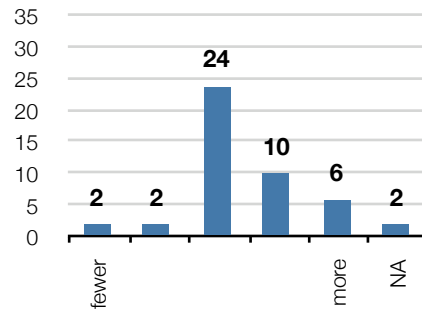
What did you think about the length of the selected talks?



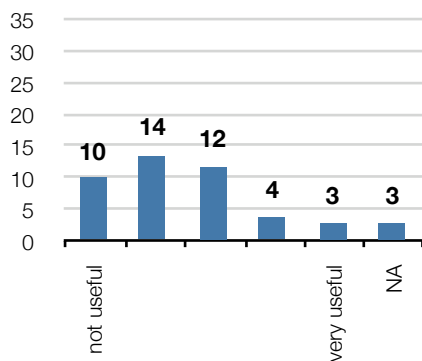
What did you think of the level of the student presentations?



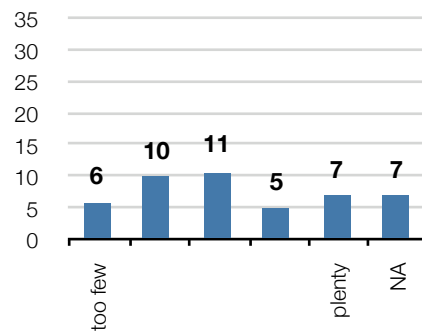
Would you like to see fewer or more selected talks?



How useful were the selected talks to your own research?



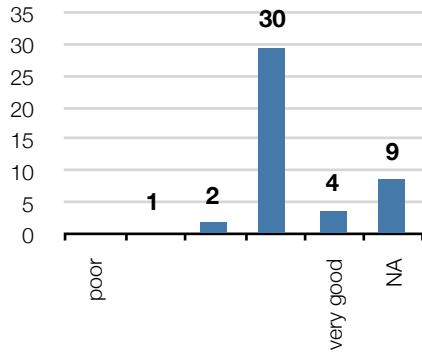
Were there enough opportunities to discuss topics further?



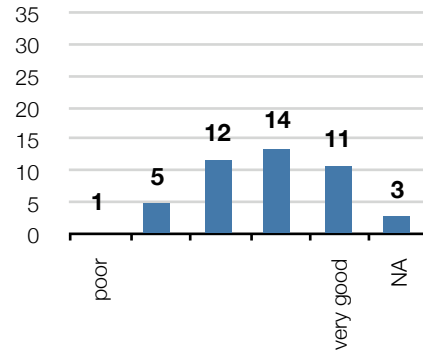


Poster Session

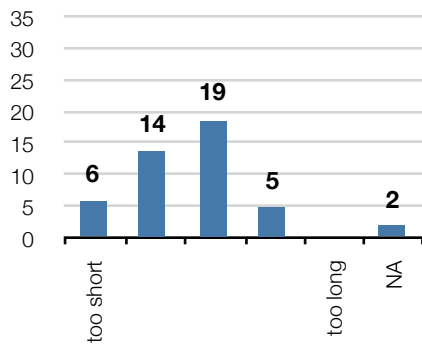
How was the scientific quality of the presented posters?



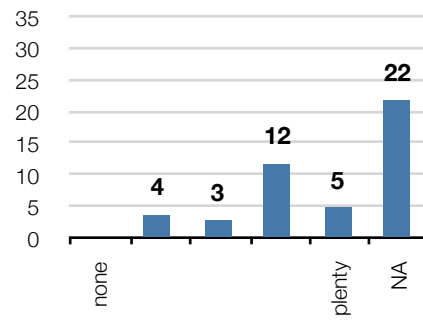
Were the facilities to display posters sufficient?



What about the duration of the poster session?



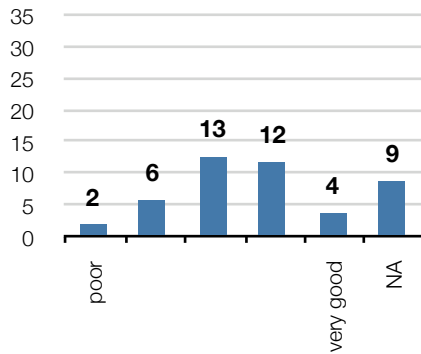
If you presented a poster: was there enough interest?



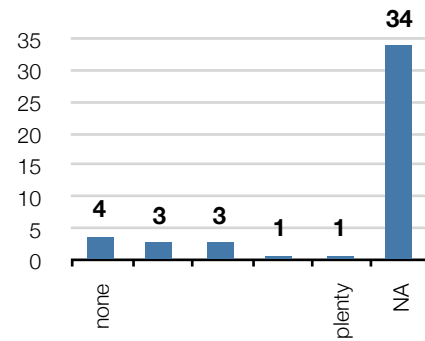


Quickfire Session

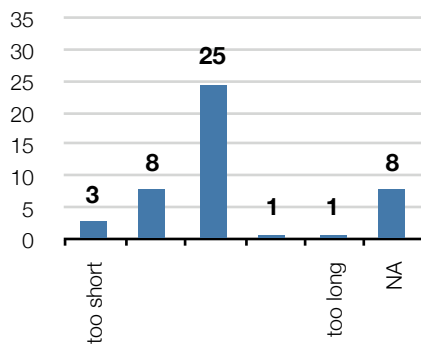
What is your general impression?



If you participated: was there enough feedback?



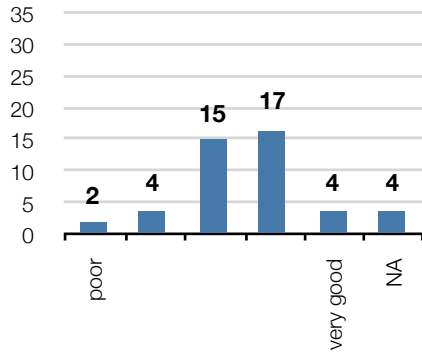
What about the duration of the Quickfire Session?



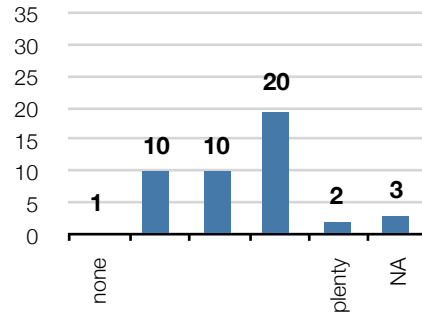


Panel Discussion

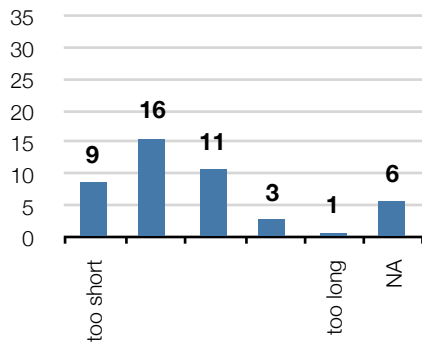
What do you think of the overall quality of the discussion?



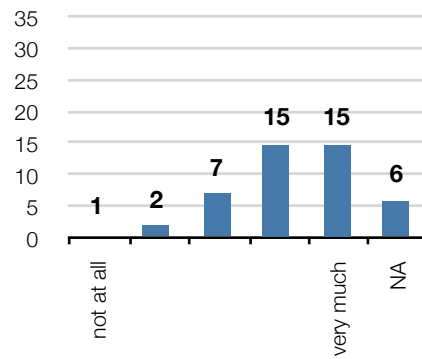
Did you get any useful insight?



Did you have enough time to ask questions?



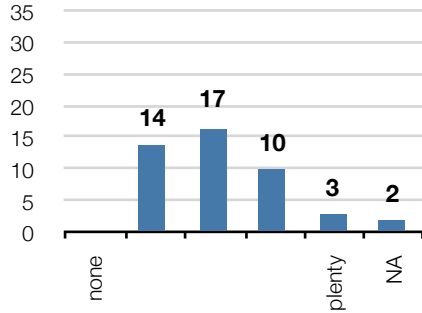
Was the topic "Future of Bioinformatics" of interest to you?



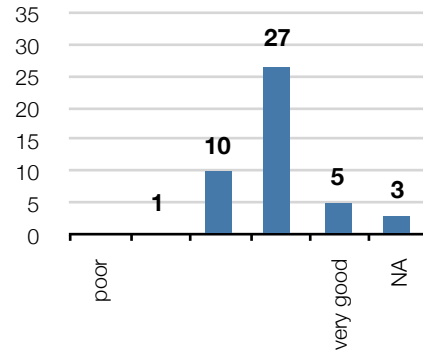


Overall

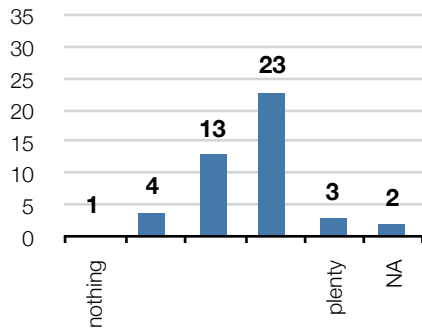
Were there enough opportunities for networking?



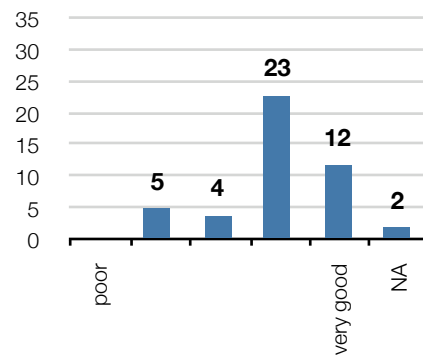
How was the overall organization?



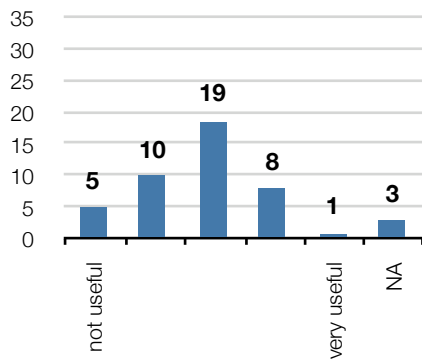
Did you feel like you learned anything new today?



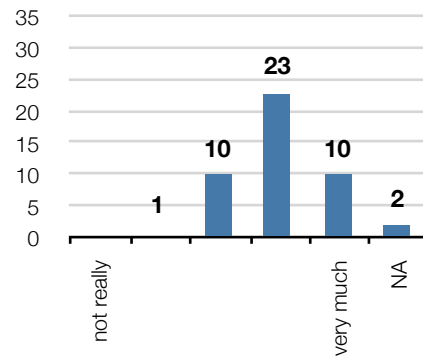
How was the quality of the venue and facilities?



How useful was the day overall to your research?

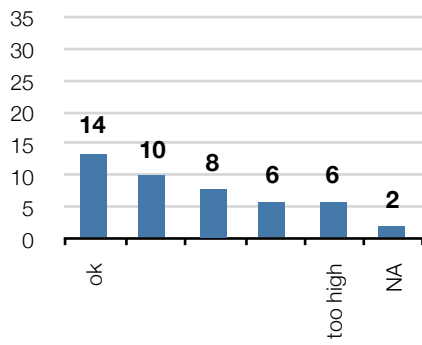


Did you enjoy the day?

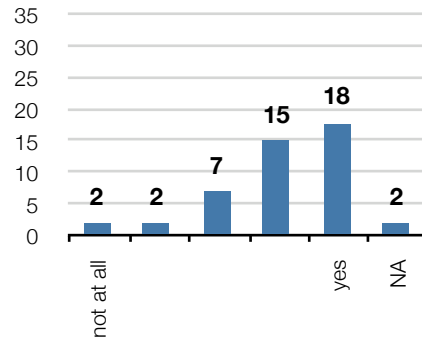




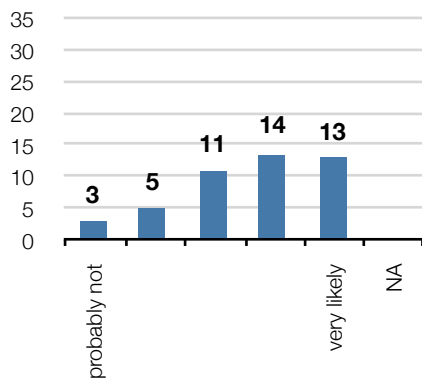
How was the registration fee?



Would you recommend the symposium to colleagues?



Are you likely to visit another Student Council Symposium?

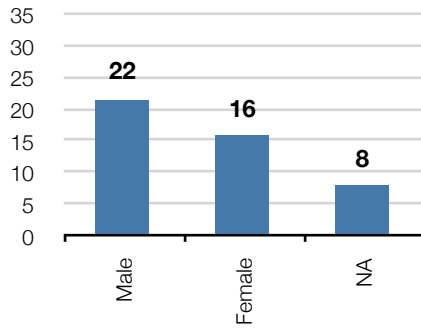




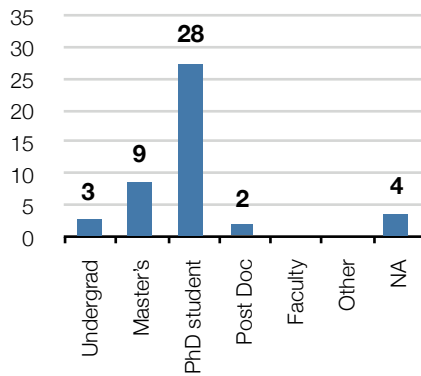
About Yourself

In this section multiple or no answers were possible.

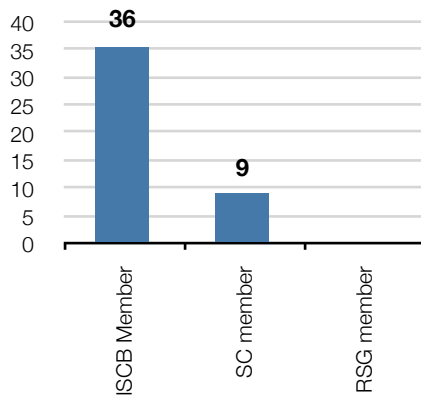
What is your gender?



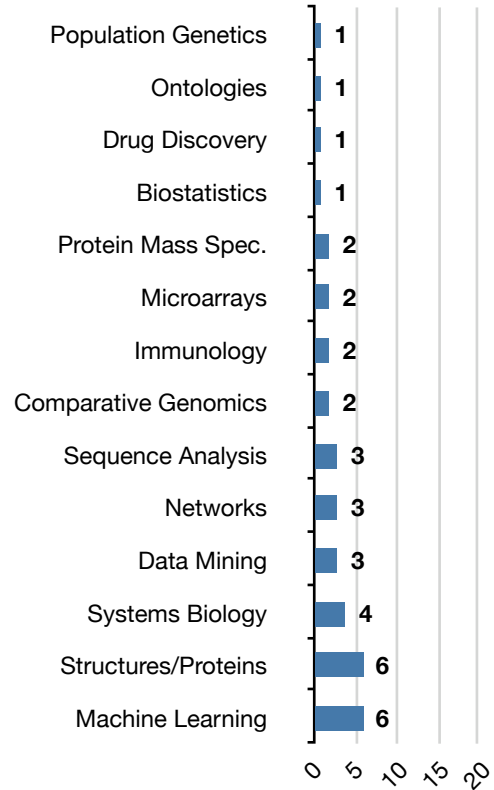
What is your current level of study?



Are you currently?

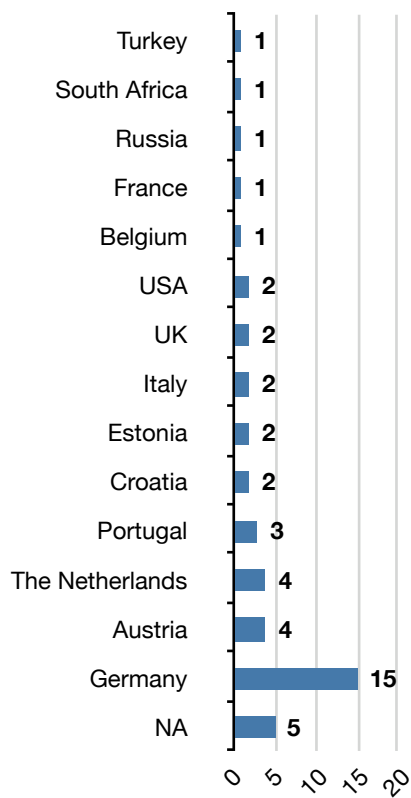


What (sub-)field are you working in?

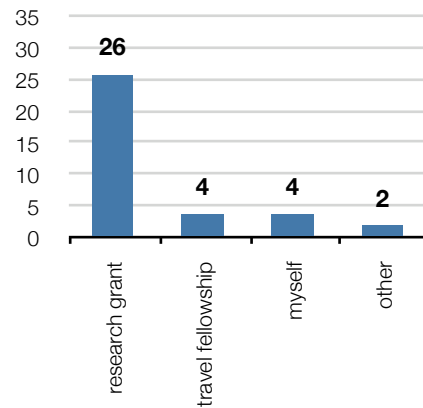




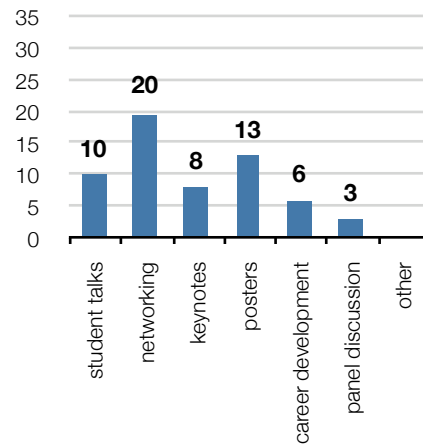
In which country do you work/study?



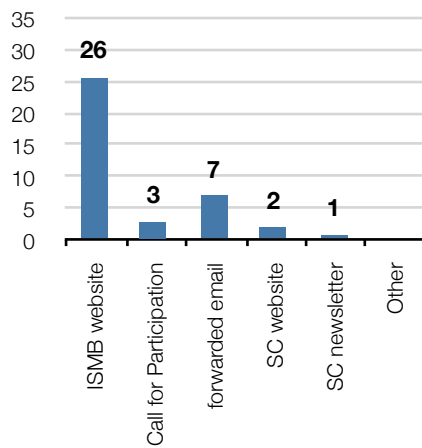
How did you finance the major part of your expenses and registration fees?



What aspect of the symposium is most important for you?



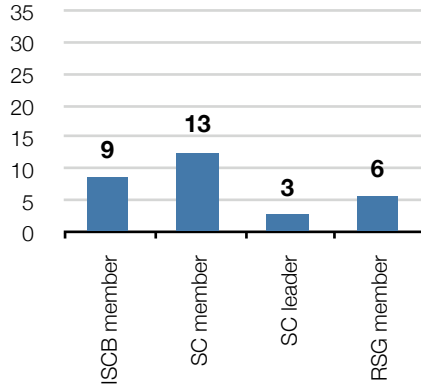
How did you hear first about the Student Council Symposium?



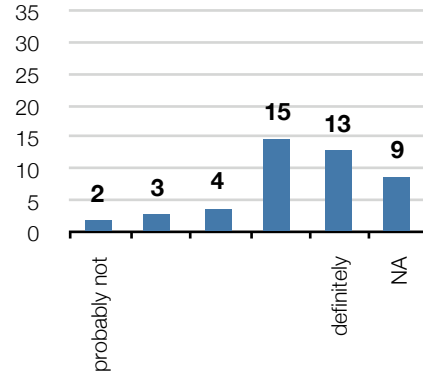


Student Council Activities

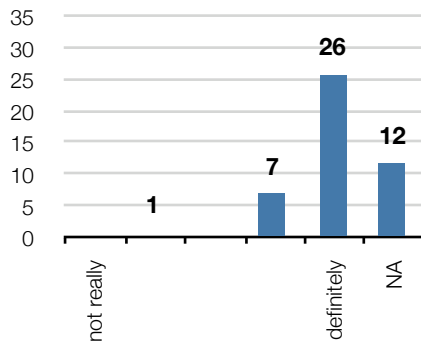
After today are you interested in becoming?
(multiple answers possible)



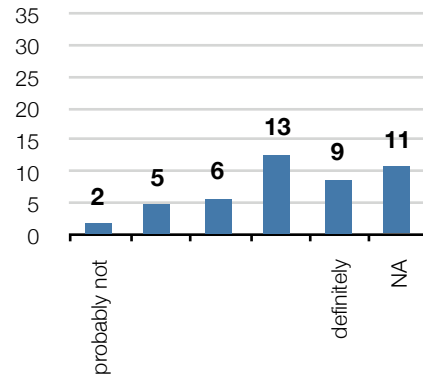
Would you be interested in career related events organized by the Student Council?



Do you think it is important to have activities targeted at students at large conferences?



Would you be interested in local events organized by the Student Council?





Comments

“Good job! It’s a pity not more people could come!”

“Start later, end later, offer drinks, longer breaks.”

“The Student Council makes a very chaotic impression, which is not very encouraging.”

“Thanks to the organizers! Unfortunately there was not much to gain for my current main field of study apart from Anna Tramontano’s keynote, which did not contain new information, but served as a nice motivation. Why were so many posters missing at the poster session? No time for questions after talks, no key (note?) presenters attended poster session.”

“Microphone (for questions from the audience). Separate lunch (area) from tutorials.”

“Two things are of great importance (to me): Networking and an understanding of the impact we make to (sic!) the communities we are directly or indirectly involved with and somehow opening a line of communication with these other groups.”

SURVEY



It's very important for us to get your feedback about the symposium!
 Please take 3 minutes to answer the questions below and hand in this sheet at the doors at the end of the day. If you would like to take more time to fill out this survey please hand it in at the ISCB booth (#12) in the Conference Exhibit until July 25th.

(1) Keynote talks

- (a) What did you think of the level of the keynote talks? too easy too difficult
- (b) How useful were the keynotes to your own research? not useful very useful
- (c) What did you think about the length of the keynotes talks? too short too long
- (d) Would you like to see fewer or more keynote talks? fewer more
- (e) Were there enough opportunities to discuss topics further? too few plenty
- (f) What did you think of the survey to select the speakers? poor very good
- (g) Do you think the survey was well-communicated? did not know excellent

(2) Student presentations

- (a) How was the scientific quality of the student presentations? poor very good
- (b) What did you think of the level of the student presentations? too easy too difficult
- (c) How useful were the selected talks to your own research? not useful very useful
- (d) What did you think about the length of the selected talks? too short too long
- (e) Would you like to see fewer or more selected talks? fewer more
- (f) Were there enough opportunities to discuss topics further? too few plenty

(3) Poster Session

- (a) How was the scientific quality of the presented posters? poor very good
- (b) What about the duration of the poster session? too short too long
- (c) Were the facilities to display posters sufficient? poor very good
- (d) If you presented a poster, was there enough interest? none plenty

(4) Quickfire Session

- (a) What is your general impression? poor very good
- (b) What about the duration of the Quickfire Session? too short too long
- (c) If you participated, was there enough feedback? none plenty

(5) Panel Discussion

- (a) What do you think of the overall quality of the discussion? poor very good
- (b) Did you have enough time to ask questions? too short too long
- (c) Did you get any useful insight? none plenty
- (d) Was the topic "Future of Bioinformatics" of interest to you? not at all very much

(6) Overall

- (a) Were there enough opportunities for networking? none plenty
- (b) Did you feel like you learned anything new today? nothing plenty
- (c) How useful was the day overall to your research? not useful very useful
- (d) How was the overall organization? poor very good
- (e) How was the quality of the venue and facilities? poor very good
- (f) Did you enjoy the day? not really very much
- (g) How was the registration fee ok too high
- (h) Are you likely to visit another Student Council symposium? probably not very likely
- (i) Would you recommend the symposium to colleagues? not at all yes

(7) About Yourself

- (a) Gender Female Male
- (b) Are you? undergraduate master's student PHD student Post Doc
- senior researcher/ faculty other
- (c) Are you currently? (multiple answers possible)
 ISCB member ISCB Student Council member Regional Student Group member
- (d) Please state the (specialized) field you would consider yourself to be working in.

- (e) In which country do you study or work?





- (f) How did you hear first about the Student Council Symposium?
 - ISMB website
 - Call for Participation
 - email forwarded by a colleague
 - Student Council website
 - Student Council newsletter
 - other
- (g) How did you finance the major part of your expenses and registration fees?
 - research grant
 - travel fellowship
 - myself
 - other
- (h) What aspect of the symposium is most important for you?
 - student talks
 - networking opportunities
 - keynotes
 - poster session
 - career development
 - panel discussion
 - other

(8) Student Council Activities

- (a) After today are you interested in becoming? (multiple answers possible)
 - ISCB member
 - ISCB Student Council member
 - part of Student Council leadership
 - involved in a Regional Student Group (RSG - see page 22 of the Program Booklet)
- (b) Do you think it is important to have activities targeted at students at large conferences?
 - not really
 - definitely
- (c) Would you be interested in career-related events organized by the Student Council?
 - probably not
 - definitely
- (d) Would you be interested in local events organized by the Student Council?
 - probably not
 - definitely

(9) Comments

- (a) Please use the space below and to the right for any additional comments. Suggestions for improvements regarding future ISCB Student Council Symposiums and suggestions for additional Student Council activities will be very much appreciated.

Thank you very much for your effort!

Your feedback will help us to improve the next Student Council Symposium. To learn more about the ISCB Student Council please have a look at our website!

<http://www.iscb.org>