

SMBE regional meeting in Taiwan: Evolutionary Genomics & Bioinformatics

The Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE) is an international organization that seeks to facilitate collaboration and exchange of ideas among experts in molecular evolution. Its primary objective is to advance the field of molecular evolution and support the endeavors of researchers, practitioners, and educators in this domain.

The first-ever SMBE regional meeting in Taiwan, titled "The SMBE Regional Evolutionary meeting in Taiwan: Evolutionary Genomics & Bioinformatics," was held at Shih-Liang International Conference Hall, National Taiwan University in Taipei from March 28th to 30th, 2024. The subjects covered "Evolution of human commensal organisms", "Evolutionary biology through a functional genomics lens", "Regulatory evolution", "Evolutionary dynamics of pathogen populations: from within-host to population-level selection", and "Evolution in action". The meeting consisted of five plenary lecturers, fifteen talks from invited speakers, eight contributed presentations, and forty-four contributed posters. The five plenary speakers included Dr. Sudhir Kumar from the Department of Computational & Information Sciences at Temple University; Dr. Ben-Yang Liao from the Institute of Population Health Sciences at National Health Research Institute, Taiwan; Dr. Yukinori Okada from the Department of Statistical Genetics at Osaka University, Japan; Dr. Tanja Slotte from the Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences at Stockholm University; and Dr. Yi-Hsien Su from the Institute of Cellular and Organismic Biology at Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

This three-day event was attended by a total of 172 participants from various countries including America, Germany, India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, Sweden, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. This conference offered a chance for researchers of various

levels, such as experts, faculty members, postdocs, and students, in the field of evolutionary genomics and bioinformatics to represent their work and engage in discussions with other researchers. With the support of SMBE, all attendees who submitted posters or abstracts received complimentary registration for the conference. Additionally, we provided travel grants to twelve participants to incentivize their participation in the meeting.

The following photos offer a concise summary of the events that were memorized.



Photograph of the 2024 SMBE conference in Taiwan



Dr. Wen-Hsiung Li and Dr. Sudhir Kumar



Collection of Speakers Present at the Venue

2024 SMBE Regional Meeting in Taiwan: Evolutionary Genomics & Bioinformatics		
March 28-30, 2024		
Shih-Liang International Conference Hall, National Taiwan University, Taiwan		
Main PI: Dr. Hsuan-Cheng Huang, Institute of Biomedical Informatics, National Yang Ming Chia Tung University, Taiwan.		
EXPENSES:		
Description	Amount (NTD)	Amount (USD)
Food & Beverage (welcome reception, gala dinner, lunch meals, and tea break)	\$225,300.00	\$6,827.27
Rental for location	\$85,000.00	\$2,575.76
Equipment rental	\$49,536.00	\$1,501.09
Accommodation for speakers and organizing committee members	\$162,500.00	\$4,924.24
Speaking fees	\$112,000.00	\$3,393.94
Travel for speakers and organizing committee members	\$227,247.00	\$6,886.27
Travel awards for domestic trainees	\$67,000.00	\$2,030.30
Travel awards for International trainees	\$125,000.00	\$3,787.88
Staff transportation expenses	\$5,973.00	\$181.00
Lanyards/Thermos cup	\$40,748.00	\$1,234.79
Papers/Toner cartridge	\$159,875.00	\$4,844.70
Notebooks w/pens	\$1,368.00	\$41.45
Speakers and committee members dinner	\$59,393.00	\$1,799.79
Student salary, benefits, tuition and fees	\$86,960.00	\$2,635.15
Website	\$23,000.00	\$696.97
Keynote: Prof. Sudhir Kumar (including Airfare, local transportation, and accommodation)	\$104,300.00	\$3,160.61
Keynote: Prof. Tanja Slotte (including Airfare, local transportation, and accommodation)	\$106,093.00	\$3,214.94
TOTAL	\$1,641,293.00	\$49,736.15
REVENUES:		
Description	Amount (NTD)	Amount (USD)
The Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE)	\$909,913.00	\$27,573.12
National Science and Technology Council, Taiwan	\$700,000.00	\$21,212.12
Institute of information science, Academia Sinica	\$80,000.00	\$2,424.24
TOTAL	\$1,689,913.00	\$51,209.48