

Pascale Gaudet, PhD

President, International Society for Biocuration

Research Assistant Professor, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, USA

I am one of the founders and the current president of the International Society for Biocuration. I have been working as a biocurator at dictyBase, the model organism database for *Dictyostelium discoideum* since 2003, and in addition, as manager of the reference genome project of the Gene Ontology consortium since 2007. With this experience, it is clear to me that biocurators play a unique and essential role in research by constantly providing new solutions in the integration and sharing of ever evolving biological knowledge.

The efforts of the ISB are geared towards promoting the work of biocurators, at the junction between research, bioinformatics and information systems, both to users of the resources and to the funding agencies. The ultimate goal of this work is to help support research and effectively promote knowledge discovery by providing solid infrastructures to store, integrate, display, and query data.

In the past 18 months, myself and the ISB have taken several steps to achieve the mission of the Society:

- Improved and enhanced the web presence (www.biocurator.org)
- Advertized the ISB and our annual conference to the biocuration and bioinformatics communities, and as of July 2010, the ISB had grown to close to 300 members,
- Encouraged biocurators to publish their work: We have worked with the journal Database to create a Biocuration Virtual Issue containing papers submitted following the 2009 Biocuration conference held in Berlin last April [<http://tiny.cc/zsnxr>].
- Started gathering Biocuration articles using the social bookmarking site "connotea" : [<http://www.connotea.org/tag/biocuration>]
- Initiated contact with journal publishers and editors in the goal of elaborating practices to facilitate the transfer of data from publications into databases.

My main priorities for the ISB are to (1) continue to build a cohesive community of biocurators, by promoting exchanges between biocurators conference, publications, discussion forums, and emails; (2) develop minimal standards for biological databases; and (3) continue to work with funding agencies to find ways to favor sustainable funding. I hope members of the ISB agree with those priorities and trust that I will have a positive influence on achieving those goals.