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Biographical sketch:

My focus throughout my career has been biocuration, both manual and automatic. My background is in Biochemistry and I joined the EMBL data library at EMBL-Heidelberg in September 1993 to work as a Swiss-Prot annotator with a special interest in enzyme annotation. I then transferred to the new EMBL Outstation – The European Bioinformatics Institute in 1994 where my annotation responsibilities included direct peptide submissions, the *C.elegans* genome project in the collaboration with the Sanger Institute and RNA-editing annotation. As the UniProtKB/TrEMBL database became a more central activity of the EBI group, I became the annotation liaison for the project. UniProtKB/TrEMBL was created in 1996 as a complement to the manually annotated Swiss-Prot protein sequence database, in response to the need to make new sequences available as quickly as possible to the scientific community. It is now the largest part of the UniProt Knowledgebase and the need for adding as much functional protein annotation via both manual and automatic methods to computationally generated data has proved challenging and is one of my main responsibilities. Alongside this activity, I continued to curate myself and became the lead of the manual curation effort at the EBI. I am now the UniProt Team Leader (Content) at the EBI and my duties include being the annotation lead of all the UniProt activities at the EBI, coordination and management with UniProt consortium members, development and QA of UniProtKB annotation, Data Flows and Data curation, and collaboration with other projects at the EBI (InterPro, European Nucleotide Archive (ENA), PDBe, Ensembl, IntAct, PRIDE, ArrayExpress, Integr8, Genome Reviews, Reactome, ChEBI) and their international consortia as well as with other external collaborators across our field, such as the sequencing and annotation groups at the Sanger Institute, NCBI, and AIST, model organism databases, and large sequencing centres.

International Society of Biocuration:

The mission of the ISB to promote Biocuration as a discipline and a career is incredibly important to me as it reflects my own priorities for my own career and those of our staff. As a result of my role in UniProt, I have had the benefit of interacting with many of the biocuration community and really appreciate how we are striving to achieve similar goals and facing similar problems. While we are fortunate within the EBI that biocuration has a strong recognition factor due to the number of our curation staff, it is clear that the contribution of biocuration is often hidden from the user community and the funding authorities. I believe my experience so far and my absolute commitment to the biocuration field would enable me to make a significant contribution to the ISB.

Conflicts of interest: none declared.