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EMAGE Biocurator

I have been involved with the ISB since its inception following the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Biocuration Meeting in 2007. I was a member of the planning committee and subsequently a member of the interim board at the formal establishment in 2009. Ever since, I have served as the secretary of the executive board. I have thoroughly enjoyed my association with the society, and feel very strongly that its continued advancement is important to the field of biocuration. I am running for re-election at this time as there are a number of current efforts within the society that I am keen to continue to work on.

I believe the most important function of the society is to represent its members' interests. While the society is committed to addressing the goals detailed in the mission statement, I believe where possible, the focus should be dictated by the membership.

That said, it is my opinion that the most pressing issue facing the field of biocuration (and consequently the society) is that of stable long term funding for biological resources. It is no coincidence that the majority of items listed in the mission statement can in some way contribute to this long-term goal. For example, promoting the field of biocuration as both an existing established community and a positive career choice, can only serve to strengthen the case for recognition of the valuable work biocurators do. Equally, I feel the establishment of strong links with publishers, as well as between resources, will help secure the future stability of biocuration efforts.

In my own work I have been a biocurator for the EMAGE database for approximately 7 years now. EMAGE is a database of gene expression patterns in the mouse embryo, which are spatially annotated to 3D embryo models. I also handle the outreach for EMAGE, and as such am interested in user expectations and requirements of resources. Through my time at EMAGE I have gained a broad overview of the issues faced by not only biocurators but software developers, interface designers, bioinformaticians and database end-users.

I am keen to continue my efforts within the executive board of the society for another term, and hope that I will be given the chance to do this.

Conflicts of interest: None declared.