

Dr. Ulrike Wittig

I am a research associate in the Scientific Database and Visualisation group of the Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS), Germany. I studied biochemistry at the University of Leipzig, Germany and received my Ph.D. in biology from the University of Heidelberg, Germany in 1998. The Ph.D. thesis on mechanisms of apoptosis and oxidative stress was developed in collaboration between the University Hospital of Heidelberg and the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg. With the experience of the work as a wet-lab scientist I joined the European Media Laboratory (EML) in Heidelberg, Germany in 1998 for the development of a database for biochemical pathways and experimental data specific for the organism class of Mycoplasma. Currently I am working in the Scientific Database and Visualisation group of the HITS at the development of a database for biochemical reactions and their kinetic properties called SABIO-RK. As a biocurator of the SABIO-RK database (<http://sabio.h-its.org>) I am responsible for data integration, standardisation and data quality. My research interests include data curation, integration and standardisation in biological databases and extraction of information from literature and other biological data sources. My main focus is to call attention to the importance of the quality of biological databases and the promotion of the development of methods to support database curation processes. In conjunction with that the mission of the International Society for Biocuration is highly relevant to my daily work.

As a member of the ISB executive board I would mainly concentrate on increased funding of biocuration efforts to have a stable and long-term foundation for current databases and further developments which corresponds with the mission statements of the ISB to define the work of biocurators for the scientific community and the public funding agencies and to lobby to obtain increased and stable funding for biocuration resources that are essential to research.

I was member of the organisation team of the 3rd International Biocuration Conference 2009 in Berlin, Germany.

Selected publications:

Ulrike Wittig, Ann De Beuckelaer (2001) Analysis and comparison of metabolic pathway databases. *Briefings in Bioinformatics*, 2, 126-142

Ulrike Wittig, Andreas Weidemann, Renate Kania, Christian Peiss, Isabel Rojas (2004) Classification of chemical compounds to support complex queries in a pathway database. *In Comparative and Functional Genomics*, 5:156-162

Ulrike Wittig, Martin Golebiewski, Renate Kania, Olga Krebs, Saqib Mir, Andreas Weidemann, Stefanie Anstein, Jasmin Saric, Isabel Rojas (2006) SABIO-RK: integration and curation of reaction kinetics data. *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, (4075):94-103

Ulrike Wittig, Renate Kania, Martin Golebiewski, Olga Krebs, Saqib Mir, Andreas Weidemann, Henriette Engelken, Isabel Rojas (2008) Integration and Annotation of Kinetic Data of Biochemical Reactions in SABIO-RK. In *Proceedings of the 3rd International Beilstein Workshop on "Experimental Standard Conditions of Enzyme Characterizations"*, Ruedesheim am Rhein, Germany, 2007