

I started my scientific career as a geneticist, specialising in molecular evolution, and became a full-time bioinformatician in 2001 as a postdoc in Dublin. In Ireland, I experienced first hand the value of a vibrant and supportive bioinformatics community through "VIBE" (the Virtual Institute of Bioinformatics, Eire).

I started my own research group in 2007 at the University of Southampton (UK), where I got involved in a wide range of collaborations. In addition to my own "wet" lab background, this has given me good insight into both the pleasures and perils of being the lone bioinformatician on an interdisciplinary project.

At Southampton, I was a founding committee member of the university-wide Computational Modelling Group (cmg.soton.ac.uk), as the Life Sciences representative. This group was established to foster a collaborative community for all aspects of computational and data-rich research at the University, and increase its external profile. I see ABACBS as fulfilling a similar role for bioinformatics (in all its flavours) in Australia. The interdisciplinary nature of bioinformatics makes it impossible for anyone to be an expert in all areas; having supportive (non-judgemental) access to expertise and best practise is crucial. I am committed to keep ABACBS a society that supports and values members from all backgrounds. I am also passionate that bioinformatics is taken seriously as a science, and not purely a technical discipline.

Since moving to Australis in 2013, I have been impressed by the quality and attitude of the Australian bioinformatics community. Helping to organise the 2015 ABACBS conference as co-convenor was a highlight of my time in Australia so far. Since then, I have served on the ABACBS education sub-committee, and I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the continued success of Australian bioinformatics by serving on the main ABACBS committee. As a dual-track education and research academic, I have a specific interest in making sure that bioinformatics education in Australia is well represented.

Best wishes,

Rich

Dr Richard Edwards
Senior Lecturer in Bioinformatics
School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences
The University of New South Wales
SYDNEY NSW 2052
Australia
tel: (+61 2) 9385 0490
email: richard.edwards@unsw.edu.au
web: <http://edwardslab.blogspot.com.au/>