Welcome to the 1st International Workshop on Service-Oriented Technologies for Biological Databases and Tools (SOBDAT 2007)! We are excited to initiate this unique interdisciplinary workshop at the ICWS/SCC conference on the emerging issues arising from the interplay of service-oriented Internet technologies with biomedical research and applications. As expected, this is turning out be a world-class forum that brings together computer scientists, domain scientists, and practitioners, featuring high-quality papers reviewed by the well-rounded, high-caliber program committee we have assembled.

Integrating data sources and tools and then performing computations on them is one of the key problems surrounding the use of data from experimental biology today. However, these resources are highly diverse in nature in terms of representation, data formats, and computer system platforms and are distributed across the network. Although this broad spectrum of information is accessible over the Web, each data source comes with its own structure, semantics of interpretation, data formats, concepts, and access methods. Currently, the burden falls on the scientist to manually (via programs) convert between the various sources of data formats, resolve conflicts, integrate data, and interpret results in order to make meaningful use of this information. This workshop will provide a forum for researchers and practitioners working to solve these challenges in biological data and tools using service-oriented technologies.

We received submissions from both the United States and abroad and have selected seven regular papers after a rigorous review process. All submitted manuscripts were peer reviewed by at least four program committee members, and those authored by a member of the program committee were each reviewed by five impartial program committee members. We are grateful to the program committee members for their detailed, thorough, and timely reviews and for subsequent deliberations where warranted. We thank Janaka Balasooriya and Graciela Gonzalez for the local arrangements. We also thank Janaka Balasooriya for his background work and for his assistance in preparing the workshop proceedings.

Finally, we extend our thanks to all the authors who submitted manuscripts and to those who will be presenting their papers at the workshop.

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