

Reviewer Appreciation Editorial

Ying Xu

A number of new efforts have been started in the past year aiming to continue to substantially increase both the number of submissions to and the impact of the published papers by the *IEEE/ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (TCBB)*. While I am excited about the future growth of *TCBB*, I want to take a moment to appreciate all of our reviewers and Associate Editors who make this journal what it is. Without these volunteers evaluating manuscripts, offering feedback, and ensuring that only high quality submissions appear in *TCBB*, we would not have the highly respected journal that we do. Since the beginning of my tenure as EIC in January 2013, 970 volunteer reviewers have collectively completed 1,386 reviews.

In the last six months, we have improved our review cycle time of regular papers to an average of 44 days, compared with an average of 60 days in the prior six month period. This is a tremendous improvement, and one of the key factors that makes *TCBB* attractive to submitting authors.

While this has been accomplished through the dedication of all of our Associate Editors and reviewers, the IEEE Computer Society has recently initiated a Reviewer Appreciation Program to acknowledge those reviewers who have made a significant contribution both in the quality and quantity of their reviews, and I would like to specifically recognize:

- Daniel Brown, University of Waterloo, School of Computer Science
- Elena Dimitrova, Clemson University, College of Engineering and Science
- Shuiwang Ji, Old Dominion University, Department of Computer Science
- Alejandro Schaffer, National Center for Biotechnology Information, National Institutes of Health
- Jianyi Yang, University of Michigan, Department of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics
- Louxin Zhang, National University of Singapore, Department of Mathematics
- Shihua Zhang, Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science, CAS
- Wei Zhong, University of South Carolina Upstate, Division of Math and Computer Science

These reviewers were selected because they have completed an exceptional number of reviews for *TCBB* or because they were nominated by one of our Associate Editors. One such nomination stood out, "Alex Schaffer wrote an outstanding review for a manuscript that I assigned him, going to the point of downloading the author's code and trying it out, and writing a very detailed review with excellent suggestions to the authors. Very few reviewers go to this extent of trying to verify the manuscript's computational experiments, and Alex should be commended." Like this AE who wrote about Alex's nomination, I am deeply appreciative for this kind of quality review of our manuscripts.

Ying Xu, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief

