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## **Editorial: Launching IJBRA**

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**Biographical notes:** Yi Pan is the Chair and a Full Professor of the Department of Computer Science at Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Dr. Pan received his BE and ME in Computer Engineering from Tsinghua University, China, in 1982 and 1984, respectively, and his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Pittsburgh, USA, in 1991. Dr. Pan's research interests include parallel and distributed computing, optical networks, wireless networks, and bioinformatics. Dr. Pan has published more than 80 journal papers with 28 papers published in various IEEE journals.

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Although several existing journals publish research on bioinformatics and computational biology, the changes in the focus of bioinformatics research over the last several years warrant introducing this new journal. Different from many existing bioinformatics journals, the objective and strategy of *International Journal of Bioinformatics Research and Applications* (IJBRA) launched by Inderscience Publishers is to publish outstanding original research papers as well as high calibre survey papers focusing on bioinformatics research from a computer scientist's perspective. The focus of IJBRA will be towards running more special issues on hot topics that describe innovative computing methods, which help biologists solve practical problems and bridge the gap between theory and practices in bioinformatics research. It will covers new trends, developments, new theory, emerging technologies, and industrial practices related to bioinformatics research and applications. IJBRA's publication process will be fully electronic, administered by a dedicated editorial board, which we firmly believe will contribute to a speedy review process and reduce the waiting time for authors. We hope that this fresh approach to international publication will enlarge the pool of quality publications, rather than draw from the existing pool. The field of bioinformatics is populated with scientists, who speak a specialised dialect, understood by neither pure biologists nor pure computer scientists. Most of us learned bioinformatics as a second language, but a new generation of native speakers is on the way. Our hope is that this new journal is for this new generation.

We realise that we have a long way to go in order to attain these goals and objectives, but we have already made an excellent start. We are very proud of the highly qualified individuals who have joined our editorial board. They represent an international panel of well-known experts from around the world. We have already reached a wide range of audiences around the world who have submitted and/or are in the process of submitting manuscripts to IJBRA. Several special issues have also been arranged for international conferences and workshops.

This is the first issue of the new journal. IJBRA promises to bring its readers outstanding published work that will enrich their horizons in their areas of expertise related to all aspects of bioinformatics. It also promises authors speedy publication under the guidance of an international editorial board drawn from academia and industry.

We would like to offer special thanks to all of those who have encouraged and contributed in the initial stages of this project, in particular the staff at Inderscience Publishers. We would also like to thank those authors who have already sent their contributions to IJBRA that you will read in this issue and in the next several issues. Furthermore, we welcome all authors and readers of IJBRA and ask for their involvement and participation by submitting their manuscripts and welcome their personal subscriptions and that of their libraries. For more details about the topics and how to make your electronic submission/subscription, we invite you to visit the IJBRA website at <https://www.inderscience.com/browse/index.php?journalcode=ijbra>.

Finally, if you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to send them to us. If you plan to edit a special issue in IJBRA, please contact us for more information. Again, we welcome all of you to contribute and encourage your colleagues and libraries to subscribe to this fine publication.