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## **Preface**

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### **Jianer Chen, Min Li and Jianxin Wang**

School of Information Science and Engineering,  
Central South University,  
Changsha, Hunan 410083, PR China  
E-mail: chen@cs.tamu.edu  
E-mail: limin@csu.edu.cn  
E-mail: jxwang@mail.csu.edu.cn

**Biographical notes:** Jianer Chen is a Professor of Computer Science at Central South University in Changsha, Hunan, China. He received his PhD in Mathematics from Columbia University, USA, and PhD in Computer Science from Courant Institute of New York University, USA. His current research focuses on algorithms and complexity, bioinformatics, networks and computer graphics.

Min Li received her PhD degree in Computer Science from Central South University, China, in 2008. She is currently an Associate Professor at the School of Information Science and Engineering, Central South University, Changsha, Hunan, P.R. China. Her main research interests include bioinformatics and systems biology.

Jianxin Wang received his PhD in Computer Science from Central South University of China in 2001. He is currently a Professor at the Department of Computer Science Theory and Software, Central South University, Changsha, Hunan, China. His current research interests include bio-computing, algorithm analysis and optimisation.

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This Special Issue arises from The 4th Annual International Bioinformatics Workshop, held in Changsha, P.R.China, from June 10 to June 12, 2006. The Annual International Bioinformatics Workshop (IBW) has continued the series of workshops, taking place at seven different cities in P.R. China: Shanghai, Beijing, Changchun, Changsha, Jinan, Kunming, and Suzhou. The workshop is dedicated to scientific communication for researchers at the cutting edge of progress in bioinformatics and related research areas. Topics of the workshop include computational genomics, bio-sequence analysis, comparative genome analysis, biological networks, computational proteomics, computational structural biology, computational systems biology, biological data mining, computational evolutionary biology, and algorithmic and combinatorial methods in bioinformatics. The workshop is well-balanced with respect to established researchers, young scientists, and graduate students.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Bioinformatics Workshop had two parts. The first part consisted of 16 invited presentations, given by leading researchers from China, USA, Canada, and other countries, and reporting the latest research findings in bioinformatics and computational biology. The second part consisted of 12 contributed presentations,

providing a friendly and flexible environment for researchers from all over the world to exchange their ideas and improve the cooperation.

Based on their quality and significance, four of the best contributed presentations were invited to submit journal versions for consideration of publications in *International Journal of Bioinformatics Research and Applications* (IJBRA). Each submission was reviewed by at least three reviewers, and went through a thorough review process under the usual high standards of IJBRA.

Our special thanks go to IBW program committee for identifying and recommending the best papers from the workshop, to the authors for their carefully revised submissions, and to the reviewers for their hard work and expertise that they have brought to the high quality of the special issue. We also express our appreciation to Professor Yi Pan, the Editor-in-Chief of IJBRA, for his encouragement and advice throughout the preparation of this Special Issue