

Bioinformatics and Comparative Genome Analysis course
August 16 – 29, 2009. HKU-Pasteur Research Centre, Hong Kong

Recommendations before confirming your participation to the course

Dear All,

We are pleased to inform you of your acceptance to the 2009 Bioinformatics and Comparative Genome Analysis Course, held at the HKU-Pasteur Research Centre, Hong Kong from August 16 to August 29, 2009. Please review the course content and the eligibility and conditions of acceptance. As there is a substantial waiting list, if you still wish to participate and accept the course conditions, you are required to e-mail your confirmation within one week (deadline May 8th).

Eligibility and conditions of acceptance:

- (1) Your acceptance to the course is based on the accurate credentials and qualifications provided in good faith. Please note that course participation is limited to members of Academic Institutions. Individuals from Industry or from Business Institutions are not eligible.
- (2) The student is of sound health for travel to Hong Kong and the participation in the course. Although not a requirement, students are advised to consider acquiring supplementary travel health insurance at their home country for the duration of the course.
- (3) The course will be taught in English and verbal and written command of English is required.
- (4) Before confirming your participation, make sure the course is within your scientific and technical ability, as well as meeting your expectations, interest and professional development.

Detailed course outline is available at our web page:

http://www.pasteur.fr/~tekaia/BCGA2009/BCGA2009_Prog.html

The actual course is quite similar to previous courses: http://www.pasteur.fr/~tekaia/BGA_courses.html of which course materials are available for review. Students are advised to review past course materials.

- (5) Be aware that the course is not intended for beginners. Good experience with Unix is mandatory. Although there will be three sessions to ensure everyone is familiar with basic Unix. You have to be prepared to work under Unix.

- (6) We will use Perl for writing scripts to manipulate and analyse data. You should have a preliminary experience with Perl.

We have made available useful links that might help you consolidate your knowledge in Unix, Perl or any other item considered in this course:

http://www.pasteur.fr/~tekaia/BCGA_useful_links.html

- (7) Please read the EMBO questionnaire:

http://www.pasteur.fr/~tekaia/BCGA2009/EMBO_questionnaire.pdf

You should be aware of the answers to question 13. If you have any reservations relating to the organizational aspects of the course and the course programs, you should not participate in this course.

(8) This course is not a passive scholarly exercise: we expect students to participate actively during the lectures and practical sessions. The course is intensive and your undivided attention and participation are needed each day.

(9) Students (including those from Hong Kong) are required to be available full-time for the entire duration of the course (August 16 – August 29).

(11) During the two weeks of the course, invited colleagues, instructors, and students will stay together in the same Hotel to facilitate contact and discussions between colleagues and or students to help establishing future scientific collaborations. Past courses have had atmosphere that was very friendly between all participants. We expect everyone to integrate easily with groups and people from different countries and cultures.

(12) Note the course starting date: August 16 instead of 17 august as indicated in the announcement. During the first session students will have to introduce themselves and their project in one or 2 slides (3 minutes maximum). Instructions will be given later on how to prepare and send us these slides.

(13) Each student will have to fill anonymously the EMBO questionnaire (see link above in point 7), which will be sent to EMBO. During the last session, each student will have to evaluate the course in a short presentation (3-4 minutes): what is learned, liked, missed, disliked from the lectures, practical sessions as well as the accommodations and meals. Suggestions are welcome to make better future courses. The presence of each selected student is mandatory.

(14) Accommodation and meals

Lodging is based on double and triple occupancy. Students and invited colleagues will stay in Robert Black College Hotel (<http://www.hku.hk/rblack/introduction/index.html>). Accommodations and set meals are provided free of charge for all selected students. Students are responsible for their own travel to and from Hong Kong, airport transfers and all incidental expenses including, necessary travel documents, local transportation, non set meals and drinks and the like.

Be aware that you will need about 100€ for in-campus local transportation, particularly from Robert Black College (RBC) to Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine: by taxi from "RBC" or "HKU - East Gate" (HK\$30) or by green mini-bus no. 8 (HK\$5) and 28 (HK\$4.5) from "East Gate".

(15) Once you confirm your participation by e-mail, you will receive a formal invitation to attend the course from Dr Roberto Bruzzone (HKU-Pasteur Research Centre). This document will serve in particular to help getting a VISA if needed to enter Hong Kong.

(16) You will have to send (latest July 15th) a copy of your travel documents (flight, train, ... tickets) as a proof of your effective participation.

(17) Travel tips have been added to the course web page to help you get from the Airport to Robert Black College as well as other useful informations :
<http://www.pasteur.fr/~tekaia/BCGA2009/HKTravelTips.pdf>

Please review the aforementioned terms and affect their acceptance before confirming your participation. If for any reason you cannot participate, please let us know as soon as possible so that we allow someone else from the waiting list to participate.

Please note that the course is based on the voluntarism of the organizers, invited colleagues and IT support staff.

Best wishes.

On behalf of the organizers

Fredj Tekaiia

Last modified August 5, 2009.