

#BelBi2023 • Belgrade, Serbia

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



## 4th Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference

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# FOREWORD

Dear colleagues and friends,

The 4th Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference - BelBi2023, where many high-quality scientific contributions were presented, has just ended. With great thanks to all participants, we now proudly present a book of abstracts that both reflects the scientific abundance and diversity of the conference and serves as a reminder of a memorable event.

Several research institutions, faculties, and scientific societies from Serbia joined forces in organizing this international conference, which covered numerous topics in computational biology, bioinformatics, and biomedical and health informatics. The main goal of BelBi2023 was to foster contact between scientists, both early stage career and senior researchers, allowing them to share experiences and latest advances in their fields. We sincerely hope that BelBi2023 has served as a platform for researchers from around the world to meet, initiate new collaborations, and expand professional contacts, and that all of you would become a part of the growing BelBi community.

We are grateful and proud to have welcomed more than 250 researchers from 21 countries. We have had 28 scientific sessions, consisting of more than 60 lectures (including eight Keynote talks), 47 presented posters, as well as three workshops and one satellite event – COST action. We have also organized seven industry lectures, including the NGS Challenge,

two Meet the Expert Sessions, and one Business Coffee Break where ten start-up companies took part. And finally, the future BIO4 campus was presented and first panel on Serbia's resources for storage and analyses of genetic data was organized.

We would like to thank all the members of the International Advisory Board and the International Program Committee for their efforts and help in making this event a success. We are very grateful to the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia, SAIGE project, and UNDP-Serbia for their support. Finally, the Local Organizing Committee is very grateful to all the sponsors of the conference - BGI, Illumina & Elta'90MS, PacBio & East Diagnostics, ThermoFisher Scientific & Vivogen, Huawei, Labena, DSP Chromatography, RNIDS, Telekom Srbija, Alfa Genetics, Kefo and Superlab, hoping that they will stay with us for many years to come.

Looking forward to seeing you again at the 5<sup>th</sup> Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference.

Belgrade, July 2023

*Dr. Valentina Đorđević  
& Dr. Ivana Morić,*  
On behalf of BelBi2023  
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## Invited lectures

### **Omics Data Fusion for Understanding Molecular Complexity Enabling Precision Medicine**

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We are flooded by increasing volumes of heterogeneous, interconnected, systems-level, molecular (multi-omic) data. They provide complementary information about cells, tissues and diseases. We need to utilize them to better stratify patients into risk groups, discover new biomarkers, and repurpose known and discover new drugs to personalize medical treatment. This is nontrivial, because of computational intractability of many underlying problems, necessitating the development of algorithms for finding approximate solutions (heuristics).

We develop a versatile data fusion (integration) machine learning (ML) framework to address key challenges in precision medicine from these data: better stratification of patients, prediction of biomarkers, and re-purposing of approved drugs to particular patient groups, applied to cancer, Covid-19, rare thrombophilia and Parkinson's Disease. Our new methods stem from graph-regularized non-negative matrix tri-factorization (NMTF), a machine learning technique for dimensionality reduction, inference and co-clustering of heterogeneous datasets, coupled with novel network science algorithms. We utilize our new framework to develop methodologies for improving the understanding the molecular organization and disease from the omics data embedding space.





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