Bioinformatics Funding at the National Science Foundation: The Advances in Biological Informatics Program

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Abstract:
The Division of Biological Infrastructure in the BIO Directorate at NSF funds innovative research and provisioning of infrastructure for the biological sciences. This includes the acquisition and development of new sensors and instrumentation, creation and digitization of collections, human infrastructure development in the form of training fellowships for undergraduates, graduates, post-docs and early career scientists, and computational infrastructure development and deployment to effectively serve a research community. The Advances in Biological Informatics program has 3 tracks, that focus on: 1) the creation of innovative computational biology tools and methods 2) the provisioning of a research community with successful informatics resources and 3) sustaining essential computational resources for research communities. In this seminar I will explain how the ABI tracks are distinct and what a successful application should include for each track. I will also discuss how the Broader Impacts requirement came about, what a proposal should include and some ideas for how to be as creative with these activities as those in the Intellectual Merits section.