Foreword

These are the proceedings of the First International Symposium on *Semantic Mining in Biomedicine* (SMBM 2005), held in Hinxton (Cambridgeshire, U.K.) from the 10th to 13th of April 2005. It is the first of this kind, organized by members of the Network of Excellence *'Semantic Mining'* (Semantic Interoperability and Data Mining in Biomedicine) funded by the European Community under the FP6 Programme 'Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area', as well as the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI).

The symposium organizers invite researchers, clinicians, and industrial developers to discuss recent research results on the automated analysis of medical and biological documents, which is grounded in content-oriented methodologies and semantic ressources – either controlled vocabularies, terminologies or ontologies – and which aims at providing better ways of text-based biomedical knowledge management, e.g., through document classification, text or fact retrieval, information extraction, or text mining. The symposium wants to contribute to the growing activity in the field by bringing together computer scientists, bioinformaticians and domain experts so that they enjoy the opportunity of discussing technical problems, as well as applications to real-world problems in molecular biology and biomedicine.

These proceedings contain seven full papers presented at the symposium, plus the abstracts of four papers also presented at the symposium. Since the latter contributions were selected for possible publication in the *Bioinformatics* journal – due to copyright restrictions – they cannot be reprinted in this volume.

All papers (except those which will appear in *Bioinformatics*) will be published as CEUR Workshop Proceedings at http://ceur-ws.org.

As the chairmen of the programme committee we had the pleasure to collaborate with the following members of the PC:

- Eugene Agichtein, Microsoft (USA)
- Sophia Ananiadou, U of Salford (UK)
- Miguel A. Andrade, Ottawa Health Research Institute (Canada)
- Nigel Collier, National Institute of Informatics (Japan)
- Robert J. Gaizauskas, U of Sheffield (UK)
- Vasileios Hatzivassiloglou, U of Texas at Dallas & Columbia U (USA)
- Eivind Hovig, Norwegian Radium Hospital (Norway)
- Lawrence Hunter, U of Colorado (USA)
- Michael Krauthammer, Yale U (USA)
- Ulf Leser, Humboldt U Berlin (Germany)
- See-Kiong Ng, Institute for Infocomm Research (Singapore)
- Christos A. Ouzounis, European Bioinformatics Institute (UK)
- Jong C. Park, KAIST (South Korea)
- James Pustejovsky, Brandeis U (USA)
- Patrick Ruch, University Hospital of Geneva (Switzerland)
- Andrey Rzhetsky, Columbia U (USA)
- Hagit Shatkay, Queen's University (Canada)
- Toshihisa Takagi, U of Tokyo (Japan)
- Lorraine Tanabe, National Library of Medicine (USA)

- Jun-ichi Tsujii, U of Tokyo (Japan)
- Anne-Lise Veuthey, SIB (Switzerland)

They have done a great job in reviewing the submitted papers, four on the average, in due time. Thank you all! For this symposium, we had 28 submissions out of which we selected 12 papers for presentation at the workshop (one paper was retracted after acceptance). While 43% acceptance rate may be rather low for a kick-off symposium, this may also guarantee a high level of quality of the papers that made it.

We also want to extend our thanks to the members of the Organizing Committee, *viz.* Stefan Schulz, Freiburg University Hospital, Germany, and Dietrich Rebholz-Schuhmann, European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI), UK. Their work was mainly behind the scene, but so important for the success of the whole enterprise.

Let us enjoy our symposium!

Udo Hahn, Jena University (Germany), and
Alfonso Valencia, CNB-CSIC, Madrid (Spain)

Co-Chairs of the SMBM 2005 Programme Committee