



Developing Bioinformatics Personnel and Other Resources

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Topics of Discussion

- Training bioinformatics experts
- Attracting qualified graduate students
- Advocating agendas
- Setting resource agendas
- Needs assessment
- Securing resources



Bioinformatics

- An integration of mathematical, statistical and computer methods to analyze biological, biochemical and biophysical data (GA Tech).
- The science of developing computer databases and algorithms for the purpose of speeding up and enhancing biological research (whatis.com).



Training bioinformatics experts

- At the undergraduate level
- At the graduate level (e.g., <http://www.biology.gatech.edu/bioinformatics>)
- At the post-doctorate level



Attracting qualified graduate students

- Summer internships during undergraduate years to show what the field entails.
- Established (or establish) graduate programs in the field.
- Competitive stipend + tuition package.



Advocating agendas

- To whom do we advocate?
- -NIH and NSF
- -Congress
- -Our universities



Setting resource agendas/ Needs assessment

- Assessment of needs at each institution.
- Comparison of needs lists for common elements.
- Development of resource agenda based on most common needs.



Securing Resources

- Requesting funds from NCRF (supplements to current IDeA and RCMI awards)
- Grants to NSF



Next Steps

- What are our next immediate steps?
- Who are responsible for taking those steps?
- How will the rest of us be involved initially?