Workshop on Data Mining in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Speakers' Biographies:

Reda Alhajj is a joint professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada and Global University Beirut, Lebanon. He published over 280 papers in refereed international journals and conferences. He served on the program committee of several international conferences including IEEE ICDE, IEEE ICDM, IEEE IAT, SIAM DM, etc. He also served as guest editor of several special issues and is currently the Program Chair of IEEE IRI 2009, CaSoN 2010, ASONAM 2010, MS 2010 and OSINT-WM 2010. He is on the editorial board of several journals and associate editor of IEEE SMC- Part C. Dr. Alhajj's has a research group of 10 PhD and 8 MSc students working primarily in the areas of biocomputing and biodata analysis, data mining, multiagent systems, schema integration and re-engineering, social networks and XML. He received Outstanding Achievements in Supervision Award from the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Calgary. Dr. Alhajj recently received with Dr. Jon Rokne donation of equipment valued at $5 million from RBC and Teradata in support of their research on Computational Intelligence and Bioinformatics.

Tansel Özyer obtained his bachelor's degree and M.Sc. degree from the Department of Computer Engineering, Bilkent, Ankara (1996) and Middle East Technical University, Ankara(2000). After spending several years in the industry in North America, he joined the PhD program in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Calgary, Canada in 2002 and received his PhD degree in 2006. He published over 50 refereed conference papers and journal articles at prestigious venues. He recently received a very competitive research grant from TUBITAK, the main funding institute in Turkey. He

serves on the program committee of several international conferences. Currently he is the publicity chair of MS 2010 and the publicity co-chair of ASONAM 2010. His research interests are data mining, bioinformatics, social networks and XML.

Asmaa Hamze is a member of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Global University Beirut Lebanon, and is the current head of the Biomedical Science program. She also teaches at the College of Science in the Lebanese University. Dr. Hamze obtained her Ph.D. in Integrative Biology and Master's degree in Biomedical Science from Florida Atlantic University - Florida, USA.
In her doctoral research, Dr. Hamze had multidisciplinary biomedical training in the areas of molecular biology, biochemistry, and cell biology. She has published her findings in the journal of Protein Science. Her interests include protein and matrix biochemistry as they relate to pathways of disease development such as cancer, arthritis, and degenerative disorders.

Keivan Kianmehr received his B.Sc. degree in software engineering from IUST, Tehran, IRAN. After working as a computer engineer for six years, he joined the University of Calgary to pursue graduate studies. After spending over 5 years in the computer industry as software developer and project leader, Keivan joined the graduate program in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Calgary where he completed his M.Sc. degree in 2006. Keivan is scheduled to defend his Ph.D. dissertation in Spring 2010. He presented invited talks at different institutions in North America and the Middle East. He has published more than 35 papers in prestigious refereed international journals and conferences. He also received teaching excellence awards at the University of Calgary. He received several prestigious scholarships including NSERC CSD and iCore. He is a successful mentor for undergraduate and graduate students. His research focuses on machine learning techniques, social networks, XML, data mining methodologies and bioinformatics.

Mohammed Alshalalfa received his B.Sc. in Molecular Biology and Genetics from Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey. During his undergraduate studies, he worked in the Plant Biotechnology lab at METU. In the last year of his undergraduate studies, Mohammed visited the Department for Molecular Biomedical Research (DMBR), Ghent University, Belgium, for two months to study the effect of viral infection on transcription factors activity. In September 2006, Mohammed joined the graduate program in the Department of Computer Science at University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada, where he completed his M.Sc. degree in July 2008. Currently, Mohammed is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Calgary under the supervision of Professor Reda Alhajj. So far Mohammed has published more than 20 papers in refereed international conferences and journals. Mohammed is focusing on Microarray data analysis and applications of data mining technique into Microarray data. He received several prestigious scholarships including iCore graduate scholarship. His research interests are in the areas of genomics, proteomics, computational biology, social networks and bioinformatics, where is successfully adapting different machine learning and data mining techniques for modeling and analysis.

Mohammad Salah Moawad completed his doctoral thesis in the laboratory of Dr. Felix Althaus; University of Zurich- Switzerland (2003), in the fields of signal transduction, apoptosis and tumor suppression pathways under genotoxic stresses. His research revealed the involvement of Poly (ADP-ribose) Polymerase-1 (PARP-1) in the stability of tumor suppressor *p53* protein upon DNA damage; this stability enables *p53* protein to exert a cell cycle arrest, halt replication, and prevent possible onset of cancer. Such research work exposed Dr. Moawad to multidisciplinary experiences in fields of cellular and molecular biology, biochemistry and bioinformatics; protein domains and interaction with other proteins or DNA, genomics, proteomics, plus the metabolic and signal transduction. In Egypt, these experiences pushed the wheels of services and applicable researches at Biotechnology center (BCSR) of Veterinary College, Cairo University. He

was enrolled in a running project towards production of genetically- engineered prototype vaccine against *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* by targeting its exotoxin phospholipase D (PLD) protein. The produced vaccine was highly effective in protecting sheep against caseous lymph adenitis (CLA) and buffaloes against oedematous skin disease (OSD). Recently, Dr. Moawad was promoted as an Associate Professor at department of Veterinary Toxicology and Forensic Medicine for his publications in the fields of animal species identification and genetic forensics using molecular biology techniques. His research achievements were significantly applied for ensuring the highest measures of food and meat safety. His scientific expertise met and backed by industrial experiences when Dr. Moawad was appointed as an application and technical support specialist for Middle East and North Africa (MENA) by Techne (Part of Bibby Scientific, UK). He technically-managed their molecular biology product lines, PCR and Real-time PCR in nearly 15 different countries.

Dr. Moawad holds a bachelor in Veterinary Medicine (1993) and a master degree in toxicology (1997) from the Veterinary College, Cairo University in Cairo, Egypt. His research interests are toxicogenomics, gene expression analysis, gene networks, genetic forensics, proteomics, and bioinformatics.