



sbv IMPROVER Symposium 2013 – Hosts

Manuel C. Peitsch, Ph.D.

VP, Biological Systems Research, Philip Morris International (PMI), Research & Development



Before joining PMI, Manuel Peitsch worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over fifteen years, following seven years in academia. His work has mainly been in the areas of Computational Life Sciences (incl. bioinformatics) and Experimental Biology (incl. genomics and proteomics) in Drug Discovery.

He holds several patents related to proteomics, genomics and computer science and has published over 150 articles, book chapters and technical notes (cited over 19000 times). Manuel has done pioneering work in the area of molecular modeling, cell biology and computational text analytics.

Manuel was a founder of several initiatives, including two start-up companies and the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics. He has served as a member of the Swiss National Research Council, is the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics and an active scientific advisor to several academic and commercial entities. Manuel is a ComputerWorld Honors Laureate and a recipient of several awards including the New England Business and Technology Award and the United Devices Grid Visionary Award. Manuel holds a BAsC in Life Sciences, a MASc in Physical Chemistry and a PhD in Biochemistry; he is also a Professor for Bioinformatics at the University of Basel.



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Gustavo Stolovitzky, Ph.D.

Director, Translational Systems Biology and Nanobiotechnology Program, IBM Computational Biology Center



Gustavo Stolovitzky received his M.Sc. in Physics, from the University of Buenos Aires (1987) and his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Yale University (1994). In 1998 he joined the IBM Computational Biology Center at IBM Research where he is the Director of the Translational Systems Biology and Nanobiotechnology Program. He also holds an adjunct Associate Professor position at Columbia University.

Gustavo founded and leads the DREAM project on assessment of systems biology models, is a technical leader in the sbvIMPROVER project, co-authored more than 110 scientific publications, edited 2 books and co-invented 12 issued patents. He received Yale University's Henry Becton Prize award for Excellence in Engineering and Applied Science, and HENAAC's Pioneer Award for Great Minds in STEM. His work has been highlighted in The New York Times, The Scientist, Technology Review and Scientific American (where his DNA transistor project was chosen as one of the 10 world changing ideas of 2010) among other media. Gustavo has been elected Fellow of the NY Academy of Sciences, Fellow of the World Technology Network, Fellow of the American Physical Society and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences.

His most recent interests are in the field of high-throughput biological-data analysis, reverse engineering biological circuits, the mathematical modeling of biological processes and nano-technologies for biosensors.



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Julia Hoeng, Ph.D.

Manager Systems Toxicology, Biological Systems Research, Philip Morris International R&D



Julia Hoeng is Manager of Systems Toxicology at PMI Research & Development where she leads the Systems Biology Program, covering a portfolio of projects from in vitro, in vivo and in silico research for product testing. Julia has established her team with systems biology excellence at PMI Research & Development over the last five years and she is the PMI project leader of the Systems Biology Verification project.

She holds a PhD and Post-doc from Cambridge University and a MS in Bioinformatics from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, USA as well as an MBA from Business School Lausanne. Julia has published numerous articles and book chapters highlighting the use of systems biology approaches for toxicology.