Workshop

Building to Understand: The Constructionist Approach to Studying Gene Regulation

15–18 July 2024
Buxted Park,
East Sussex, UK


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Inspired by Richard Feynman's famous aphorism: "What I cannot create, I do not understand", advances in genome editing, sequencing, synthetic biology, and computational models have converged to enable a 'constructionist' approach to understanding gene regulation in complex genomes. Analogous to in vitro reconstitution in biochemistry, such a bottom-up approach has great potential to uncover the intricacies of gene regulation as it allows for exquisite control over all components in the system.

Despite the promise of this approach to set a new paradigm in studies of gene regulation, there has not yet been a venue to bring together the various groups beginning to pursue this 'constructionist' strategy. At this Workshop, we aim to organise this burgeoning field into a collaborative community, discuss the philosophical foundations and identify the biggest technology development opportunities to drive the field forward. We will also ponder the implications of what it would take to fully satisfy Feynman's directive: designing entire genomes from the ground up?

Organisers

Jef Boeke
Stefan Mundlos
Sudarshan Pinglay

Speakers

Stein Aerts
Wendy Bickmore
Christa Buecker
Justin Crocker
Wouter de Laat
Tom Ellis
Emma Farley
Eileen Furlong
Luca Giorgetti
Anders Hansen
Jim Hughes
Mira Kassouf
Matt Maurano
Dimple Notani
Leopold Parts
Alexander Stark
Jussi Taipale

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Deadline: 12 January 2024

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