

## (IB)<sup>2</sup> ULB-VUB- 2013 CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Interuniversity Institute of Bioinformatics in Brussels is a new interdisciplinary research initiative supported by ULB and VUB universities, to be hosted in the BC building of the ULB La Plaine Campus.

The goal of the (IB)<sup>2</sup> is to bring together research groups of the VUB and ULB specialized in bioinformatics analysis of *large scale omics* data, into an interuniversity, cross-faculty (Medicine, Sciences, and Applied Sciences, of ULB and VUB) laboratory.

The missions of the (IB)<sup>2</sup> consist of the following:

- Design and use of *large-scale omics* driven bioinformatics, biostatistics and computational biology to achieve a better understanding of the physio- and pathological mechanisms of living organisms.
- Enable interdisciplinary and interuniversity research collaborations in bioinformatics by providing a physical location for research, meetings, collaborations, seminars as well as high-performance computer facilities, including the ULB-VUB computing center.
- Allow Technology Transfer through training, education, innovation and collaborations.

The (IB)<sup>2</sup> has the ambition to evolve into a competitive structure of scientific excellence, recognized at national and international level.

### Aim

The aim of the call is

- raising an expression of interests of ULB and VUB researchers working in bioinformatics
- creating a community by attracting a critical mass of researchers (especially young scientists) in the lab premises
- enabling and supporting existing and future initiatives of interdisciplinary and interuniversity research in bioinformatics

### Eligibility

Eligible proposals must qualify as

- **(IB)<sup>2</sup> situated:** they should foresee
  - the recruitment of a young scientist (e.g. a PhD student or postdoc) who will work full-time in the (IB)<sup>2</sup> premises and
  - the presence of promoters (or other senior scientists) in the institute (at least 1 day per week)
- **Pertinent to 'holistic' bioinformatics:** they should describe the interdisciplinary nature of the project and the pertinence of the topics to the research themes of the (IB)<sup>2</sup> .

- **(IB)<sup>2</sup> focused:** they should contain a detailed description of how the project will contribute to the visibility of the (IB)<sup>2</sup> institute and an explicit commitment of all partners to take part and organize initiatives in the (IB)<sup>2</sup> premises.

Proposals that have one or more of the following characteristics are especially encouraged and will receive priority

- **Interdisciplinary:** promoters from at least two different units.
- **Interuniversity:** research units from ULB and VUB (e.g. jointly supervising a PhD student).
- **Young PI:** at least one young scientific investigator
- **Co-funding:** support of the project beyond the (IB)<sup>2</sup> funding horizon.
- **Reproducibility:** adoption of specific strategies for reproducibility in data storage, code writing, experiments, data analysis and publications.

## Budget

The project grants run for one year and amount to 35K EUR.

Number of research projects that can be funded: 5

## Submission timeline

Submission deadline: April 30<sup>th</sup>

Funding decision: June 1<sup>st</sup>

Start of funded projects: October 1<sup>st</sup>

## Decision process

The project selection will be done by a committee composed of:

- 1 ULB research advisor to the rector,
- 1 VUB research advisor to the rector and
- 4 international experts.

Selection will be done in accordance with the eligibility criteria, scientific quality and strategic impact on the future activities of the (IB)<sup>2</sup>.

## How to submit your proposal

The proposal (max. 4 A4 pages, Arial 11, single-spaced) should be submitted by a ULB-VUB academic with permanent position and should contain

1. detailed description of the interdisciplinary nature of the project and the pertinence to (IB)<sup>2</sup>.
2. explicit commitment of all junior and senior partners to
  - a. affiliate to (IB)<sup>2</sup>,
  - b. acknowledge (IB)<sup>2</sup> membership in publications
  - c. take part and organize initiatives in the (IB)<sup>2</sup> premises.

3. Budget including an explanation of how the project (and related personnel) will be supported at the end of the funding period.
4. Short cv of the promoters

Applications should be submitted electronically to the ULB Research department (Mrs Laure BODENGHIEEN <Laure.bodenghien@ulb.ac.be>).

## Contacts

Gianluca BONTEMPI, ULB, Director

Jeroen RAES, VUB, Vice-Director

## (IB)<sup>2</sup> steering committee

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. ABRAMOWICZ Marc,    | ULB                        |
| 2. BLANPAIN Cedric,    | ULB                        |
| 3. BONTEMPI Gianluca , | ULB                        |
| 4. CASIMIR Georges,    | ULB                        |
| 5. DANCKAERT Jan,      | VUB                        |
| 6. LISSENS Willy,      | VUB                        |
| 7. NOWE Ann,           | VUB                        |
| 8. LEO Oberdan,        | ULB                        |
| 9. PICCART Martine,    | ULB                        |
| 10. RAES Jeroen,       | VUB                        |
| 11. RAEYMAEKERS Paul,  | ULB-VUB (Computing centre) |
| 12. ROELANTS Kim,      | VUB                        |
| 13. ROOMAN Marianne,   | ULB                        |
| 14. SCHELKENS Peter,   | VUB                        |
| 15. VAN DOOREN Sonia   | VUB                        |