

Intern Exit Interview Summary SoCal BSI 2006

Comments are from 12 first year interns interviewed for 20 minutes each during the last week of the program. Numbers before each issue indicate the number of interns who identified the issue indicated in bold (Specific comments, paraphrased or direct quotations, follow each issue.) Red indicates domains indicated by previous SoCal BSI interns. (Questions #4-10 were added in 2006.)

1) **What part of the SoCal BSI Program met or exceeded your expectations? Please explain why or how.**

8 Didactic training – review of all important material, biology portion, limited background in bioinformatics, so really useful, computer section great, gave a good idea about available bioinformatics tools

5 Internship – develop skills of professional scientist, learned biology and how to be a scientist, working as part of a lab on an ongoing research project, great opportunity, hands on experience

3 Friday Professional Development Sessions – speaker lunches, “massively improved” presentation skills, practice on presentation skills

2 Didactic Faculty/Pis – friendly and “took care of us”

2 Individual Attention Throughout Program

1 Second Year Students

1 Overall Program and its Organization

1 Program Intensity – amount of material learned in program

1 Choice of Internship Site

- 2) **What part of the SoCal BSI Program disappointed you? Please explain your response and/or suggest ways to improve the program with respect to the issue that you have identified.**
- 8 Didactic training** – room used was “cold” (people too far away), should encourage people to work together on assignments and/or encourage competition among interns on programming project, statistics and computer section, nothing new for some students so should be able to “opt out” (n=2), topics covered too quickly, should “jump start” writing assignment during workshops, should have a more advanced training opportunity, experienced frustrations getting answers to some workshop assignments, lack of depth, excessive homework that was not useful
- 5 Internship project** – matching to mentor, should be longer (n=3)
- 3 Friday professional development sessions** – requirement to be both at the research site and CSLA on Fridays, sessions long and tedious
- 2 Housing** – no Internet access, bugs in units, outlets do not work, dorms were horrible
- 2 Commute to internship site** – lack of reimbursement, imposed a financial and time burden
- 1 Social Activities** – more should be arranged by Institute
- 1 Final Presentation Rubric** – should be used prior to final presentations
- 1 No Contact between Acceptance and Arrival on Site**
- 1 Lack of Firm Pay Schedule**

3) Would you recommend the SoCal BSI Program to a friend? Please answer either NO, YES, or YES WITH RESERVATIONS. Please explain your response.

0 NO,

9 YES, everyone got more out of the program than expected, overall a good experience that allowed social, personal and intellectual growth, good research experience and stipend, overall good experience and very diverse internships, very pleased with overall experience, “how much better could it get”, if interested in the field and had some research experience, overall positive experience

3 YES WITH RESERVATIONS, need to look at website and make sure that the 10 week curriculum meets individual goals, housing poor and had to rely on others for transportation

4) What would you suggest would be a valuable second year experience for returning So Cal BSI students?

9 Current Format OK

1 Continue 1st Year Project

1 More Advanced Didactic Phase

1 Add Writing Assignment

1 No Comment

1 Pair 2nd year Student with 1st Year Student – provide guidance on research project

1 Have 2nd Year Students Help out for ~1/2 hour each day in the Didactic Phase

5) Please rate on a scale of 1 to 10 the usefulness of the didactic phase of the institute, with 1 being essential to your success in the research phase and 10 being completely unimportant to your success in the research phase of the institute.

Mean = 4.2 (1-9)

6) Please rate on a scale of 1 to 10 the usefulness of the professional development phase of the institute, with 1 being essential to your success in the overall institute's program and 10 being completely unimportant to your success in the overall institute's program.

Mean = 2.4 (1-6)

7) Why were you attracted to a program offering you a summer bioinformatics internship?

3 Wants to Combine Knowledge of CS and Biology

2 Wanted to Decide about Appropriateness of Research Career

1 Plans to Pursue a PhD in the Field

1 Professional in Field Suggested It

1 Degree Program Requires, but Does Not Provide Opportunities

1 Wanted a Research Experience in Biology

1 Bioinformatics is an "Up and Coming Field"

1 Bioinformatics Combines Medicine and Scientific Research

8) Why did you choose the So Cal BSI program versus other summer bioinformatics programs?

5 Wide Range of Internships – chance to work at Cal Tech (n=2)

3 Professor/Mentor Recommended

3 Didactic Phase

2 Location

1 Open to Individuals with Diverse Backgrounds

1 Only One Aware Of

1 Classmate Recommended Program

9) Overall, do you feel that you achieved your goals as related to this Institute?

12 Yes

10) How often should dinners be formally organized and attended by the institute PIs?

9 OK as is – maybe change to every other week, include buffets, perhaps change to Friday, start later due to commute (n=5), should be held at more central site (n=4)

1 Prefer Lunches

1 Should be Optional – difficult with people scattered around LA

1 Too Frequent

11) Do you have any other comments about the SoCal BSI Program that you would like to make at this time?

- Hope the program continues forever
- Nice to be able to use the 2nd year students as role models for development of presentation
- Yahoo group should move to Institute website
- Post assignments on Institute's website
- Trips to other campuses were great idea
- Appreciate the effort by all So Cal BSI staff
- Overall an excellent program
- Beach party was really fun
- Great program
- Liked the dorms
- Would be nice to have more students in the program
- "great program"
- 2nd year students "took care of us"
- "wonderful experience"
- "all PIs did all they could do for us"