

Summary of Responses to Final Questions posed to NIH-NSF Southern California Bioinformatics Summer Institute (held at California State University, Los Angeles) Interns in Summers 2003-2006. There were 6 second year interns who provided responses over the 4-year period (3 in 2004, and 3 in 2006). Items are listed in rank order for the complete 4-year time period. The number of interns who identified each item is indicated to the left of the item. The years that an item was identified and the rank (average for ties) for the item that year are indicated in parentheses following the items. Totals may exceed 6 if some interns entered several responses to a question. Interesting direct quotes or paraphrased comments are included following each item. Questions #4-10 were new in 2006.

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

7 Internship (2004/1, 2006/1) – relationship with mentor and “graduate program”, the lab and lab meetings, great mentors, “9 weeks better than 7 weeks”, got to experience industry, allows to make career choices

2 Didactic phase (2006/2) – generally and ethics, required programming project

2 Program PIs (2004/3.5, 2006/3.5) – friendly faculty and staff

1 Accommodation to individual requests (2006/3.5)

1 Good pay (2004/3.5)

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.

1 Required Programming Project (2006/2.5) – 1 ½ weeks wasted

1 Didactic phase (2006/2.5) – math and stats needed real world examples

1 Housing (2006/2.5) – bugs, no internet access, poor lighting, outlets do not work

1 Commute to internship site (2006/2.5)

1 University visits (2004/2.5) – never happened

1 Internship project (2004/2.5) – straight programming project again this year

1 Mentors (2004/2.5) – should give regular critiques on progress instead of just at end

1 None (2004/2.5)

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,**

3 **YES,** networking, grad schools, career guidance, letters of recommendation, important field and learn more than expected, internship

3 **YES WITH RESERVATIONS,** need some programming experience, good for someone with little bioinformatics experience

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

1 **Continue with 1st year project**

2 **More interaction with 1st year students** – need training in mentoring, assist in the didactic phase, need to be reminded of what 1st year questions are

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 = 3.7 (1, 3, 7)

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 = 1 (1,1,1)

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

1 **wanted more research experience**

1 **wants a PhD in Biochemistry and had CS background**

1 **recommendation of a professor**

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

1 Internship diversity

1 Know program PIs

1 Live close by

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

3 Yes

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

3 OK as is – maybe change day (Monday or Friday) and/or location

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

- exposure to other research areas at professional development phase was good
- “great program”
- “wonderful program all around”
- “most beneficial thing that I have done in my college career”
- lack of second years’ involvement in social activities (n = 2)
- great housing
- good that PIs addressed last year’s problems
- “well run program”
- need more communication between mentors and interns