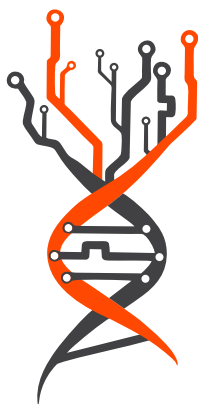


#BelBi2024 • Belgrade, Serbia

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



## 5<sup>th</sup> Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference

17 - 20 JUNE 2024

EDITORS

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Dr. Valentina Đorđević

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## FOREWORD

We are pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference - BelBi2024, where numerous high-quality scientific contributions were presented. We sincerely thank all participants and proudly present a book of abstracts that not only reflects the scientific richness and diversity of the conference, but also serves as a lasting memento of this remarkable event.

This international conference was jointly organized by several research institutions, faculties, and scientific societies from Serbia. It covered a wide range of topics from the fields of computational biology, bioinformatics, biomedical informatics, and health informatics. The main goal of BelBi 2024 was to promote contacts between scientists of all levels, provide a platform for the exchange of experiences and present the latest advances in their fields. We hope that BelBi2024 was a valuable platform for researchers from all over the world to meet, build new collaborations and expand professional networks.

We are grateful and proud that we were able to welcome over 250 researchers from 21 countries from three continents. The conference included 24 scientific sessions with more than 68 oral presentations (including eight keynote lectures), 54 poster presentations, three hands-on workshops and three satellite events – the MICOS-EU competition, the TranSYS final conference and Shere the IDEA session. We also organized two industry presentations and two

panel discussions - “Building Skills for the Future: Masters 4.0 in Bioinformatics” and “BIO4 Campus: Transforming Science into Business”. We also presented the first BelBi art exhibition inspired by scientific discoveries, entitled “IMGGE Magnificent Cell Dance”. And finally, we are particularly proud of the “Future Keynote Speakers” program, which enabled students from faculties across Serbia to attend this year’s keynote lectures and panel discussions for free.

We would like to thank all the members of the International Advisory Board and the International Program Committee for their efforts and help that contributed to the success of this event. We are very grateful to the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia, the SAIGE project and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia for their support. Finally, the local organizing committee is very grateful to all sponsors of the conference - BGI & MGI, Elta’90MS, PacBio & East Diagnostics, Alfa Genetics, Vivogen, LKB, Altium, Telekom Srbija, Labena, AlphaMed, Galen Fokus, Superlab, Kefo, RNIDS, Danau Lab Beograd, RTC and Biomedica, and we hope that they will stay with us for many years to come.

Thank you once again to all who contributed to the success of BelBi2024. We look forward to seeing you at future conferences.

Warm regards,  
Belgrade, July 2024

*Dr. Valentina Đorđević  
& Dr. Ivana Morić,*  
On behalf of BelBi2024  
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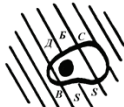
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# TABLE OF CONTENT

## KEYNOTE LECTURES

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Towards Implementing Genetic Information in Health Care and Prevention<br><i>André G. Uitterlinden</i> .....   | 1 |
| Cell Types of Adult Mouse Brain: Definition and Experimental Access<br><i>Bosiljka Tasić</i> .....   | 2 |
| Beyond 10,000 Ancient Human Genomes; Ancestral Origins at the Balkans<br><i>Carles Lalueza-Fox</i> .....   | 3 |
| 20 years of work on exosomal DNA fragments<br><i>Christoph W. Sensen</i> .....   | 4 |
| Can We Rely on AI?<br><i>Desmond John Higham</i> .....   | 5 |
| On the prediction of protein dynamics: should one be optimistic?<br><i>Frédéric Cazals</i> .....   | 6 |
| Future directions in network biology<br><i>Tijana Milenkovic</i> .....   | 7 |
| Privacy-preserving Systems Medicine<br><i>Dmitry S. Druzhilovskiy, Dmitry A. Filimonov, Anastasia V. Rudik, Polina I. Savosina and Vladimir V. Poroikov</i><br>..... | 8 |

## INVITED LECTURES

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Multomic Profiling of Early Onset Colorectal Cancer<br><i>Aleksandar Krstic</i> .....   | 9  |
| Analysis of unlikely (and rare) local protein conformations<br><i>Alexandre G. de Brevern and Nenad Mitić</i> .....   | 10 |
| Understanding the natural activation mechanism of the CRISPR-Cas immune system in <i>Escherichia coli</i> : A Computational Modeling Perspective<br><i>Anđela Rodič, Marko Tumbas, Jane Kondev, Magdalena Đorđević and Marko Đorđević</i> ..... | 11 |
| Elucidating the role of cellular parabiosis in determining the preferential site of metastasis<br><i>Andrea Gelemanović, Tinka Vidović, Miroslav Radman and Katarina Trajković</i> .....  | 12 |
| Toxicology Transformed: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Advanced Research<br><i>Bojana Stanic, Nemanja Milošević, Nataša Sukur and Nebojsa Andric</i> .....  | 13 |
| Higher-Order Connectivity and Synchronization Patterns in Human Connectome Networks<br><i>Bosiljka Tadić</i> .....  | 14 |
| From physical to biological information and the genetic code<br><i>Branko Dragovich</i> .....   | 15 |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| “Pan-viral” disease mechanisms unveil the sweet spot for therapeutic intervention<br><i>Carme Zambrana, Sam Windels, Noël Malod-Dognin and Nataša Pržulj</i> .....   | 16 |
| Antimicrobial Rhenium Tricarbonyl Complexes: Accelerating their<br>Discovery by Leveraging Machine Learning Models<br><i>Miroslava Nedyalkova, Gozde Demirci, Youri Cortat, Kevin Schindler, Fatlinda Rhamani,<br/>Justine Horner, Aurelien Crochet, Aleksandar Pavić, Olimpia Mamula Steiner, Fabio Zobi<br/>and Marco Lattuada</i> .....   | 17 |
| FAIR Research Software as the catalyst for trustworthy AI in Life Sciences<br><i>Fotis Psomopoulos</i> .....   | 18 |
| Searching for the baseline miCRObiota<br><i>Antonio Starčević, Janko Diminić and Jurica Žučko</i> .....  | 19 |
| The genetic pathways of ferroptosis-related processes in multiple sclerosis<br><i>Maja Živković</i> .....  | 20 |
| Evidence of widespread hemizygoty and gene presence/absence variation in<br>invertebrate pangenomes: are we overlooking the impact of genomic structural<br>variation in metazoans?<br><i>Marco Gerdo, Nicolò Fogal, Carmen Federica Tucci, Samuele Greco, Marco Sollitto,<br/>Amaro Saco, Daniela Eugenia Nerelli, Dona Kireta, Magali Rey-Campos, Rui Faria,<br/>Beatriz Novoa, Antonio Figueras, Umberto Rosani and Alberto Pallavicini</i> ..... | 21 |
| Multi-scale modeling uncovers 7q11.23 copy number variation-dependent<br>alterations in ribosomal biogenesis, mTOR and neuronal maturation and excitability<br><i>Marija Mihailovich, Pierre-Luc Germain, Reinald Shyti, Davide Pozzi,<br/>Roberta Noberini, Yansheng Liu, Davide Aprile, Flavia Troglia, Tiziana<br/>Bonaldi, Rudolf Aebersold, Michela Matteoli and Giuseppe Testa</i> .....   | 22 |
| Spectral Clustering for Transcriptomics Data: an Approximate Column Sampling<br>Approach on the GPU<br><i>Marko Mišić, Lazar Smiljković and Predrag Obradović</i> .....  | 23 |
| Just feed it to the network - what can go wrong? Towards AI-supported early cancer<br>detection from cytological image data<br><i>Nataša Sladoje</i> .....   | 24 |
| The axes of biology: a novel axes-based network embedding paradigm to decipher<br>the functional mechanisms of the cell<br><i>Sergio Doria-Belenguer, Alexandros Xenos, Gaia Ceddia, Noël Malod-Dognin and Nataša Pržulj</i> .....   | 25 |
| What do amyloidosis, antimicrobial peptides, and the Spike RBD of SARS-CoV-2<br>have in common?<br><i>Oxana Galzitskaya</i> .....  | 26 |
| Graphlet-based higher-order network embeddings: the past, the present and the future<br><i>Sam F. L. Windels, Noël Malod-Dognin and Nataša Pržulj</i> .....  | 27 |



|  |    |
|--|----|
| Feature Selection For Multi-Source SCT Data<br><i>Saša Malkov and Nenad Mitić</i> .....  | 28 |
| Modeling of the Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis dynamics by Stoichiometric Networks<br><i>Stevan Mačesić, Ana Ivanović-Šašić and Željko Čupić</i> .....  | 29 |
| Data analysis and modelling of climate and environmental drivers of vector borne diseases - some methodological approaches and challenges of OneHealth data<br><i>Suzana Blesić</i> .....  | 30 |
| Challenges in metagenomic annotation of antibiotic resistome<br><i>Svetlana Ugarcina Perovic, Vedanth Ramji, Hui Chong, Yiqian Duan, Rémi Gschwind, Etienne Ruppe, Finlay Maguire and Luis Pedro Coelho</i> .....                          | 31 |
| Alternatively spliced exons manifest coordinated multi-domain alteration in synapse specific genes<br><i>Vladimir Babenko</i> .....  | 32 |
| Sleep Apnea Monitoring using Wearable Heart Rate Sensors<br><i>Vladimir Brusić and Yinglun Li</i> .....  | 33 |
| ZEB2 as a driver of human-specific traits: Insights from comparative ChIP-Seq and RNA-Seq<br><i>Vladimir M. Jovanović, Jeong-Eun Költzow, Amanda Jager Fonseca, Sebastian Strebblow, Katja Ettig, Stefano Berto and Katja Nowick</i> ..... | 34 |
| Towards a linearly organised embedding space of biological networks<br><i>Alexandros Xenos, Noel-Malod Dognin and Nataša Pržulj</i> .....  | 35 |
| DCS: from Reading Genome to Understanding Life<br><i>Xun Xu</i> .....  | 36 |
| Bioinformatics tools for reconstruction of gene networks of complex diseases<br><i>Yuriy L. Orlov, Ekaterina A. Savina, Vasilisa A. Turkina and Anastasia A. Anashkina</i> .....   | 37 |

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Impact of Electronic Cigarette Components on Lung Cell Proteome: A High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry Analysis<br><i>Aleksandra Divac Rankov, Sara Trifunović, Katarina Smiljanić and Mila Ljujić</i> .....             | 38 |
| A pipeline for the identification of disease-specific genetic biomarkers using NGS sequencing data of cfDNAs in human plasma<br><i>Alessandra Vittorini Orgeas and Christoph W. Sensen</i> .....                       | 39 |
| Mechanism-based classification of SARS-CoV-2 Variants by Molecular Dynamics Resembles Phylogenetic Tree<br><i>Thais Arns, Aymeric Fouquier d'Hérouël, Patrick May, Alexandre Tkatchenko and Alexander Skupin</i> ..... | 40 |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Determining the efficiency of the miTAR neural network in searching for microRNA target genes<br><i>A. V. Starostin and D. D. Gavrilova</i> .....  | 41 |
| Leveraging Open Source Hardware and Physics-Informed Machine Learning for Accurate<br>Experimental Identification of Bioink Thermophysical Properties in 3D Bioprinting<br><i>Bogdan Kirillov, Katherine Vilinski-Mazur and Dmitry Kolomenskiy</i> .....   | 42 |
| Analysis of AlphaFold2 Predicted Structures of Aggregation Factors in Lactic Acid Bacteria<br><i>Darya Tsibulskaya and Milan Kojic</i> .....   | 43 |
| The landscape of point mutations leading to pregnancy loss<br><i>Evgeniia M. Maksutenko, Yury A. Barbitoff, Yulia A. Nasykhova and Andrey S. Glotov</i> .....  | 44 |
| Detecting Genetic Interactions with Visible Neural Networks<br><i>Arno van Hilten, Federico Melograna, Bowen Fan, Wiro Niessen,<br/>Kristol van Steen and Gennady Roshchupkin</i> .....  | 45 |
| Bioinformatic workflow to analyse Multiome ATAC + Gene Expression data<br><i>Iva Sabolić, Radoslav Atanasoski, Robert Šket, Tine Tesovnik, Barbara Slapnik,<br/>Klemenitna Črepinšek, Blaž Vrhovšek, Tadej Avčin, Mojca Zajc Avramovič,<br/>Jernej Kovač, Uršula Prosenč Zmrzljak and Barbara Jenko Bizjan</i> ..... | 46 |
| Application of Kolmogorov-Arnold Networks in Cervical Cancer Diagnostics<br><i>Ivan Lorencin, Nikola Tankovič, Ariana Lorencin and Matko Glučina</i> .....   | 47 |
| Efficient Large Scale Multimodal Image Registration<br><i>Joakim Lindblad</i> .....  | 48 |
| MONFIT: Multi-omics factorization-based integration of time-series data<br>sheds light on Parkinson's disease<br><i>Katarina Mihajlović, Noël Malod-Dognin, Corrado Ameli, Alexander Skupin and Nataša Pržulj</i> ....   | 49 |
| PCR-based nanopore sequencing method for characterizing short tandem repeat expansions<br><i>Lana Radenkovic Jovan Pesovic, Vladimir Tomic, Igor Davidovic,<br/>Nemanja Radovanovic, Ana Popic and Dusanka Savic-Pavicevic</i> .....   | 50 |
| Intrinsic disorder of proteins associated with diseases<br><i>Lazar Vasović and Jovana Kovačević</i> .....   | 51 |
| Label-Free Quantitative Proteomics of Pelargonium zonale: Tissue-Specific Differences<br><i>Dejana Milić, Thierry Balliau, Marlène Davanture, Melisande Blein-Nicolas and Marija Vidović</i> .....   | 52 |
| Interaction between healthy and diseased bronchial epithelial cells with <i>Lactiplantibacillus<br/>plantarum</i> BGPKM22 reveals distinct expression profiles by dual RNA sequencing<br><i>Marija Stankovic, Hristina Mitrovic, Svetlana Sokovic-Bajic, Katarina Veljovic and Natasa Golic</i> .....                | 53 |
| Impact of Protein Representations on Drug-Target Affinity Prediction<br><i>Matija Marijan and Ivan Tanasijević</i> .....   | 54 |
| Estimating the dimensionality of omics network embedding space<br><i>Milena Stojic, Noël Malod-Dognin and Nataša Pržulj</i> .....  | 55 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Enhancing Biomedical Information Retrieval with Semantic Search:<br>A Comparative Analysis Using PubMed Data<br><i>Adela Ljajić, Lorenzo Cassano, Miloš Košprdić, Bojana Bašaragin,<br/>Darija Medvecki and Nikola Milošević</i> .....  | 56 |
| STIM: Multipurpose method for spatial transcriptomics data integration<br>across different technologies<br><i>Milos M. Radonjic, Aleksandra Stanojevic, Tamara Banovac, Fang Shuangfang and Junhua Li</i> .....   | 57 |
| Detecting somatic copy number variations in 245,388 participants from All of Us biobank<br><i>Milovan Suvakov, Zhiyiv Niu and Alexej Abyzov</i> .....   | 58 |
| Z-Flipons conserved between human and mouse are associated with increased<br>transcription initiation rates<br><i>Nazar Beknazarov</i> .....  | 59 |
| A novel approach to SARS CoV-2 classification<br><i>Biljana T. Stojanović, Saša N. Malkov, Miloš V. Beljanski, Gordana M. Pavlović Lažetić,<br/>Mirjana M. Majković Ružičić, Ivan Lj. Čukić and Nenad S. Mitić</i> .....  | 60 |
| Deciphering the effects of nanosized polystyrene particles using lab-on-chip<br>technology and transcriptome profile<br><i>Nevena Milivojević Dimitrijević, Miloš Ivanović, Andreja Živić, Biljana Ljujić,<br/>Marina Gazzdić Janković, Uršula Prosenec Zmrzljak, Ana Mirić, Valentina Đorđević,<br/>Feđa Puač, Marko Živanović and Nenad Filipović</i> ..... | 61 |
| Epigenome-wide analysis identifies a methylome profile linked to<br>Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, disease severity, and treatment response<br><i>Rafael Campos-Martin, Katharina Bey, Björn Elsner, Benedikt Reuter,<br/>Julia Klawohn, Norbert Kathmann, Michalel Wagner and Alfredo Ramirez</i> .....  | 62 |
| Unraveling Bacterial Persister Formation: Insights from a Type I Toxin-Antitoxin System Model<br><i>Sofija Marković, Magdalena Đorđević, Hong-Yu Ou and Marko Đorđević</i> .....  | 63 |
| Novel multi-omics deconfounding variational autoencoders can obtain<br>meaningful disease subtyping<br><i>Zuqi Li, Sonja Katz and Gennady V. Roshchupkin</i> .....  | 64 |
| Advancing Supervised Machine Learning for scRNA-seq Data Analysis<br><i>Xin Lin, Minjie Lyu, Tian-yi Qiu, Guanglan Zhang, Sen Lin, Lou Chitkushev and Vladimir Brusic</i> .....   | 65 |
| Development of automated pharmacogenetic report for evaluating<br>possible side effects of acute lymphoblastic leukemia therapy<br><i>Suvorova Y., Monakhova A., Gurzhikhanova M., Zaigrin I., Antonov I., Musharova O.,<br/>Klimuk E. and Severinov K.</i> .....   | 66 |
| The danger of powerful mitochondria: life-history traits shape the evolution of bird mtDNA<br><i>Gusarov Y.S., Burskaya V.O., Bushuev A.V., Mikhailova A.G., Efimenko B.E.,<br/>Gunbin K.V and Popadin K.Y.</i> .....   | 67 |

A systematic characterization of genotype-to-phenotype relationships in mouse and human  
*Yury Barbitoff, Nadezhda Pavlova, Polina Bogaichuk and Alexander Predeus*..... 68

INMTD: integrative clustering with 2D genotypes and 3D facial images in the presence of confounders  
*Zuqi Li, Sam F. L. Windels, Seth M. Weinberg, Mary L. Marazita, Susan Walsh, Mark D. Shriver, Noël Malod-Dognin, David W. Fardo, Peter Claes, Nataša Pržulj and Kristel Van Steen*..... 69

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Transgenerational transmission of post-zygotic mutations suggests symmetric contribution of first two blastomeres to human germline  
*Yeongjun Jang, Livia Tomasini, Taejeong Bae, Anna Szekely, Flora M. Vaccarino and Alexej Abyzov*.....70

Advances in a comprehensive understanding of alpha-1 antitrypsin glycosylation-data mining within recent publications  
*Anđelo Beletić, Irena Trbojević-Akmačić, Jasminka Krištić and Gordan Lauc*..... 71

WGS approach to identify potential genetic modifiers in Glycogen Storage Disease Ib  
*Skakic A, Parezanovic M, Pavlovic Dj, Stevanovic N, Andjelkovic M, Klaassen K, Ugrin M, Komazec J, Spasovski V, Djordjevic M, Pavlovic S and Stojiljkovic M*..... 72

Towards Head and Neck Myeloid Cells Atlas  
*Dragana Dudic, Diana Domanska, Nicolina Sciarffa, Francisca Hofman-Vega, Serafina Reif and Nico Trummer*..... 73

Silicon Affects The Expression Of Conserved And Novel Cucumber miRNAs In Response To Copper Stres  
*Dragana Bosnić, Gordana Timotijević, Dragana Nikolić and Jelena Samardžić*..... 74

A comparative transcriptomic analysis of mouse DM1 models' skeletal muscles  
*Dušan Lazić, Vladimir M. Jovanović, Jelena Karanović, Dušanka Savić-Pavičević and Bogdan Jovanović*..... 75

Analysis of RNA Secondary Structural Elements Using the RNAsselem Python Package  
*Fedor M. Kazanov, Evgenii V. Matveev, Gennady V. Ponomarev, Dmitry N. Ivankov and Marat D. Kazanov*..... 76

Detection, identification and quantification of target DNA sequence in soybean event GTS 40-3-2  
*Ilma Mujković, Kasim Bajrović and Teodora Andrejić*..... 77

Fine-tuning RNA-seq alignment parameters for *Danio rerio* genome  
*Jelena Kusic-Tisma, Mila Ljujić, Bojan Ilić and Aleksandra Divac Rankov*..... 78

Exploring Genetic Variant Selection Algorithms for Enhanced Genotyping Assays in Personalized Medicine  
*Katarina Kruščić, Ivan Životić, Maja Živković and Tamara Đurić*..... 79

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Bioinformatics insights into genes encoding heat-resistant obscure (Hero) proteins and their role in cardiovascular diseases: a regulatory SNP analysis<br><i>Vladislav Shilenok, Anna Dorofeeva, Irina Shilenok, Ksenia Kobzeva and Olga Bushueva</i> .....  | 80 |
| Pharmacogenetics-based Dosing Algorithm for Acenocoumarol in the Serbian Population<br><i>Rakicevic Ljiljana, Kovac Mirjana and Radojkovic Dragica</i> .....  | 81 |
| A Transcriptomic Meta-analysis of Carbon Nanomaterials Toxicity on Lung Tissue<br><i>Mariana Seke, Ivan Jovanović, Nataša Mačak, Maja Živković and Aleksandra Stanković</i> .....   | 82 |
| Aggregation of LEA proteins from <i>Ramonda serbica</i> : <i>in silico vs. in vitro</i><br><i>Ana Pantelić, Tatiana Ilina, Dejana Milić, Milan Senčanski and Marija Vidović</i> .....   | 83 |
| Pharmacogenomic landscape of Serbian population<br><i>Marina Jelovac, Đorđe Pavlović, Biljana Stanković, Nikola Kotur, Vladimir Gašić, Bojan Ristivojević, Sonja Pavlović and Branka Zukić</i> .....  | 84 |
| The morphological analysis of a Holter Electrocardiogram<br><i>M. Čosić and N. Miljković</i> .....  | 85 |
| Identification of Synonymous Genetic Variants Associated with Idiopathic Thrombosis using whole exome sequencing<br><i>Martina Mia Mitić, Dušan Ušjak, Mirjana Kovač, Marija Cumbo, Sofija Dunjić Manevski, Branko Tomić and Valentina Đorđević</i> .....   | 86 |
| Machine learning approach for risk factors detection of pancreatic fistula and AI diagnostic systems development<br><i>Mikhail Potievskiy, Sergei Ivanov, Andrei Kaprin, Ruslan Moshurov, Leonid Petrov, Peter Shegai, Pavel Sokolov and Vladimir Trifanov</i> .....  | 87 |
| Viral presence in the 1000 Genomes Project data<br><i>Milana Djonovic and Alexej Abyzov</i> .....   | 88 |
| Exploring biotechnological potential of LLDPE- and mixed plastics-degrading bacteria from contaminated soils<br><i>Milica Ciric, Clémence Budin, Tjalf de Boer, Brana Pantelic and Jasmina Nikodinovic-Runic</i> .....  | 89 |
| Improvement of PBMC Cell Types Classification in Healthy Samples<br><i>Minjie Lyu, Lin Xin, Lou T. Chitkushev, Guanglan Zhang, Derin B. Keskin and Vladimir Brusic</i> .....  | 90 |
| Integrating functional screening and bioinformatics for personalized medicine approaches in NSCLC<br><i>Miodrag Dragoj, Jelena Dinić, Sofija Jovanović Stojanov, Ana Stepanović, Ema Lupšić, Milica Pajović, Thomas Mohr, Sofija Glumac, Dragana Marić, Maja Ercegovac, Ana Podolski-Renić and Milica Pešić</i> ..... | 91 |
| Two different methods to assess PSA-test results in patients with prostate cancer<br><i>Nenad Vesić and Andjelka Hedrih</i> .....   | 92 |
| Sequence-based Hierarchical Classification of Tandem Repeats using Neural Network Models<br><i>Nevena Ćirić and Jovana Kovačević</i> .....  | 93 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Analysis of SARS-CoV-2 Variant Sequences for Identification of Unique Insertions and Deletions for qPCR Detection of Emerging Variants<br><i>Yolshin Nikita, Varchenko Kirill, Komissarov Andrey and Lioznov Dmitry</i> ..... | 94  |
| Analysis of Influenza Virus Sequences in Russia for the Current Epidemic Season 2023-2024<br><i>Yolshin Nikita, Komissarov Andrey and Lioznov Dmitry</i> .....  | 95  |
| A Graphical User Interface for Automated BLAST Analysis and Phylogenetic Tree Construction<br><i>Nikola Đorđević, Ivan Skadrić, Slaviša Stanković, Zorica Knežević-Jugović and Snežana Đorđević</i> .....                     | 96  |
| DNA Mechanics peculiarities: Model for Twist and Stretch Coupling<br><i>P. P. Kanevska and S. N. Volkov</i> .....   | 97  |
| Enhancing Immunogenicity Assessment of C57BL/6 T-cell Epitopes<br><i>Zitian Zhen, Alexis A. Howard, Derin B. Keskin, Vladimir Brusic, Lou Chitkushev and Guang Lan Zhang</i> .....  | 98  |
| Trends for Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning applications in plant breeding<br><i>Eftekhari M., Ma C. and Yuriy L. Orlov</i> .....   | 99  |
| GWAS study for severe COVID-19 linked with thromboinflammation syndrome<br><i>Olga Y. Bushueva, Alexey V. Loktionov and Yuriy L. Orlov</i> .....  | 100 |
| Integration of bioinformatics data for crop plant breeding<br><i>Yuriy L. Orlov, Haoyu Chao, Shilong Zhang, Vladimir A. Ivanisenko and Ming Chen</i> .....  | 101 |
| The sequence complexity estimates: algorithms and applications<br><i>Yuriy L. Orlov and Nina G. Orlova</i> .....  | 102 |
| Analysis of structural features of DNA in tRNA genes<br><i>Ekaterina A. Savina, Anastasia A. Anashkina, Irina A. Il'icheva and Yuriy L. Orlov</i> .....   | 103 |

## FLASH TALKS

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Versatile Multi-Sample Single Cell RNA-Seq Pipeline with Extensive Customization Options<br><i>Aleksandar Danicic, Nevena Vukojicic, Aleksandar Baburski and Ana Mijalkovic Lazic</i> .....  | 104 |
| Using Singular Value Decomposition for Extracting Underlying Gene Expression Patterns in Transcriptomic Analysis<br><i>Biljana Stankovic, Mirjana Novkovic and Nikola Kotur</i> .....  | 105 |
| Genome-wide association study identified genetic signal in cystatin genes associated with Long COVID-19<br><i>Marija Laban-Lazovic, Marko Zecevic, Nikola Kotur, Vladimir Gasic, Bojan Ristivojevic, Vesna Skodric-Trifunovic, Tatjana Adzic-Vukicevic, Branka Zukic, Sonja Pavlovic and Biljana Stankovic</i> ..... | 106 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Integration of Whole Exome and Single-Cell Transcriptomic Data Analysis to Identify Potentially Pathogenic Variants in Unicuspid Aortic Valve Disease<br><i>Dušan Ušjak, Martina Mia Mitić, Maja Milošević, Sofija Dunjić Manevski, Marija Cumbo, Branko Tomić, Petar Otašević, Milovan Bojić, Ivana Petrović and Valentina Đorđević</i> ..... | 107 |
| Identifying the cluster of differentiation markers deregulated in colon cancer through analysis of Gene Expression Omnibus database<br><i>Jelena Karanović and Aleksandra Nikolić</i> .....  | 108 |
| Structural characteristics of YtnP lactonase originating from <i>Stenotrophomonas maltophilia</i> 6960<br><i>Jovana Curcic, Milka Malešević and Branko Jovcic</i> .....  | 109 |
| Non-coding transcripts of protein-coding genes as novel biomarkers for colorectal cancer diagnosis<br><i>Jovana Despotović, Sandra Dragičević, Tamara Babić, Dunja Pavlović, Jelena Karanović and Aleksandra Nikolić</i> .....   | 110 |
| Characterizing Somatic Mutation Clusters in Cancers Enriched with APOBEC Mutagenesis<br><i>Gennady V. Ponomarev, Fedor M. Kazanov and Marat D. Kazanov</i> .....   | 111 |
| Machine learning methods for metabolite biomarkers detection<br><i>Miličić Lucija, Kovačević Jovana and Kovačević Vladimir</i> .....   | 112 |
| Molecular genetic basis of childhood epilepsy in Serbia: utility of clinical and whole exome sequencing<br><i>Andjelkovic M, Klaassen K, Skacic A, Marjanovic I, Kravljanc R, Djordjevic M, Vucetic Tadic B, Kecman B, Pavlovic S and Stojiljkovic M</i> .....   | 113 |
| Transcriptome-wide detection of RNA cleavage sites revealed tRNA cleavage by target-activated CRISPR-Cas13a effector<br><i>Matvei Kolesnik, Ishita Jain, Ekaterina Semenova and Konstantin Severinov</i> .....   | 114 |
| Transcriptome profiling of pharmacological manipulation of zebrafish tailfin regeneration<br><i>Mila Ljujić, Jelena Kušić Tišma, Bojan Ilić and Aleksandra Divac Rankov</i> .....  | 115 |
| Exploration of Intrinsic Disorder Regions through Classification of Intrinsically Disordered Proteins Using PPI Network Structure and Sequence Attributes: A Case Study<br><i>Milana Grbić, Milan Predojević, Nenad Vilendečić and Dragan Matić</i> .....  | 116 |
| Navigating ELSI for FAIR multiomics data management within STEPUPUIORS international rectal cancer project<br><i>Miljana Tanić, Mariska Bierkens, Marko Radulović, Aleksandra Stanojević, Mladen Marinković, Ana Krivokuća, Radmila Janković, Ana Đurić, Sergi Castellvi-Bel, Jerome Zoidakis; Remond J. Fijneman and Milena Čavić</i> .....   | 117 |
| Enhancing Cancer Genomics: A Pipeline for Spatial Transcriptomics Analysis on the CGC<br><i>Miona Rankovic, Nevena Vukojicic, Nevena Ilic Raicevic, Vida Matovic and Ana Mijalkovic Lazic</i> .....  | 119 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Impact of 3D chromatin structure on cancer mutation patterns and tissue-of-origin prediction<br><i>Paula Štancl and Rosa Karlič</i> .....   | 120 |
| Unsupervised domain adaptation methods for cross-species transfer of regulatory code signals<br><i>Pavel Latyshev, Fedor Pavlov, Alan Herbert and Maria Poptsova</i> .....                                      | 121 |
| <i>De novo</i> genome sequencing for endangered bird of prey species<br><i>Erič Pavle, Marija Tanasković, Aleksandra Patenković, Katarina Erič, Irena Hribšek, Kristijan Ovari and Slobodan Davidović</i> ..... | 122 |
| Mouse Tissue of Origin Single Cell Classification System<br><i>Sen Lin, Vladimir Brusic and Tianyi Qiu</i> .....  | 123 |
| LEA4 protein group member from resurrection plant <i>Ramonda serbica</i> Panč. – production and <i>in silico</i> characterization<br><i>Tatiana Ilina, Ana Pantelić, Dejana Milić and Marija Vidović</i> .....  | 124 |



## Flash talks

### **Non-coding transcripts of protein-coding genes as novel biomarkers for colorectal cancer diagnosis**

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Recent research shows that non-coding RNA transcripts of protein-coding genes could be an emerging novel class of diagnostic biomarkers. This study aimed to identify the most promising biomarkers for colorectal cancer (CRC) screening among upregulated non-coding transcripts of protein-coding genes in malignant CRC cells in comparison to non-malignant cells grown in 3D. Malignant CRC cell lines HCT116, DLD-1 and SW620, and a non-malignant human colon epithelial cell line HCEC-1CT, were cultivated in 3D as spheroids in 24-well plates with low attachment surface for 7 days. RNA sequencing was performed on ribosomal-depleted total RNA using Illumina's NovaSeq6000 platform that generated paired-end 150bp reads. Highly upregulated transcripts (>10 FPKM) present in all malignant cell lines and absent in non-malignant cell line were filtered and analyzed by a set of in silico tools to filter the best candidates for further validation studies. The publicly available GSE164541 set consisting of triplicate tissue samples of normal, adenoma and primary CRC tissues collected from five patients with CRC was used for validation. As a result, 5 transcripts with retained introns ANXA3-204, LLGL2-207, KRT19-204, KRT18-206 and KRT8-213 were analyzed by in silico tools. Only ANXA3-204 was classified as non-coding according to both CPC2 and LGC online coding potential prediction tools. Nucleus was predicted as subcellular localization for ANXA3-204 by AnnoLnc2. Additionally, ANXA3-204 expression was upregulated in adenoma ( $p=0.04$ ) and CRC tissue samples, although statistical significance was not reached for CRC, in comparison to normal tissue samples in the validation set. Transcriptomic analysis revealed that non-coding ANXA3-204 transcript was highly upregulated in malignant CRC cell lines and adenomas compared to control samples, making ANXA3-204 a potential candidate for early CRC screening. Further studies are needed to confirm diagnostic potential and regulatory role of ANXA3-204.

**Keywords:** non-coding RNA, colorectal cancer, biomarker, ANXA3, retained intron

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