

Brief Interview with Dr. Mariano Bizzarri (Editor)

Current Synthetic and Systems Biology

1. How many years have you been associated with the current research?

Twenty years.

2. What is the research topic you are working on now?

Systems biology, molecular network in cancer research, biophysical aspects of cancer initiation and growth. Pleiotropic effects of natural anticancer-drugs.

3. What are attributes for a quality article?

Novelty, reproducibility; multidisciplinary methodological approach.

4. Do you have any research funding (NIH or other national funding) now?

Yes: funds from European Space Agency and Italian Space Agency.

5. When did you become an editor of OMICS Journal?

About 2 months ago.

6. Where can the journal find the maximum scope in terms of niche?

There is an increasing number of new journals dedicated to Systems Biology (SB). Yet, two important aspects are generally left aside : a) theoretical basis of SB; b) modeling based on the interplay in between gene/protein-regulatory networks and biophysical cues. A paradigmatic model is nowadays provided by the cytoskeleton/nucleoskeleton, where biophysical “signals” are successfully translated into biochemical-genetic changes/modulation. What’s more that perspective will allow us to study the relationship between inner cell architecture (especially referred to nucleoskeleton-chromatin organization), tensional balance and gene expression. Therefore I believe that much attention such be deserved to those aspects that are frequently neglected.

7. What is your greatest career accomplishment?

Head of the scientific committee of the Italian Space Agency. Head of the Systems Biology Group (www.sbglab.org), University la Sapienza (Rome).

8. How does the published scientific content assist the potential researchers?

I think that an open-minded context would be a precondition for the scientific development. That context should foster provocative thoughts as well as theoretical endeavors, given that we are still searching for a reliable theory of biological organization (as the Darwinian framework provides only a general formulation).

9. What is the purpose of serving as an editor?

Accordingly, an editor should encourage the exploration of new 'territories', fostering the cross-talk among scientist. Alternative explanatory hypothesis should be testable and discarded only after carefully investigation. Additionally, the multidisciplinary model provided by Gordon conferences should be considered : an editor could promote such debates, focused on specific topics.

10. Do you have any patents?

Yes: two international patents on 3D-cultures and on anticancer proteins extracted from Zebrafish.

11. Have you contributed any editorials or papers (any types) to OMICS Journals in the past two years?

Yes. I have published a paper in 2011 (A systems biology approach to cancer: fractals, attractors, and nonlinear dynamics S Dinicola et al., Omics: a journal of integrative biology 15 (3), 93-104).

12. Do you plan to contribute any editorials or papers to OMICS Journals in the next year?

Yes.

13. How would you define your experience with OMICS Group?

Excellent.

14. Your opinion on conducting Editorial Board meetings at related Conferences?

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15. Would you recommend OMICS to your friends or colleagues?

Yes.

16. How do you differentiate Journal of Current Synthetic and Systems Biology with other journals in the field?

I think is too early to get an answer to that question. Yet, it seems to me that the journal is more open in recognizing author's comments and suggestions.