

Preface

Concepts, skills and applications is a comprehensive introduction to the field of bioinformatics that allows students, scientists, researchers, and even enthusiasts interested in the use of computers in biological research to better grasp this dynamic and fast emerging area. This dictionary is the first to concentrate in depth on the bioinformatics and biotechnology terminology and infrastructure, rather than on general computing terms. The rapid use of computer has introduced thousands of new abbreviations, technical terms into the scientific language. This dictionary will prove invaluable to anybody involved in biotechnology, bioinformatics and computer sciences.

Each terms starts with a simple, one line definition and progresses to explain the term in a little more details, showing how it relates to other associated areas of science. A conscious effort has been made to form a balance between providing a simple explanation than might be understood by some one encountering the term for the first time and producing an enter that is sufficiently detailed to meet the requirements of more advanced readers.

While only one name appears on the cover many people worked to make possible the production of this dictionary. I wish to thank all of them who gave unstintingly of their time to assure the quality and success of this work. Their advice, assistance, patience, encouragement, and many kindnesses are much appreciated.

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Editor