Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the 11th Annual International Conference on REsearch in COMputational Biology, RECOMB 2007, held in the San Francisco Bay Area, USA, April 21-25, 2007. The RECOMB conference series was started in 1997 by Sorin Istrail, Pavel Pevzner and Michael Waterman, and the history is summarized in a table below. RECOMB 2007 was hosted by the California Institute for Quantitative Biomedical Research (QB3), and took place at the Oakland Marriott City Center in Oakland, California, USA. It was organized by a committee chaired by Sandrine Dudoit. The papers presented at the conference were selected by a Program Committee (PC) consisting of 40 members, ably assisted by numerous external reviewers. Thirty-seven papers were chosen by the PC from just under 170 submissions, and these appear in this volume. Each paper was reviewed by three members of the PC, or by one of the external reviewers acting as a sub-reviewer to a member of the PC. Following the initial reviews, there was a Web-based discussion leading to the final decisions. Selected papers from the proceedings will also be published in a special issue of the *Journal of Computational Biology*.

An important aspect of RECOMB is the presence of distinguished scientists presenting keynote addresses. This year we were honored to have with us at the meeting Elizabeth H. Blackburn (University of California, San Francisco, USA), Patrick O. Brown (Stanford University, USA), Abby Dernburg (University of California, Berkeley, USA). Jennifer Marshall Graves (Australian National University, Canberra, Australia), Yishi Jin (University of California, San Diego, USA), Jay D. Keasling (University of California, Berkeley, USA), Harry F. Noller (University of California, Santa Cruz, USA), and Aviv Regev (Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, USA). Dr. Dernburg gave the Distinguished Biology Lecture, Dr. Brown gave the Distinguished Technology Lecture, and Dr. Regev gave the Stanislav Ulam Memorial Computational Biology Lecture. We also had close to 200 posters on display.

RECOMB 2007 was only possible through the support, dedication and hard work by many individuals and organizations. The conference was overseen by the RECOMB Steering Committee, while the PC and the external reviewers helped create the program. As well as an Organizing Committee whose members gave freely of their time, we were indebted to QB3 for hosting the conference and providing administrative, logistic and financial support, including the time of several dedicated QB3 staff members. In addition we received financial and other assistance from the University of California, the US Department of Energy, the US National Science Foundation, the International Society of Computational Biology, and our Sponsors. Finally, it is important to give special thanks to all
those who contributed papers or posters, and those who attended the conference. Their enthusiastic participation is what makes RECOMB conferences such fun.

April 2007

Terry Speed