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Computational Epigenomics and Epitranscriptomics

Edited by

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Preface

Nucleic acids (DNA and RNA) are key repositories of genetic information, and their primary sequence of four canonical nucleobases (A, C, G, T/U) in genomes and transcriptomes defines the genetic blueprints and cellular identities across all branches of life. Moreover, it is recognized that diversity within an organism is often governed by dynamic chemical modifications of nucleobases, which can operate as a regulatory layer to fine-tune key molecular and cellular processes. Changes in epigenomic and epitranscriptomic landscapes can affect a variety of such processes (e.g., transcription, translation, differentiation, and maintenance of genome integrity) and are often linked to the onset and progression of disease. Our understanding of the biochemistry and biological significance of the more than 45 DNA and 170 RNA chemical modifications reported to date [1, 2] has been largely propelled by high-throughput sequencing technologies and mass-spectrometry-based approaches, coupled with chemical, enzymatic, or antibody-dependent methodologies. In parallel, we have witnessed the development of increasingly robust computational methods and statistical tools tailored to make sense of a growing volume of often heterogeneous and noisy epi-ome data. In this book, the reader is introduced to state-of-the-art computational methods designed to manage, analyze, and generally leverage epigenomic and epitranscriptomic data. Topics include fine-mapping and quantification of modifications, visual analytics, imputation methods, supervised analysis, and integrative approaches for single-cell data. Ultimately this compendium will be of interest to a broad audience including students, biologists, bioinformaticians, and biomedical researchers.

Évry, France

Pedro H. Oliveira

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