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Contact: Lewis Rumpler
(509) 455-3005

Institute for Systems Medicine Planning Authority Initiates Bio and Medical Informatics Initiative

Spokane, WA – The Institute for Systems Medicine Planning Authority (ISMPA) announced today a pioneering collaboration to develop world class infrastructure for the future Institute for Systems Medicine and to begin a research program leading to new tools addressing the enormous challenges in the fields of bio and medical informatics.

The collaborative includes NEXT IT, a Spokane software company with innovative technology in artificial intelligence, human emulation, and data disambiguation, SafeDesk Solutions, a company with proprietary technology in ‘thin’ client computing and Gonzaga University, who is contributing faculty support from the computer science department that possess unique expertise in super computing, artificial intelligence, and image processing.

Bioinformatics involves the use of applied mathematics, statistics, computer science, artificial intelligence, chemistry and biochemistry to solve biological problems on the molecular level. Medical informatics is the intersection of information science, medicine and healthcare. It deals with optimizing the acquisition, storage, retrieval and use of information in health and biomedicine.

George Luger, Professor of Computer Science at University of New Mexico and science advisor to the ISMPA and GU will be the principal investigator and lead the collaborative. “The opportunities and challenges are significant in the fields of bio and medical informatics. I am confident that this unique collaboration will lead to novel tools and solutions to healthcare issues and as an added benefit provide insight into the required computing infrastructure for the future Institute for Systems Medicine (ISM),” Luger stated.

The collaborative is seeking to secure a High Performance Computing Cluster (HPC) from a federal facility through a federal repurposing program. In the interim the collaborative has an offer to make use of a regional facility to provide HPC capacity to initiate the research programs.

Fred Brown, CEO of NEXT IT and ISMPA board member has aggressively pursued the development of this collaboration. His Company, NEXT IT, is providing the initial resources necessary to fund the collaborative. “The market opportunity posed by medical informatics is enormous. This collaboration will bring together the critical pieces: techniques to interpret data, including visualization, artificial intelligence, high performance computing at the desktop and clinical data necessary to advance the science. I am confident that a breakthrough industry specific application is within the grasp of this collaborative,” said Brown.

ISM is a newly forming private medical research institute utilizing systems biology, genomics, computational biology and the medical and academic resources in eastern Washington to conduct basic research leading to new diagnostics and therapeutics improving patient outcomes. ISM founding partners and sponsors include; Washington State University, Gonzaga University, Empire Health Services, Providence Health Care, the Institute for Systems Biology, the State of Washington, Spokane County and Avista Corporation.