

*Biomedical Computation Review*

Simbios A NATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOMEDICAL COMPUTING

Stanford University

318 Campus Drive

Clark Center Room S231

Stanford, CA 94305-5444

what *you* think

What YOUThink

## Controversy in Biomedical Computing

**I**n our next issue, we'll introduce a column featuring topical debates between leaders in the field of biomedical computing. You'll read what prominent researchers think about controversial topics facing biomedical computing—and have the chance to share your own opinions.

### *BUT FIRST:*

Go to our Web site (<http://biomedicalcomputationreview.org>) to vote on which of the following topics you're most interested in, take our survey, and enter your name as a possible debater. **You could even win an iPod.**

### TOPICS:

**To Fund or Not To Fund:** Should grant applications for the development and maintenance of software and infrastructure compete against basic research applications or should there be a separate mechanism?

**To Mine or Not To Mine:** Are clinical data repositories useful sources of untapped discoveries awaiting data-mining algorithms or are they too noisy and messy?

**Too many tools in the toolbox?:** Is the massive proliferation of analytical tools for biomedical informatics diluting the best ones and limiting their visibility and usage?

**Open source vs. proprietary research:** Is open source unfair to scientists whose primary work product is computer software? Do other engineers just give away their inventions?

**Technology Transfer:** Is technology transfer in biomedical computing occurring sufficiently?

**GPUs vs. ASICs:** Will GPU computing dominate high performance computing in the next decade? Are ASICs (application-specific integrated circuits) the next big thing?

**Dry vs. Wet:** Should the computational tool developers of tomorrow be spending significant time doing wet lab work for exposure?

**Cloud Computing—Here to Stay or Gone Tomorrow?:** Is cloud computing a great, relatively untapped resource for the scientific community or is it over-hyped?

**Journal Requirements or Individual Choice?:** Should journals require that software and data be made available in public repositories before a related publication is accepted?

**XXX vs. XXX:** What do YOU think is the hottest topic in biomedical computing?