

Content Development by Meeting Attendance

Background

- Sourceforge requests
- Focus meetings: experts come to us
- An alternative way to expand areas of the GO and to check the accuracy of current areas
- We go to the experts

Method

- Identify meetings covering broad areas of biological processes
- Pre-meeting
 - Review sessions
 - Review GO
 - Identify sessions that cover areas that GO does not cover extensively
- Have GO loaded and ready to review during talks
- Take notes
- Add terms/make modifications as soon as possible after talks, confirm current GO structure
- Revisions consisted of improved definitions, added synonyms, and re-placement in the graph.

2009 Annual Meeting of the Society for Developmental Biology

- Total number of terms affected: 151
- New terms added: 143
- Existing terms modified: 9
- Talks attended: 20
- Areas of biology covered:
 - Leaf morphogenesis
 - Ear morphogenesis
 - Blood vessel development
 - Abscission
 - Epidermis development
 - Patterning
 - Signaling involved in developmental processes
 - Eye development

2009 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Cell Biology

- Total number of terms affected: 235
- New terms added: 185
- Existing terms modified: 45
- Talks attended: 30
- Areas of biology covered:
 - ER to Golgi vesicle-mediated transport (GO:0006888)
 - cholesterol transport (GO:0030301)
 - cell-cell signaling (GO:0007267)
 - Golgi organization (GO:0007030)
 - mitochondrial fission (GO:0000266)
 - mitochondrial fusion (GO:0008053)
 - sphingolipid biosynthetic process (GO:0030148)
 - establishment or maintenance of cell polarity (GO:0007163)
 - meiosis (GO:0007126)
 - mitosis (GO:0007067)
 - areas of RNA metabolism and localization

Pros and Cons

- GO reflects the leading edge of research
- Review and verification of existing ontology
- Average cost per term: \$13
- 2 curators going to meeting vs. 6 experts coming to GO
- Interaction with 'real' users
- No internet connection at convention center (SDB)
- Emphasis on no 'tweeting', reporting of unpublished results during the ASCB meeting
- Some terms are ahead of the curve and won't be used for annotation right away