Discovery Biosciences Consulting Team

Make use of our decades of industry and science experience on your project

Whether you're a biotech wondering how to integrate your chemistry and biology data, or an IT vendor seeking to establish the relevance of your new data product to the life sciences marketplace, principals of Discovery Biosciences can bring their depth of technology and industry knowledge to bear on the success of your informatics project. Our consulting team combines at its core the scientific understanding and industry connections of Tim Hunkapiller with the software and product development background of James Candlin, and it further draws as required on the specialist skills of our expert associates. Thus, we can deliver a solid and focused effort to address your specific needs in defining, developing and deploying discovery informatics technologies.

Tim Hunkapiller, Ph.D.
Founder, President and Chief Scientific Officer

Dr. Hunkapiller received his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology in Molecular Biology, and has held a Research Assistant Professor appointment in the Department of Molecular Biotechnology at the University of Washington. Dr. Hunkapiller's research focus has included molecular immunology, evolution, computational genetics, comparative genomics and he is an expert on the genetics, genomic organization and functional diversity of the immune system. He has also been involved in bioinformatics, algorithm and database development, and experimental process optimization, for 20 years. While at Caltech, Dr. Hunkapiller originated the model for the automated, fluorescent DNA sequencer. The manifestation of this idea in products such as the ABI 3730™ and the Amersham Megabase™ sequencers catalyzed and enabled the completion of the Human Genome. He continues to work with Applied Biosystems on improving the throughput and quality of data from these instruments and their associated chemistry. Dr. Hunkapiller also developed the first operational special-purpose computer hardware to accelerate the analysis of biological sequence information. This work led to the development of the world's fastest sequence/profile comparison engine, the Paracel Genematcher™, in place at major companies that work in the target discovery and validation process. His group is currently working to integrate the signal processing power of the Genematcher with new high-throughput MS technologies aimed at the emerging proteomics arena. Dr. Hunkapiller has served as an advisor to a number of biotechnology companies as well as technology companies servicing the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry. These efforts range from helping with SNP association studies for target discovery in breast cancer to the application of novel computer technologies in intelligently searching very large, unstructured text sources to improve intellectual property analysis.

James Candlin
VP for Informatics and Business Development

James Candlin's professional focus is on the definition and development of informatics systems and products for the life sciences industry. His particular expertise is in bringing an applications and end-user orientation to software design and development. This is critical for successful definition and deployment of effective bioinformatics tools, and is inherent in the value offered in our services. Prior to joining Discovery Biosciences, James Candlin was at Applera Corporation for twelve years, where he had several key bioinformatics roles. At Applera's Applied Biosystems division, he led the Data Products Group, which was responsible for the initial development of the software products for sequence analysis, sequence assembly, genotyping and primer design. Subsequently he was responsible for leading co-development with AB's software partners and for managing custom application development. His most recent Applera position was as Director of Bioinformatics of the Paracel division of Celera Genomics. In this role, he was responsible for introducing an applications and product focus to Paracel's core computational technologies, and for defining new products and custom applications in similarity searching, base calling, comparative sequencing, sequence assembly and gene annotation. More recently, James Candlin has taken a particular interest in information technologies and software for integrating discovery information across different data sources and scientific functions.

Earlier experience as a software engineer in the mechanical and electronic engineering industries provided a foundation in software design, development and project management which James Candlin now applies to the life sciences. He has a B.Sc. and a M.Sc. from Bristol University in Mathematics and Physics, and an M.S. in Computer Science from Santa Clara University.

About Discovery Biosciences Corporation

DBC's mission is primarily focused on the business-to-enterprise needs of the life sciences industry. DBC provides integrated discovery informatics consulting services, and technologies enabling the discovery and validation processes. The goal of DBC is to help pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies derive maximum value from their research efforts and data by redefining their discovery process within an information-intensive architecture. DBC partners include GeneticXchange, IBM Global Services, Deloitte Consulting, Microsoft and Applera Corporation. Beyond its primary consulting services, DBC also undertakes direct development of technologies critical to delivering on its mission.