

# Preface

Most complex challenges of today cannot be addressed by single disciplines but require interdisciplinary collaborations. Providing high-quality and affordable health care to all people or understanding and curing multi-factor diseases are such tasks which require close integration of medical scientists, biologists, and experts in data management and analysis from informatics.

Technological progress allows us to cheaply produce more and more data. To fully exploit the information potentially contained, effective and application-specific database solutions for data organization, storage, management and exchange are required. On top of these database techniques guaranteeing privacy, accessibility and data quality, data mining techniques allow us to explore complex patterns in the data, which often represent novel, valuable knowledge.

To bring forward interdisciplinary approaches involving database management and data mining on the one side and systems biology, medical imaging and high-throughput screening technology on the other, we have organized the *First International Workshop on Database Technology for Data Management in Life Sciences and Medicine (DBLM)* associated with the 20th International Conference on Database and Expert Systems Applications (DEXA), which took place on September 1st, 2009 in Linz, Austria.

Inspired by the great success of this venue we decided to invite the authors of the top workshop contributions to submit full papers as chapters of this book. In addition, we invited researchers from databases, data mining, biology and medicine to submit original research papers. An international committee selected from a total of 42 submissions 14 for publication.

We are grateful to the following reviewers who contributed with constructive comments to compile this excellent book:

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