

Background: Modeling is becoming an integral part of contemporary biology. The Glazier-Graner-Hogeweg (GGH) model as implemented in the modeling software CompuCell3D allows researchers to rapidly build complex models of multi-cellular systems in development and disease with user-selectable resolution, from discrete compartmental models to continuum models of tissues. CompuCell3D's use of BioLogo and Python model-specification allows compact description and easy publication, validation and sharing. CompuCell3D is open source, allowing users to extend, improve, validate, modify and share the core software. For more information on the GGH and CompuCell3D, please visit: <http://www.compuCell3d.org/>

Goal: By the end of the week, participants will have implemented a basic model of the particular biological problem they work on. Post-course support and consultation will be available to continue simulation development.

Topics: Introduction to GGH modeling. Applications of GGH modeling to published work. Introduction to CompuCell3D. Python and BioLogo script-based model building. Extending CompuCell3D. Building a basic simulation of your own model.

Format: The workshop will consist of a limited number of lectures and extensive hands-on computer tutorials.

Instructors: James A. Glazier, Maciej Swat, Benjamin Zaitlen, Abby Osterman, Nikodem Poplawski, Randy Heiland (Biocomplexity Institute, Indiana University)

Target Audience: Experimental Biologists, Medical Scientists, Mathematical Biologists and Computational Biologists from advanced undergraduate and graduate programs, senior faculty, who have an interest in developing multi-cell computational models and learning how such models might help their research. No specific programming or mathematical experience is required, though familiarity with some modeling software (e.g. Mathematica[®], Maple[®], Matlab[®]) and how to represent basic concepts like cells and chemical reactions mathematically, would be helpful.

Fees and Support: The basic registration fee of \$500 will cover workshop materials and lunches. Partial support for registration, travel and accommodation may be available.

Application and Registration: Enrollment is limited and by application. To apply, please send a c.v., a brief statement of your current research interests and a specific problem you would like to model. Students and postdocs should also include a letter of support from their current advisor. If travel support is being requested, please include a statement documenting need and amounts requested. Please send your application materials electronically to Maciej Swat (mawat@indiana.edu) by August 15, 2008.

Facilities: Participants will have access to an OSX cluster and will be able to access the Internet using their own laptops.