

## PREFACE

In the two years that have elapsed since the first International Conference on Biomedical Ontology, held in Buffalo in 2009, the number of applications of ontologies in biomedicine has greatly increased, and so also has the range and functionality of associated software tools. The broad scope of current biomedical ontology research is well illustrated by the present volume, which includes contributions on ontologies at all scales, from genes, proteins and cells to mammalian anatomy, from biomedical investigations to the Electronic Health Record, and from adverse event reporting to the modeling of human physiology.

Like its predecessor, the second ICBO conference, also held in Buffalo, is based on the recognition that these different ontologies need to work together if we are to maximize the degree to which they can serve the needs of researchers and clinicians in supporting the integration of diverse bodies of data. The conference accordingly brings together scientists and informaticians developing and using ontologies across the entire spectrum of biology and clinical and translational medicine.

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