Key Delegate Challenges: 2020 and Beyond

BIOINFORMATICS　　**ONCOLOGY**

Data - Acquisition, Harmonisation, Integration

When questioned about the greatest challenges facing them in the coming years, delegates attending the online Oncology and Bioinformatics events cited data as the most crucial. Among other things, experts mentioned datasets with biomarkers of interest, data harmonisation and integration, technology solutions for data and knowledge integration in translational research, and developing scientific software for large-scale biological data analysis.

Research

The second most cited challenge by delegates related to research problems: in particular, those surveyed mentioned aligning external opportunities to internal research needs, translational research for oncology programs, and conducting research post-quarantine.

Collaboration and Outsourcing

Collaboration and outsourcing was another major challenge for delegates. In particular, the issues of effectively identifying top CROs for diverse research needs, choosing the right CRO, effectively managing internal work versus outsourced, and identifying vendors were all mentioned as challenges for the years to come.

Finding Therapeutic Targets and Validation

The matter of finding and validating targets was one which many experts mentioned as struggling with. Among other things target identification, and validation and integrating multi-omic datasets for target discovery, were key considerations for the next few years.
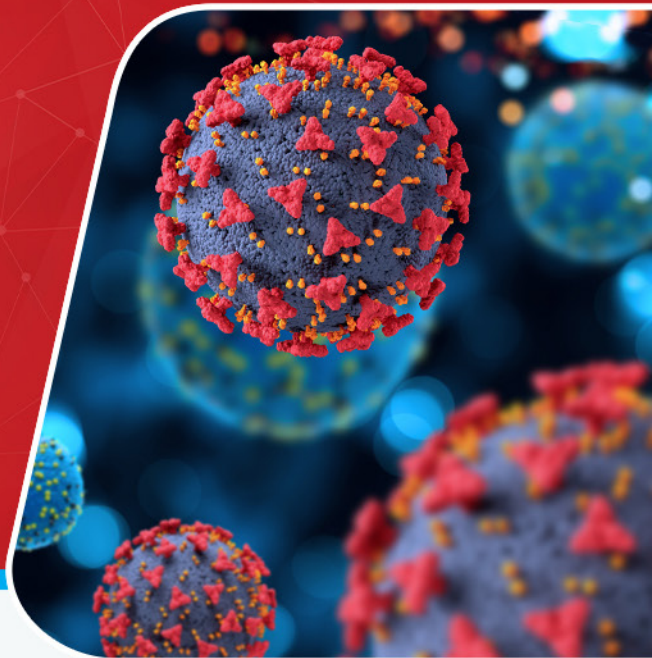
AI and New Technology

AI and new technology was another major challenge for experts, though one that was lower down on the list than may have been thought. Among other things, delegates cited seeking unprecedented products and technologies, finding tech solutions for data and knowledge integration, and research and development for the AI part in bioinformatics projects as major difficulties for the foreseeable future.

PROVENTA
INTERNATIONAL

Key Delegate Challenges:
2020 and Beyond

BIOINFORMATICS   **ONCOLOGY**

Money and Resources

For many of those surveyed, costs, time limitations and other resource difficulties were another problem that looked set to continue in the coming years. Delegates discussed applying resources in specific capabilities to accelerate efforts, the considerable cost of development, and time management/co-ordination of suppliers and centres as particular difficulties they faced.

Covid-19

Naturally, COVID-19 and the resultant pandemic were major issues that faced experts across the entirety of the sector. In particular, delegates faced issues around recruitment during the pandemic, continuing research in the COVID-19 era, and business continuity during the pandemic.

Regulatory

Regulatory concerns were one of the less mentioned future challenges in the survey, but still several delegates noted them as a potential problem in the future. Among other things, they listed regulatory and reimbursement challenges, regulatory comprehensiveness and navigating specific regulatory frameworks in countries with fragmented health insurance markets as specific difficulties they were dealing with.

Scaling Up

Finally, experts discussed the challenges of scaling up. While only a few mentioned this, the problem seems still unsolved for many. They mentioned, among other things, large scale data analysis and scaling up viral vector development as challenges set to face the industry in the coming years.

PROVENTA
INTERNATIONAL