

Semantic Web Applications and Tools for Life Sciences (SWAT4LS) International Conference 2015

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Semantic Web Applications and Tools for Life Sciences (SWAT4LS) 2015 was held in Clare College, Cambridge University, UK on 8 and 9 December 2015. It was the eighth in the SWAT4LS series and was the largest so far, measured both by attendance and submissions of papers and posters. SWAT4LS moved to a two-day, conference format for the first time.

There were 52 papers and software demonstrations submitted to SWAT4LS 2015. There were 28 accepted for presentation at the conference itself, giving an acceptance rate of 54%. This year there were 33 posters.

The conference itself had 121 attenders; the tutorial day had 70 attenders and the Hackathon day had 63; these are the largest numbers attending a SWAT4LS conference. Figure 1 shows a map whence SWAT4LS attenders came; SWAT4LS is truly international.

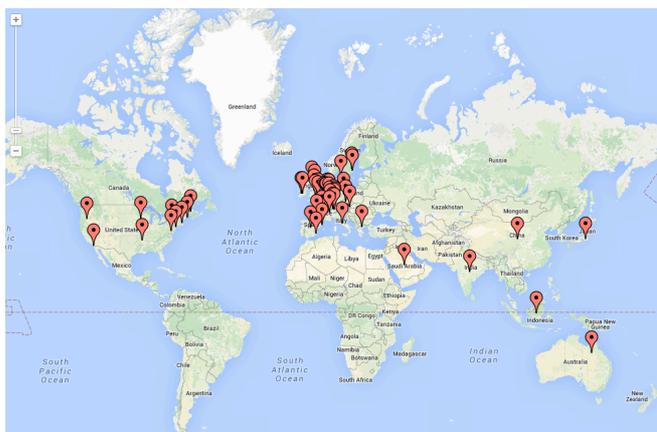


Figure 1. SWAT4LS submissions by city. Note multiple submissions from same city are merged into just one point. The most popular city was, as perhaps expected Cambridge, with several people from Manchester, England and Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Australia was the furthest country from which an attendee came.

SWAT4LS 2015 had two excellent keynotes. The first was from Bijan Parsia, of the University of Manchester, on "Representing all clinical knowledge" and the second was from Melissa Haendel, of Oregon Health and Science University, and was about "Envisioning a world where everyone helps solve disease". The conference programme, together with slides, is available on the SWAT4LS 2015 conference Web site at <http://www.swat4ls.org/workshops/cambridge2015/programme/>

We would like to express thanks to the sponsors for SWAT4LS 2015 which were:

- The National Center for Biomedical Ontologies
- Neo4J
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