The Greater Philadelphia Bioinformatics Alliance: Technology Collaboration for Training and Discovery

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The Greater Philadelphia Bioinformatics Alliance (GPBA) was established in 2002 by a consortium of academic health sciences institutions in southeastern Pennsylvania, and funded by BioAdvance, a state-supported biotechnology incubator created with funds from the Tobacco Settlement. In the first three years of its operation the GPBA has focused on workforce development through summer short courses on topics in bioinformatics, and on training through a series of term-based funded internships. Most recently collaborative research between GPBA institutions and local industry has commenced, oriented toward developing new biomedical informatics tools and concepts. In this presentation the GPBA will be described as a model of public-private collaboration in translational science.