Establishment
The CAS-MPG Partner Institute for Computational Biology (PICB) is a research institute located in the heart of Shanghai. PICB was jointly established in 2005 by the Max Planck Society (MPG) of Germany and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and is operated under their joint guidance. PICB is dedicated to broad topics in the quantitative biosciences with a particular focus on computational biology. The institute’s purpose is to explore scientific frontiers, contribute to the education and training of excellent junior scientists, and complement scientific research conducted at the research institutes of CAS and the MPG.

Like the Max Planck Institutes, PICB is headed by a board of directors comprising directors and department heads and, as of recently, other institute representatives. The difference in this organizational model to a typical CAS institute is that there are several directors rather than one institute director. Directors are selected by the CAS-MPG Joint Core Commission and are appointed by CAS. PICB enjoys complete autonomy with regard to scientific focus; however, its research work is subject to continuous supervision and evaluation by a scientific advisory board.

Structure of PICB
PICB has a relatively flat structure consisting of the following units:
• departments headed by directors
• research groups headed by principal investigators (PIs)
• Max Planck Independent Research Groups (IRGs)

A department is typically larger than an IRG or a PI group (which stand by themselves). Directors and IRG heads are selected by the CAS-MPG Joint Core Commission and have their budgets directly allocated by CAS and the MPG. PIs are recruited according to strict scientific standards following a CAS procedure, which relies on the vote of a committee of CAS PIs, consisting of both PICB directors and PIs, and at least a third of PIs external to PICB. PICB is managed by the board of directors, which consists of PICB directors, a representative of the IRG heads and the PIs, plus a representative of the Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences (SIBS), which is a collection of eight local CAS institutes focusing on biological research.

Research Concept
PICB merges theoretical and experimental biology in three focal areas:
1. Integrative analysis of gene regulation
2. Computational modeling of complex traits
3. Computational analysis of human variation and evolution

In more theoretical terms, the research can be summarized as translating large-scale multi-omics data into novel knowledge of human biology. The ‘multi-omics data’ includes diverse data-types such as transcriptome data, gene regulation data, epigenetic data, proteomics, and metabolomics data. Computational biology today largely deals with these data-types, their analysis, integration and interpretation. Therefore, PICB strives to seamlessly integrate computational and experimental biology to understand biological processes through quantitative approaches.

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THE CAS-MPG PARTNER INSTITUTE FOR COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY IS HIRING ‘GROUP LEADERS’ IN SHANGHAI, CHINA

The CAS-MPG Partner Institute for Computational Biology is an internationally recognized research institute based in Shanghai, China — jointly operated by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the German Max Planck Society (MPG). Work at this institute is driven by the growing importance of statistical and computational methods in modern biology. We undertake innovative research in the interdisciplinary fields of biology, mathematics, physics and computer science.

PICB is eager to receive applications for several group leader positions from talented scientists working in the broad field of quantitative biology, including but not limited to the following areas:
• genome biology
• epigenomics and RNA processing
• computational biology
• biostatistics
• biomathematics

PICB will offer a competitive salary package to successful applicants, including a basic salary, position allowance, housing allowance and other benefits. There is no deadline and applicant evaluations will remain open until all positions are filled.

Interested applicants should send a covering letter, curriculum vitae and brief summary of past research achievements and future plans, accompanied by three letters of recommendation to:

Professor Jing-Dong Jackie Han
CAS-MPG Partner Institute for Computational Biology
320 Yueyang Road
Shanghai 200031
Phone: 86-21-54920458
Fax: 86-21-54920451
E-mail: jdh@picb.ac.cn