

Answer to a comment to:

“A Brief Survey Of Major Discoveries That Impact On Eukaryotic Cellular Pathway Modelling” by Parisi V. et al. , appeared in BBL, 2011: 4[1].

We thank Prof. Giuliani for the time spent on our paper, and for the detailed information provided about his field of research.

We also appreciate his zeal in defending his opinions, but this of course cannot imply that we agree with all his comments; since however “comments to a comment” must be short, we shall focus mainly on avoiding possible misunderstandings.

First of all, if we stick to the model classification [Ehrenberg et al., 2009; Bruggeman and Westerhoff, 2007] in bottom-up (low level) and top-down (higher level) we have explicitly stated that we were going to consider only the bottom-up approach. This choice may of course be criticised, but it has two simple but important consequences: most of the very interesting considerations of the main part of the comment do not apply to our paper, and no comparison between the two approaches could have been performed (nor has in fact been performed).

Secondly, in our paper we have simply examined the bottom-up approach and considered a number of features that in simple models are often rightly discarded, but are instead crucial in some important cases, for which we provide a number of real-world examples: but nowhere in the paper we have stated that the bottom-up approach is the only weapon for the future; we are in fact a bit unpleasantly surprised that such an idea could be suggested to a reader.

Coming back to the part of the comment not strictly connected to the bottom-up approach, we maintain that the content is really very interesting, full of details possibly not enough known, and (why not?) a very good starting point for a future review paper, which we will be delighted to read.

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