With 250,000 inhabitants, Graz is the second largest city of Austria, nestled in pre-alpine mountains and with a wine-growing area to its south. Its Old Town, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site, is one of the best preserved in Europe. Graz is well connected by highway and railways to the neighboring countries of Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Italy.

The Adriatic Sea, the Carinthian Lakes, the Dachstein mountain range, Lake Balaton (Hungary), Salzburg and Vienna can be reached by car in less than three hours. Graz airport, located only 9 km from the city center, has frequent connections to Vienna, Frankfurt, and Munich.

The Medical University of Graz, closely associated with Graz University Hospital, one of the largest Hospitals in Europe, welcomes the FOIS and ICBO delegates. Its campus, the conference venue, is situated in walking distance from the city center, where visitors can choose from a broad range of hotels, many of them located in historic buildings.

FOIS meets ICBO in Graz, Austria
Ontologies are increasingly employed in biology and medicine; and their use in annotation of both clinical and experimental data is now a common technique in integrative translational research. Principle-based ontologies are being developed for the description of biological and biomedical phenomena. To be maximally effective, such ontologies must work well together. As ontologies become more commonly used, the problems involved in achieving coordination in ontology development become ever more urgent. This conference addresses these problems. It brings together representatives of all major communities involved in the development and application of ontologies in biomedicine and related areas. In addition to papers, the conference will feature workshops and tutorials, as well as software demonstrations and a early researcher symposium.

Conference Chairs:
Ronald Cornet, Amsterdam, NL
Robert Stevens, Manchester, UK

Program Chairs:
Melanie Courtot, Vancouver, CA
Ludger Jansen, Rostock, DE
Trish Whetzel, Stanford, US
Janna Hastings, Geneva, CH

Keynote speakers:
Alan Rector, Manchester, UK
Lawrence Hunter, Denver, US
Stefan Schulz, Graz, AT

Deadlines:
January 31, 2012: paper submissions
April 15, 2012: posters, demos, workshop contributions

Ontology began as a fundamental part of philosophical enquiry concerned with the analysis and categorization of what exists. In recent years, the subject has taken a practical turn with the advent of complex information systems which rely on robust and coherent representations of their subject matter. The systematization and elaboration of such representations and their associated reasoning techniques constitute the modern discipline of formal ontology. Formal Ontology is now applied to such diverse domains as artificial intelligence, computational linguistics, bioinformatics, GIS, knowledge engineering, information retrieval, and the Semantic Web. FOIS is intended to gather researchers with an interest in formal ontology, where both theoretical issues and concrete applications can be explored in an interdisciplinary spirit. FOIS is the flagship conference of the International Association for Applied Ontology (IAOA, www.iaoa.org)

Conference Chair:
Michael Grüninger, Toronto, CA

Program Chairs:
Maureen Donnelly, Buffalo, US
Giancarlo Guizzardi, Vitória, BR

Keynote speakers:
Laure Vieu, Toulouse, FR
Edward N. Zalta, Stanford, US
Stephen R. Ray, CMU, US

Deadlines:
January 31, 2012: paper submissions
March 15, 2012: workshop contributions