

Media Release

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Genome Campus has Top Two in the UK

**Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and European Bioinformatics Institute
top list of most influential UK research**

The impact of research reports from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and the EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute makes them the top two most influential research institutions in the UK, according to results published this week. In addition, nine of the top 25 most influential UK researchers are current or recent staff at the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus near Cambridge, UK, home to the two powerhouse institutes.

The results, published in *Science Watch*, rank scientific publications from UK institutions from 2003 to 2007 according to their impact among researchers. The listing put the Sanger Institute's Dr Richard Durbin at number one in influence.

Science Watch measured the number of times that influential reports were referred to by other researchers (citations). The aggregate results positioned the Sanger Institute at nine and the EMBL-EBI at 14 within the UK – in amongst much larger organizations such as the Universities of Bristol, Sheffield, Southampton and the Medical Research Council.

When the number of citations was calculated per scientific report – the average impact of each paper – the Sanger Institute jumped to first and EMBL-EBI to second. On average, the 170 high-impact reports from the two institutes garnered more than 135 citations, almost twice the amount for the University of Cambridge, for example.

"The vision was always for the Genome Campus to drive the coming revolution in genomics and informatics," says Professor Allan Bradley, Director of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute.

"The 2003–7 *Science Watch* rankings, placing the two institutions at 1 and 2 in influential papers and putting so many of our staff in the top 25, is a measure of what the staff here have achieved in the past dozen years. The rankings are a tribute to the work of all the scientists listed but, more important, to the work of all the staff in the EBI and the Sanger Institute. I am delighted for them."

The Sanger Institute played a leading role in the Human Genome Project and, together with EMBL-EBI, developed the Ensembl web browser, which allows access to the human and other genome sequences. Bioinformatics, the application of computer power to understanding biology, is an essential part of modern research and is revolutionising our understanding of genetics and its role in health and disease.

"We're delighted that the excellent research published by the EBI in league with its many international collaborators has been useful and relevant to so many researchers" says Professor Janet Thornton, Director of EMBL-EBI. "This highlights the tremendous importance of bioinformatics to modern molecular biology."

The Genome Campus, nestled next to the small village of Hinxton, is a powerhouse of UK research. Founded in 1993 and 1997, respectively, the Sanger Institute and EMBL-EBI have been involved in some of the most important biological and

biomedical research, including the Human Genome Project, the Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium and The 1000 Genomes Project.

Dr Durbin, who co-heads The 1000 Genomes Project, says: “Genomics and bioinformatics – terms unrecognizable to biologists a couple of decades ago – are the spearheads of modern biology. We have been fortunate to have worked in such a wonderful environment on such important and influential research.

“My own background is in mathematics and computation, but all my significant work has been in interdisciplinary teams with others, collectively building knowledge and resources for future biological research. The recognition of our work at the Genome Campus today rests on the strategic investment in these resources by UK and European funding bodies, especially the Wellcome Trust and the EU, to drive forward biomedical benefit.”

For this analysis, *Science Watch* drew on its database of highly-cited papers – those reports published between 2003 and 2007 that rank, in their respective fields of science and the social sciences, among the top 1% most-cited for their given years of publication.

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Notes to Editors Extracts from the *Science Watch* Rankings

Institutions Ranked by Citation Impact (2003–07)		
Rank	Institution	Impact
1	Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute	136.7
2	EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute	133.3
3	Cancer Research UK	130.7
4	Royal Marsden Hospital	124.3
5	Western General Hospital	112.3

Authors ranked by Citations (2003–07)				
Rank	Name	Institution	No. high-impact papers	Citations
1	Richard Durbin	Sanger Institute	16	4335
5	Sam Griffiths-Jones	University of Manchester (Sanger Institute until December 2006)	13	3596
9	Rolf Apweiler	European Bioinformatics Institute	22	3167
11	Jane Rogers	Sanger Institute (until June 2007)	9	2354
12	Rodrigo Lopez	European Bioinformatics Institute	12	2248
13	Alex Bateman	Sanger Institute	11	2215
14	Ewan Birney	European Bioinformatics Institute	15	2067
21	Abel Ureta-Vidal	European Bioinformatics Institute	9	1743
22	Matt Berriman	Sanger Institute	14	1738

Institutions Ranked by Total Citations (2003–07)		
Rank	Institution	Citations
1	University of Oxford	47,392
2	University of Cambridge	44,140
3	Imperial College London	41,042
4	University College London	24,905
5	University of Edinburgh	20,699
6	University of Glasgow	16,051
7	University of Manchester	15,641
8	University of Birmingham	13,738
9	Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute	13,393
10	Medical Research Council	12,728
11	University of Bristol	12,463
12	King's College London	10,532
13	University of Sheffield	9,515
14	EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute	9,467

Websites

- *Science Watch* <http://www.sciencewatch.com/>
- EMBL-EBI www.ebi.ac.uk
- Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute www.sanger.ac.uk

The **Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute**, which receives the majority of its funding from the Wellcome Trust, was founded in 1992 as the focus for UK sequencing efforts. The Institute is responsible for the completion of the sequence of approximately one-third of the human genome as well as genomes of model organisms such as mouse and zebrafish, and more than 90 pathogen genomes. In October 2005, new funding was awarded by the Wellcome Trust to enable the Institute to build on its world-class scientific achievements and exploit the wealth of genome data now available to answer important questions about health and disease. These programmes are built around a Faculty of more than 30 senior researchers. The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute is based in Hinxton, Cambridge, UK. <http://www.sanger.ac.uk>

The **European Bioinformatics Institute** (EBI) is part of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and is located on the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus in Hinxton near Cambridge (UK). The EBI grew out of EMBL's pioneering work in providing public biological databases to the research community. It hosts some of the world's most important collections of biological data, including DNA sequences (EMBL-Bank), protein sequences (UniProt), animal genomes (Ensembl), three-dimensional structures (the Macromolecular Structure Database), data from microarray experiments (ArrayExpress), protein–protein interactions (IntAct) and pathway information (Reactome). The EBI hosts several research groups and its scientists continually develop new tools for the biocomputing community. www.ebi.ac.uk

The **Wellcome Trust** is the largest charity in the UK. It funds innovative biomedical research, in the UK and internationally, spending around £650 million each year to support the brightest scientists with the best ideas. The Wellcome Trust supports public debate about biomedical research and its impact on health and wellbeing. <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk>

The **European Molecular Biology Laboratory** is a basic research institute funded by public research monies from 20 member states (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy,

Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) and associate member state Australia. Research at EMBL is conducted by approximately 80 independent groups covering the spectrum of molecular biology. The Laboratory has five units: the main Laboratory in Heidelberg, and Outstations in Hinxton (the European Bioinformatics Institute), Grenoble, Hamburg, and Monterotondo near Rome. The cornerstones of EMBL's mission are: to perform basic research in molecular biology; to train scientists, students and visitors at all levels; to offer vital services to scientists in the member states; to develop new instruments and methods in the life sciences and to actively engage in technology transfer activities. EMBL's International PhD Programme has a student body of about 170. The Laboratory also sponsors an active Science and Society programme. Visitors from the press and public are welcome.
www.embl.org

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End of Notes for Editors