



Europe and India join forces to make more biological models available for research

Hinxton, 4 December 2006 – The BioModels Database, hosted by the European Molecular Biology Laboratory's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) in Cambridge, UK, has entered a formal data-exchange agreement with the Database of Quantitative Chemical Signalling (DOQCS) of the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bangalore, India. Both data resources will now simultaneously release computer models of biological processes to the community. This agreement is the culmination of more than a year's work to make the models in DOQCS available in Systems Biology Markup Language (SBML). The agreement will provide users of both databases with a larger pool of models, whilst giving them the freedom to use the different interfaces and tools associated with each resource.

Since its launch in April 2005, BioModels has provided access to published, peer-reviewed models of biochemical and cell-biological systems. Its models are annotated and linked to other biological data resources. DOQCS has operated with similar goals since 2003, focusing on models of neuronal systems and providing additional notes on how the models were developed. The merged collections of BioModels Database and DOQCS, will include more than 250 biological models, covering over 5000 reactions. Computer models are an important tool to visualize and understand complex biological processes and scientists worldwide will benefit from the new Europe-India collaboration, which will make it easier to access and share biological models and their descriptions. ●

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About EMBL:

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory is a basic research institute funded by public research monies from 19 member states (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom). 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.

About EBI:

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 bio-computing community.

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