

Cystic Fibrosis Regulator protein revealed

Researchers have unravelled the structure of a protein known to be mutated in sufferers of cystic fibrosis. Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator (CFTR) is the protein that when altered, causes cystic fibrosis (CF).

This finding will further our understanding of the disease and aid in the development of new therapies. Approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United States are affected with CF and more than 10 million Americans are unknowing, carriers of the defective CF protein gene. Ninety percent of people with CF carry a mutation in one part of the protein, the NBD1 domain.

Hal Lewis and his colleagues describe in the December 18 advanced online publication of *The EMBO Journal* the first three-dimensional crystal structure of the NBD1 domain of the mouse CFTR protein.

By identifying this structure researchers will be able to further understand the mutations that occur in this protein in CF and so advance scientific research towards an effective treatment for CF.

Lewis HL, *et al.* Structure of nucleotide-binding domain one of cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR).

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