

WWW GUIDE

Antibodies on the Web

Robert S. Sikorski and Richard Peters

From diagnostic assays in hospitals to Western blots in laboratories, the use of antibodies is ubiquitous in science and medicine. So much so that we often forget just how much we depend on these protein workhorses. But how do you get information about a particular antibody or condition when you need it immediately? The World Wide Web is one

place to turn if you know where to go.

For example, consider this question that was recently posted to the Purdue University Cytometry Mailing List: "Does anyone know of a good antibody against human Fas (CD 95)? I am using it for Western blotting purposes." An answer came back within a week from a scientist in Germany, complete with a list of twenty antibodies, their costs, and a list of commercial suppliers with their phone numbers. This helpful reply also included anecdotal notes about which antibody to choose for a Western blot, which would work better for immunoprecipitation, and other useful tips for employing those antibodies on the list. Not only did this

exchange save the questioner a great deal of times searching out where to obtain the antibodies, but it also launched the researcher down an experimental path through the accompanying road map of how to best use the antibodies listed. In this way, the Web is becoming more than just a catalog of difficult-to-obtain reagents, and is turning into a tremendous resource for posing your particular problem to a knowledgeable investigator in the same field.

This month we sent our search engine to bring back links covering the general topic of antibodies. Out of 2000 sites, we found that these 9 provided the best overall introduction to the field.

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ANTIBODY PRODUCT AND SERVICES SITES

| Page name/URL | Comments |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Introduction to Immunology http://bio.tau.edu/monoclonal/introduction.html | Introduction to antibody production technology. |
| Dancing Antibody Animation http://www.bocklabs.wisc.edu/movies/Dancing-Antibody.html | A must-see quicktime or MPEG movie of an antibody binding to its target. |
| Antibody General Information V1 http://www.biochem.ucl.ac.uk/~martin/abs/GeneralInfo.html | Reference for the Kabat numbering scheme. |
| Purdue University Cytometry Mailing List http://www.cyto.purdue.edu/hmarchive/Cytometry/ | Excellent mailing list and discussion group devoted to exchanging information about cell sorting. |
| Kabat Database http://immuno.bme.nwu.edu/antibodies | Nice site that has several online computer programs for those who study the structure of antibodies. You can, for example, type in some aa sequence and have the antibody subtyped over the net. |
| Index of /Marker_pages/methods_pages/ http://vize222.zo.utexas.edu/Marker_pages/methods_pages/ | Collection of protocols and methods. |
| Antibody Purification on Peptide Affinity Columns http://www.notes.itd.umich.edu/methods/20fe.htm | Example of a methods site for purifying antibodies. |
| Hybridoma Data Bank http://www.atcc.org/hdb/hdbwhat.html | Gateway to the hybridoma collection maintained by the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA), and the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS). |
| Division of Immunology, IMCB, Osaka University http://hldaws.mcb.osaka-u.ac.jp/ | Details of the 6th International Workshop and Conference on Human Leukocyte Differentiation Antigens. |

PEOPLE

Transderm Laboratories (New York) has named David N. Dinkins a director. The former mayor of New York City is a professor of public affairs at Columbia University School of International & Public Affairs.

The board of directors of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA, Washington, DC) have announced its selection of Alan F. Holmer as president, effective July 15, 1996. Mr. Hol-

mer has been trade counsel to PhRMA for the past six years.

Dura Pharmaceuticals (San Diego, CA) has announced that David S. Kabakoff, previously president and CEO of Corvas, will join the company as executive vice president.

Swedish pharmaceutical company Astra AB (Stockholm) has named Jan Larsson president and chief executive of its US unit, Astra

USA Inc. Larsson replaces Lars Bildman, who has been suspended and relieved of his corporate responsibilities pending the results of an investigation into allegations of improprieties within the company that occurred during his tenure as CEO.

Ian McBeath has been appointed as the CEO of Antisoma (London). Previously, he was the European vice president of Gensia (San Diego, CA).