

Web watch

A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SEARCH

- <http://kb.psi-structuralgenomics.org>

We have all experienced frustrating hours of searching for and collating information on the structure and function of a particular protein. Now, we can find all that information in one place, by navigating the Protein Structure Initiative (PSI)–Nature Structural Genomics Knowledgebase (SGKB).

Hosted at the Rutgers University in the United States by the same team that hosts the Protein Data Bank, the PSI–SGKB is freely accessible to all. You can search for proteins using the search box, and you don't need to be a structural biologist to make the most out of the three-dimensional (3D) information found online. The user friendly website also displays detailed information about how the protein functions and how the structure was generated. You can also read about new technologies, methods and tools that are available to study your protein of interest.

This website, an addition to the collection of gateways and databases that are offered by the Nature Publishing Group (NPG), marks a collaboration between the NPG and the PSI. The PSI is a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded project that started in 2000 with the aim to determine the 3D structures of thousands of proteins and “enable scientists from across biomedical disciplines to easily access a wealth of information about proteins and to speed discovery about these molecules.” For its part, the NPG provides monthly editorial updates with “synopses of important recent advances, recent additions to a categorized library of research articles, as well as news and events in the field of structural biology.”

So, to relieve your frustration, log on to PSI–SGKB, where you will hopefully find all you need to know about the structure and function of a protein in one easy search.

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