

Bermuda Principles meet structural biology

To the Editor:

The Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC; <http://www.thesgconline.org/>) is a public-private partnership that places the three-dimensional structures of proteins of relevance to human health into the public domain without restriction on use. Over the past 3 years, the SGC has deposited the structures of more than 550 proteins from its Target List (<http://www.thesgconline.org/structures/about.php>) into the Protein DataBank (PDB); this accounts for about one-quarter of the new structures of human proteins in the PDB over this period ('new' is defined as <95% sequence identity to proteins whose structures were already available in the PDB) and the majority of the new structures from the human parasites that cause malaria, cryptosporidiosis and toxoplasmosis. Over the next 4 years, the SGC is committing

to determining the structures of another 600 proteins from its Target List, including eight human integral membrane proteins.

The SGC has been releasing the coordinates for all the SGC structures into the PDB immediately after they meet the SGC quality criteria (http://www.thesgconline.org/structures/sgc_structure_criteria.php), even if the ultimate intention is to describe the work in the peer-reviewed literature. This data release policy, which has often meant that coordinates were available for several months before the manuscript was even written, has not limited the ability of our scientists to publish (for example, refs. 1–8).

In keeping with our policy to make our data available as soon as possible, the SGC is now also providing 'pre-released' coordinates on its website when a new SGC structure is submitted to the PDB, allowing scientists

to access the structural information while the deposition files are being processed. Scientists should ensure that the revised coordinate file is downloaded once it is released by the PDB.

Aled Edwards

*Structural Genomics Consortium,
University of Toronto, 100 College Street,
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1L5, Canada.
e-mail: aled.edwards@utoronto.ca*

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