Two IEDB-related articles have appeared in the scientific literature recently. The first article presented a meeting report of the first Annual Workshop held in October 2004 in San Diego. The article, from Immunity, provided an overview of the IEDB and the fourteen Large Scale Antibody and T Cell Epitope Discovery contractors, as well as many of the discussion points and conclusions arising from the meeting (Sette A, Fleri W, Peters B, Sathiamurthy M, Bui HH, Wilson S: “A Roadmap for the Immunomics of Category A-C pathogens”. Immunity, 22:155-161, 2005). The second article, titled “The Immune Epitope Database and Analysis Resource: from Vision to Blueprint”, appeared in the March edition of PLoS Biology (3:e91, 2005), and described the IEDB program’s goals and strategies for achieving them in collaboration with the larger scientific community. (Authors: Peters B, Sidney J, Bourne P, Bui HH, Buus S, Doh G, Fleri W, Kronenberg M, Kubo R, Lund O, Nemazee D, Ponomarenko JV, Sathiamurthy M, Schoenberger S, Stewart S, Surko P, Way S, Wilson S, Sette A). A companion article by the same authors is currently in press at Immunogenetics. The article, “The design and implementation of the immune epitope database and analysis resource”, provides significantly more detail on how the IEDB project will achieve its aims.

Alex Sette gave a keynote address on “The Immune Epitope Database Project” at the 2nd International Immunoinformatics Symposium, held March 7-9 in Boston, and he spoke on the “Immune Epitope Database and Analysis Program” at the American Association of Immunologists.

PDB Features Immunologically Relevant Molecules of the Month

On the first Wednesday of each month, the RCSB Protein Data Bank presents its Molecule of the Month, which includes a short account on selected molecules from the Protein Data Bank. Each installment includes an introduction to the structure and function of the molecule, a discussion of the relevance of the molecule to human health and welfare, and suggestions for how visitors might view representative structures themselves. This educational component of the PDB is aimed for a general audience. The featured molecule is illustrated by Dr. David S Goodsell of the Scripps Research Institute, who also writes the molecular database's Molecule of the Month column.
The second annual Immune Epitope Database & Discovery Workshop will be held in Bethesda, MD. this year on November 1-3, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda. The meeting is open to the IEDB team members, the Large Scale Antibody and T Cell Epitope Discovery contractors, their respective Working Group members, and the NIAID staff who are supporting these projects. Collaboration and discussion is highly anticipated and encouraged during the workshop. The agenda includes one day of closed discussions for the IEDB project team, NIAID staff, and Working Group members. Day 2 will be for all invitees to attend and it will include a welcome by Alison Deckhut Augustine, Program Officer, presentations, and a break out session. We will continue the presentations on Day 3, which is also opened to all invitees, and end with a discussion and wrap up. Participants are encouraged to mix and dine with each other after a full day of meeting. There are plenty of restaurants in Bethesda and it is only 6 miles from Washington D.C. For more information, please see below. A summary of the meeting will be available on the IEDB website within eight weeks of the event.

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**Bethesda Facts**

Based upon the most recent figures available from the U.S. Census Bureau and a CACI study:

- Population is 55,277
- Estimated average household income is $99,102
- 78.9% of the population holds a college degree
- 48.8% of the population holds a graduate/professional degree
- Median housing value $396,400

According to the Montgomery County Department of Parks & Planning website, Bethesda has a downtown workforce that exceeds 43,000.

Please visit:
http://www.bethesda.org
http://www.washington.org

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**Transportation**

Bethesda Transportation Solutions
(301) 656-0868

Metro Rail
(202) 637-7000

Ride-On Buses
(240) 777-7433

For more bus and rail info visit:
http://www.wmata.com

**Airports: Miles to Hyatt**

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA): 38 miles

Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI): 36 miles

Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD): 32 miles

The Metro Rail and Bus station is right below the Hyatt Regency Bethesda on the Metro Level. If you would like information on routes and schedules, simply visit the concierge desk. They can provide you with a pocket map and instructions on how to get to the stations. The Metro is safe, clean and efficient. It is also a very convenient way to get around town.
The San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC), a member of the IEDB contractor team, has been hard at work developing a tool to allow users to visualize epitopes and their interactions with other molecules of immunological interest (antibody, T-cell receptor, MHC). The EpitopeViewer uses curated data from the IEDB and molecular structure from the Protein Data Bank as input. This visualization tool will be made available as part of the Analysis Resource in the IEDB’s first release. Sample output can be viewed in the accompanying figure.

The EpitopeViewer has been written using the Molecular Biology Toolkit (MBT), a Java-based protein visualization and analysis toolkit developed by researchers and programmers at SDSC. MBT has been designed to be a flexible software base upon which 3rd party extensions can be built. The toolkit provides classes for efficiently loading, managing and manipulating protein structure and sequence data. The MBT also provides a rich set of graphical 3D and 2D visualization components which can be easily “plugged together” to produce applications having sophisticated graphical user interfaces. More information on the MBT can be found at http://www.mbt.sdsc.edu.
Website Gets a Facelift
http://www.immuneepitope.org

If you never surfed over to the IEDB website before March 2005, you will not appreciate the changes that have been implemented recently. The home page now features the new logo, color graphics and is divided into three sections. An Overview section gives a brief description of the project and provides links to the La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Health and Human Services. The News/Updates section has links to press releases and the IEDB newsletters. The third section, IEDB Links, is portal to the IEDB subcontractor home pages (Science Applications International Corporation, the San Diego Supercomputer Center, the Technical University of Denmark, and the University of Copenhagen), other epitope databases that have expressed a willingness to share their data with the IEDB, several relevant bioinformatics databases, the IEDB Entity Relationship Diagram, and the Executive Summary of the Meeting Report for the 2004 Annual Workshop.

Look for major changes in the home page and expanded content when the IEDB becomes publicly available later this year.

Increasing Curation Staff...
...at Master and Doctoral levels

During the first quarter, LIAI took steps to build up its curation staff as part of its effort to populate the IEDB with epitope data from the scientific literature. The curator positions were advertised on http://www.craigslist.com and the LIAI website, and over 45 applicants were received for full-time and half-time positions. Most of the applicants were at the Masters and Doctoral levels. Interviews of candidates started in mid-March and several full-time curators are expected to be on board by the end of April. LIAI will continue to seek these high-level curators as resources permit. Anyone interested in curator positions can check the LIAI website at http://www.liai.org/careers/current_openings/index.cfm.

Annual Meeting on April 5 in San Diego. The IEDB was also part of a poster session at the Pacific Symposium of Biocomputing held January 3 – 8 in Hawaii. The poster was titled “Protein Structure Representation and Use within the Immune Epitope Database (IEDB)” and was authored by Julia Ponomarenko, Mariusz Milik, John Beaver, and Philip E. Bourne.

Additional Links to Molecules of the Month

For further information on the February and March Molecule of the Month, please visit:

Major Histocompatibility Complex:
http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/molecules/pdb62_1.html
T-Cell Receptor:
http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/molecules/pdb63_1.html
Adopting an Official Logo
from idea to development

If you have been an avid reader of our newsletter series, you might have noticed that the IEDB logo has changed forms several times. This issue unveils our official logo, displayed above. The logo tries to capture the spirit of the IEDB, which combines basic research and information technology to broaden worldwide understanding of diseases in the quest for cures and treatments. In a nutshell, we wanted to show a relationship between medical research and computer technology. The “Y” shape within the oval is representative of an epitope and its receptors. The oval itself also represents the joining of different areas of expertise within the project as well as the global nature of the IEDB. The project brings together immunologists, bioinformaticists, programmers, and a whole slew of other experts. We hope that we were able to capture the heart of the project with a simple logo.

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eucule description. In February and March of this year, the “Molecules of the Month” were Major Histocompatibility Complex and T-Cell Receptor, respectively. The full list of featured molecules can be found at:
http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/molecules/molecule_list.html

T-Cell Receptor

Refer to page 4 for additional links