

PRESS RELEASE FROM NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP  
15 September 2008

Contact: Grace Baynes  
Corporate Public Relations, Nature Publishing Group  
T: +44 (0)20 7014 4063  
[g.baynes@nature.com](mailto:g.baynes@nature.com)

The Macmillan Building  
4 Crinan Street  
London N1 9XW  
UK  
T: +44 (0)20 7833 4000  
F: +44 (0)20 7843 4640  
[www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com)

## **A new gateway to protein structures**

A new window onto the world of protein structure opened today with the launch of the *PSI-Nature Structural Genomics Knowledgebase* (PSI-SGKB). The PSI-SGKB is a free resource from the Protein Structure Initiative (PSI) and Nature Publishing Group (NPG) and is available at <http://kb.psi-structuralgenomics.org/>.

Hosted by Rutgers University, the PSI-SGKB serves as a continually updated gateway to research data and other resources from the PSI. First established in spring 2008, the PSI-SGKB is now re-launched in collaboration with NPG, with NPG contributing editorial content to help researchers stay informed about developments in structural biology and structural genomics.

"We are very excited to join forces with Nature Publishing Group to bring the many products of the structural genomics effort to a broad audience of biologists," said Helen M. Berman, Ph.D., Director of the PSI-SGKB. "By combining our efforts, we can better supply the advances catalyzed by the PSI, and the resources to analyze them, into the hands of the global community of scientists."

Protein structure can tell us a great deal about how living systems function and can help with drug development and in understanding human disease. However, protein structure information is sometimes not easily interpretable by researchers working outside structural biology.

"One of the overarching goals of the PSI is to enable scientists interested in a particular protein family to obtain a relevant structure that can guide functional or disease-related studies," said Jeremy M. Berg, Ph.D., director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that developed the PSI. "The PSI-SGKB is a portal to the wealth of resources available for speeding discoveries about these molecules so vital to our health."

The PSI was launched in 2000 by NIH to determine protein structures on a large scale. Over the course of the initiative, PSI-supported research centers have produced more than 3,200 structures, published around 1,000 scientific papers, and developed many techniques now employed in labs around the world.

- ENDS -

## **NOTE FOR EDITORS**

### **Useful Links:**

PSI Nature Structural Genomics Knowledgebase: <http://kb.psi-structuralgenomics.org/>

The Protein Structure Initiative: <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Initiatives/PSI/>

Gateways and databases on Nature.com: <http://www.nature.com/databases/>

## Images:

Screenshots of the PSI-SGKB available on request from Grace Baynes ([g.baynes@nature.com](mailto:g.baynes@nature.com))

PSI Images from the NIGMS Image Gallery may be used for news and media items:

<http://images.nigms.nih.gov/index.cfm?event=doSearch&searchTerm=psi&typeID=&view=all>

## Contacts for further information

### For Nature Publishing Group:

Grace Baynes  
Corporate Public Relations  
T: +44 (0)20 7014 4063  
[g.baynes@nature.com](mailto:g.baynes@nature.com)

### For NIGMS and the PSI:

Emily Carlson  
National Institute of General Medical  
Sciences, NIH  
T: 301-496-7301  
[carlsone@nigms.nih.gov](mailto:carlsone@nigms.nih.gov)

### About Nature Publishing Group (NPG):

Nature Publishing Group is a division of Macmillan Publishers Ltd, dedicated to serving the academic and professional scientific and medical communities. NPG's flagship title, *Nature*, was first published in 1869. Other publications include *Nature* research journals, *Nature Reviews*, *Nature Clinical Practice* and a range of prestigious academic journals including society-owned publications. NPG also provides news content through *Nature News*. Scientific career information and free job postings are offered on *Naturejobs*.

NPG is a global company with headquarters in London and offices in New York, San Francisco, Washington DC, Boston, Tokyo, Paris, Munich, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Delhi, Mexico City, Madrid and Basingstoke. For more information, please go to [www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com).

### About the National Institute of General Medical Sciences

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) is a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It supports basic research that increases understanding of life processes and forms the foundation for advances in disease diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. For more information on the Institute's research and training programs, see [www.nigms.nih.gov](http://www.nigms.nih.gov).

### About the National Institutes of Health

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) — *The Nation's Medical Research Agency* — includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary Federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov).