EDITORIAL

Finally! *Protein Science* On-Line

The electronic edition of *Protein Science* is now available at the *Protein Science* World Wide Web site <http://www.prosci.uci.edu/>. All issues of the journal beginning with September 1995 will now appear on the Web server on a regular basis. New articles will be placed on the server in groups of six or so, as soon as they have been copyedited. This will shorten significantly the time from acceptance to publication. As time progresses, earlier issues will gradually appear on the server until, one day, we will have all issues of *Protein Science* available to our subscribers.

The electronic issues are complete with all figures, tables, kinemages, and electronic supplementary materials as you would expect them to be. Further, the issues are fully indexed so that you can retrieve information quickly and easily through Boolean and proximity searches. Finally, you can print out whatever articles you wish because, in the end, nothing can beat having a printed copy of an interesting article to put in your briefcase.

The electronic edition is still in the developmental stage as we fine-tune presentation and operation. We earnestly solicit your comments so that we can make the electronic edition meet your needs. We have therefore provided an electronic message tool on the server so that you can give us the benefit of your thoughts and comments. During this developmental period, access to the electronic edition will be unrestricted. At some time in the future, however, access will be restricted to subscribers although we are considering a scheme to allow access to non-subscribers on a "pay as you go" basis.

In preparation for the appearance of the Electronic *Protein Science*, we have made significant changes in the organization, appearance, and functionality of the *Protein Science* Web site. The home page, for example, now has a single opening image that features a ribbon diagram of a TIM barrel rather than the multiple images of the past which took a considerably longer time to load. The new single image is a so-called image map. That means that by clicking on various words and phrases on the image, such as "Gateway to *Protein Science* On-Line," you will be taken to the appropriate location on the server. Because of the compactness of the image, you will not need to scroll as much up and down the document to find what you want. We have also provided search tools on the home page for searching all documents mounted on the Web and gopher servers, including the kinemages, but not the electronic issues of *Protein Science* which have their own special search software. The home page search software used creates an index that is transparent to the user and comes into play only when a search request is issued. However, when this index is created, the software looks inside every document in the server including the kinemages.

Thus, if you search on, say, alpha-helix, you will be provided with links to all kinemages that have the words alpha-helix in their text. In addition to these general search tools, we have provided a search tool devoted exclusively to kinemages in the kinemage section of the server. This tool is in addition to the current kinemage-name and protein-type indices that are already a part of the kinemage server.

Our gopher and ftp servers have in the past been located exclusively on the computers of the Office of Academic Computing at the University of California at Irvine. Although we will continue to maintain those sites for a period of time, the main site will now be the same server used for the Web site and electronic *Protein Science*. The new addresses for ftp and gopher services are [ftp.prosci.uci.edu](ftp://prosci.uci.edu) and [gopher.prosci.uci.edu](gopher://prosci.uci.edu), respectively. Detailed instructions will be found, as usual, in the Electronic *Protein Science* Update section of the printed journal.

Some of the most revolutionary aspects of the Electronic *Protein Science* will not be obvious to you when you visit the Web site. The entire *Protein Science* editorial production process at Cambridge University Press has been redesigned to accommodate the electronic edition and to incorporate it into the routine production of the printed edition. Underlying both the printed and electronic edition is a single master document that is prepared in the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) that is sent for production of typesetting code and to the Web site for the production of Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) documents used for the delivery of the electronic edition. Underlying the SGML document is another document called the Document Type Definition (DTD) which describes the information content of the document and makes possible sophisticated indexing. A great deal of innovation has gone into the design of the DTD to make it serve simultaneously the requirement of electronic and print media. We believe it will help set standards for electronic and print publishing in the world of scientific publishing.

This brief description of the electronic edition and its hidden aspects will, we hope, explain our rather deliberate pace in making the electronic edition available to you. We hope you enjoy the electronic edition. We look forward to your comments and suggestions.

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