

**EMBO and NPG announce a new online publication:
*Molecular Systems Biology***

Nature Publishing Group (NPG), in partnership with the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) today announces the launch of a new international publication; *Molecular Systems Biology*. The journal will be available as a novel peer-reviewed online-only publication in Spring 2005, with an 'author-pays open access' pricing model.

Molecular Systems Biology is the first journal to be dedicated solely to the emerging field of systems biology at the molecular level. Systems biology is an important ~~emerging~~ field of research that has the potential to greatly advance our understanding of biology. The completion of genome sequences from many organisms, along with rapid advances in areas such as proteomics, imaging and computational analysis, has led to a vast increase in the amount of biological data available to researchers. It is becoming increasingly clear that a systems-level approach will be necessary to interpret and exploit these advances for the future benefit of humankind.

Molecular Systems Biology will publish relevant, high-quality research in the evolving fields of bioinformatics, genomics and proteomics, microbial systems, cell signaling and computational networks, while helping to integrate data and theory to better understand the dynamic and complex nature of living systems. The journal will work together with the Systems Biology community to establish guidelines, standards and metrics for global complex datasets.

Researchers worldwide will be able to access original research in *Molecular Systems Biology* without charge. Costs of publication will be met in part by an author charge for each article published. The 'author-pays' model is intended to allow papers to be made available free of charge online, immediately upon publication, to the widest possible audience. This experimental publishing model has been subject to much recent debate, and both organizations believe that it is timely to explore the new possibilities that it presents. Sponsorship and advertising are expected to help subsidize the total costs of publication. NPG and EMBO will serve the interests of all authors and readers, and will waive fees for qualifying authors without research funding, or those in developing countries.

As with ~~AFCS-Nature~~~~NPG's~~ *Signaling Gateway*, *Molecular Systems Biology* will exploit its online format to the full, with novel article formats, rich linking, and the sophisticated search functionalities essential for mining data and developing theories in the field.

Frank Gannon, Executive Director of EMBO said:

"EMBO was founded at a time ~~that when~~ molecular biology in Europe needed to be driven forward. The field of molecular systems biology is now at a similar stage of its development and deserving of the exposure and structuring that this joint EMBO and NPG initiative will bring. The Open Access model for *Molecular Systems Biology* means that the most up-to-the-minute research and data will be accessible to all as soon as it becomes available – an important advantage for such a dynamic field. The online, interactive presentation of the journal is highly appropriate for a scientific discipline reliant on the integration and analysis of complex imagery and data. The collaboration between EMBO and NPG will ensure that the journal is run with the same standards of scientific excellence as other NPG and EMBO publications."

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Annette Thomas, Managing Director of NPG said:

"NPG believes that the time is now right to launch a journal exclusively devoted to systems biology at the molecular level. The launch strengthens our existing partnership with EMBO and continues to contribute to our mission of providing high-quality information to the global scientific community and to work with the leading international societies. We look forward to a strong future relationship to take the journal forward."

NPG currently publishes *The EMBO Journal* and *EMBO reports* on behalf of EMBO:

EMBO is dedicated to promoting the life sciences in Europe. *Molecular Systems Biology* extends EMBO's tradition of publishing journals by scientists for scientists. Like *The EMBO Journal* and *EMBO reports*, the new journal will maintain the same standards of high-quality peer review. As an open access journal, *Molecular Systems Biology* will help disseminate quality research both freely and openly, a principle wholly endorsed by EMBO.

NPG is the world's leading publisher of high-impact science journals. As publisher of the award-winning *AFCS-Nature Signaling Gateway*, NPG has demonstrated its commitment to experimental publishing concepts and pricing models. Other novel publications from NPG include *news@nature.com*, and *Nature Methods*, due in October 2004.

Contact details:

Tim Redding
Nature Publishing Group
The Macmillan Building
4 Crinan Street
London, N1 9XW, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7843 4933

Links

www.embo.org
www.nature.com
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