The Internet

Genitourinary medicine and The Internet No 3

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In this current issue I have provided readers with a list of biomedical Web sites which may be useful for educational purposes and in pursuing scientific research information related to genitourinary and HIV medicine. The basic sciences are particularly well represented on the Internet and only a relatively small selection of sites are listed here. If you have any comments or wish to have other sites included in future updates, please submit them to Dr Richard Lau, Department of Genito-urinary Medicine, Beckenham Hospital, Croydon Rd, Beckenham BR3 3QL, UK; e-mail 100732.1404@compuserve.com.

Index of bioscience facilities

The following sites provide comprehensive lists of medical, biomedical and research facilities available on the Internet. Bookmarks to any of these sites are recommended as they are regularly updated.

The Countway Medical Web: Basic Sciences

<http://www.med.harvard.edu/webref/basicsci.html>

The WWW Virtual Library: US Biology Departments and Institutes

<http://golgi.harvard.edu/afagen/depts/deptus.html>

The WWW Virtual Library: International Biology Departments and Institutes

<http://golgi.harvard.edu/afagen/depts/deptintl.html>

The WWW Virtual Library Biosciences: Index

<http://golgi.harvard.edu/htbin/biopages>

The World Wide Web Virtual Library: Journals, Conferences, and Current Awareness Services (Biosciences)

<http://golgi.harvard.edu/biopages/journals.html>

The World Wide Web Virtual Library of Bioscience and Medicine

<http://www.ohsu.edu/clinweb/wwwv1/>

Selected research and educational facilities

Community of Science Web Server

<http://cos.gdb.org/>

An interesting site which aims to identify and locate researchers with interests common or related to your own. Mostly confined to North American scientists and biologists, with some 40 000 "experts" and 2000 facilities on database.

Division of AIDS, STD and TB Lab Research (DASTLR), CDC

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dastlr/dastlr.html>

The DASTLR, National Center of Infectious Diseases home page, providing information on a limited selection of infectious diseases and describing its range of research activities.

Harvard AIDS Institute

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/HAI.html>

Home page of the Harvard AIDS Institute, describing its current research interests with good links to other HIV/AIDS research facilities. Some of its clinical science material may be useful for undergraduates.

TB-HIV Laboratory, Brown University

http://www.brown.edu/Research/TB-HIV_Lab/

Web site describing current research on mycobacteria and HIV at Brown University.

Martindale's Health Science Guide 1996

<http://www-sci.lib.uci.edu/~martindale/MedicalPath.html#PV1>

A very comprehensive collection of basic science and medical links. Sections include immunology, microbiology, virology and pathology. There are also sections devoted to medical education which include lecture notes and multimedia tutorials on a wide variety of medical subjects. Highly recommended.

Molecular Biology Resources

American Type Culture Collection WWW Server

<http://www.atcc.org/>

Web site of this global biomedical facility which collects, authenticates and distributes biological material such as cell lines, plasmids, etc. Good search facilities of its archives.

ExPASy

<http://expasy.hcuge.ch/>

The molecular biology WWW server of the Geneva University Hospital and the University of Geneva. Allows users to search for sequence matches through their extensive protein (SWISS-PROT), DNA (EMBL, GenBank) and other databases.

GenBank

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Web/Genbank/index.html>

GenBank is the American National Institutes of Health (NIH) repository of all publicly available DNA sequences. A resource for matching, searching and retrieving published DNA and protein sequences. There is a five page instruc-

tion manual which can be downloaded from this site.

New England Biolabs

<http://www.neb.com/>

Web site of this famous supplier of restriction enzymes. Product news, technical information, database of its restriction enzymes and vector maps are available in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format, with comprehensive hyperlinks to other molecular biology sites.

Some genetic and protein databases by organism

PUMA functional overview of Chlamydia trachomatis

http://www.mcs.anl.gov/home/compbio/PUMA/Production/NodeObjects/Chlamydia_trachomatis.html

A phylogenetic metabolic alignment of functional proteins encoded by published *C trachomatis* DNA sequences and generated by researchers in the Division of Computational Biology, Argonne National Laboratory.

HIV Sequence Database

<http://hiv-web.lanl.gov/>

The Human retroviruses and AIDS database

at the Los Alamos National Laboratory collects, curates and analyses all published genetic sequences of HIV and related species. Has a new section on defined HIV epitopes and links to other HIV molecular biology sites.

HPV Sequence Database

<http://hvp-web.lanl.gov/>

The equivalent database for human papillomaviruses, organised by open reading frames. There are hypertext links to related molecular biology sites and Web sites dealing with the medical and public health aspects of human papillomavirus infections.

Mycobacterial Database

<http://kiev.physchem.kth.se/MycDB.html>

A mycobacterial sequence database jointly maintained and updated by researchers working in the Institut Pasteur, France and the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm. Collates data from sequencing projects on *M tuberculosis*, *M leprae*, *M bovis* and *M smegmatis*.

RL thanks Dr Andy Winter, Dept of Genitourinary Medicine, Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital for providing a selection of Web sites and to CompuServe UK for providing free access to its Internet gateway.