EDITORIAL

Inaugural issue of UCSD Molecule Pages

John Lambris[1]
[1]John Lambris Ph.D. is Dr. Ralph and Sallie Weaver Professor of Research Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, USA
E-mail:lambris@upenn.edu.

We are pleased to launch the inaugural issue of the *UCSD Molecule Pages*. While the Molecule Pages themselves have been regularly published online since 2003, we have now taken a step ahead by compiling these publications in a bi-annual journal format. Each Molecule Page, based on a cell signaling protein, combines expert authored reviews describing the biological activity, regulation and localization of the protein with curated, highly-structured data (e.g. protein interactions) and automatic annotation from publicly available data sources (e.g. UniProt and Genbank).

Twelve Molecule Pages published in the year 2012 are being released in two issues. The biological functions of these twelve signaling proteins range from G protein-coupled receptors, calcium regulation ubiquitination, cell migration, cell division, cancer growth to pathogen recognition and innate immunity. The beauty and impact of the Molecule Pages are manifold. As illustrated in many of these Molecule Pages, signaling proteins are potential targets for therapeutic drugs, which render the 'network maps' very useful. Each network map for a Molecule Page displays the signaling protein in all its known contextual forms. This tool is also valuable to computational biologists in generating data models. Current research often attributes novel and non-canonical roles to signaling proteins, leading to differences in nomenclature. The Molecule Pages with its unbiased approach can contribute to uniformity in nomenclature both within and across species.

The UCSD Molecule Pages editorial group has also taken the initiative of creating the comprehensive network map of the human complement system. In this regard, we have so far published four Molecule Pages on C1q, C3, C5 and factor H. We look forward to publishing more Molecule Pages on the complement system and other pertinent signaling proteins in the coming issues.