

NCBI News, May 2010

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New Databases and Tools

NCBI Education

The NCBI [Education web page](#) has been updated with new information and a new format. The page provides a central point of access for help documents, teaching materials, news outlets, and other educational resources. In addition, NCBI has created new courses and workshops that will be offered on a limited basis.

Discovery Workshops show participants how to use the NCBI Web resources more effectively. Each workshop consists of four 2.5-hour hands-on sessions, with each session emphasizing a different group of NCBI tools and databases. Areas of study will include: Sequences, Genomes, and Maps; Proteins, Domains, and Structures; NCBI BLAST Services; and Human Variation and Disease Genes. Each year, NCBI will hold three workshops on the NIH campus and four at universities, colleges, or government research centers located in four of the eight regions of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. For more information, see the [Discovery Workshop](#) page.

Live Webinars will also be offered as short (30-60 minute) instruction modules. NCBI instructors will demonstrate effective use of various NCBI tools and resources with emphasis on recent updates and changes. Current webinar topics include: NCBI Overview; What's New at NCBI; NCBI BLAST Updates; and Genome Updates. Please see the [NCBI Webinar](#) web page for more information.

Microbial Genomes

Twenty-three finished microbial genomes were released during May 2010. The original sequence data files submitted to GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ are available on the FTP site: <ftp.ncbi.nih.gov/genbank/genomes/Bacteria/>. The RefSeq provisional versions of these genomes are also available: <ftp.ncbi.nih.gov/genomes/Bacteria/>.

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GenBank News

GenBank release 177.0 is available via web and FTP. The current release includes information available as of April 14, 2010. Release notes are available on the on the NCBI ftp site: <ftp://ftp.ncbi.nih.gov/genbank/gbrel.txt>

Updates and Enhancements

RefSeq

RefSeq Release 41 is now available through the Entrez system and can be downloaded from the FTP site (<ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/refseq/release>). This full release incorporates genomic, transcript, and protein data available as of May 9, 2010. This release reached a milestone of over 10 million proteins, contained in 14,472,060 records from 10,567 different organisms.

YouTube

NCBI now has a YouTube channel containing interviews and presentations from GenBank's 25th anniversary. The most recent post is NCBI's 20th anniversary video. Please see: <http://www.youtube.com/ncbinlm>.

Announce Lists and RSS Feeds

Eighteen topic-specific mailing lists are available which provide email announcements about changes and updates to NCBI resources including dbGaP, BLAST, GenBank, and Sequin. The various lists are described on the Announcement List summary page: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Sitemap/Summary/email_lists.html. To receive updates on the *NCBI News*, please see: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/About/news/announce_submit.html.

Twelve RSS feeds are now available from NCBI including news on PubMed, PubMed Central, NCBI Bookshelf, LinkOut, HomoloGene, UniGene, and NCBI Announce. Please see: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/feed/.

Users can also stay updated on NCBI's resources on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ncbi.nlm and Twitter: twitter.com/NCBI.

Send comments and questions about NCBI resources to: info@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov, or by calling 301-496-2475 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday.