

Cellosaurus newsletter of November 2017

A few days ago release 24 of the Cellosaurus was made available on ExPASy (<https://web.expasy.org/cellosaurus/>). It contains information on 99'021 cell lines from 573 species.

As usual we have continued to extend the scope and quantity of information contained in the Cellosaurus. In particular, since our last newsletter in May 2017, we made a significant effort to strengthen the information available on hybridomas by: a) increasing the number of such entries (from 2486 in release 22 to 4221 in release 24), b) completing the information on the molecular target of the monoclonal antibody (mAB) produced by the hybridoma (from 1217 to 3518) and c) adding a new CC line topic which is used to indicate the immunoglobulin isotype of the mAB. We have continued to increase the number of cell lines for which we have data on the population doubling time (over 3'100) and tripled the amount of information concerning known sequence variations (somatic or genomic).

In terms of external links, we have added cross-references to the AddexBio, Cell Biolabs, DiscoverX, MMRRC, TNGB and Wicell cell collections as well as to the MetaboLights repository of metabolomics experiments. The Cellosaurus is now cross-referenced to 73 distinct resources.

Our next challenge is to retrofit information regarding the age of the cell line donor (patient or animal) at the time of sampling. We hope to already be able to provide such information for more than 60% of the Cellosaurus cell lines in the next release (25) in early 2018.

On the ExPASy Cellosaurus site there has been three developments. The most visible is the introduction of the [Cellosaurus - Invitromaticists spotlight](#) page. In a recent [paper](#) three new terms: invitromatics, invitrome, and invitroomics were introduced by Niels Bols, Lucy Lee and co-workers. At the same time I was interested in providing to Cellosaurus users short biographical sketches concerning researchers that have played a major role in establishing one or more cell lines. Niels Bols coined a fourth term, invitromaticists for such scientists and together with Lucy Lee they agreed to write the first two installments, while I wrote the third one on Etienne Lasfargues. I hope that these three texts will be joined by many more in the coming months/years. In that context I want to encourage former colleagues of deceased invitromaticists to contribute articles about their mentors.

The second change is the distribution on the FTP site (<ftp://ftp.expasy.org/databases/cellosaurus>) of a new file named 'cellosaurus_name_conflicts.txt'. This file contains a number of tables that list cell names with identical names taking into account casing, punctuation signs and synonyms. Currently there are over 1'600 cell lines that are concerned by the name "collision" problem. The last change worth mentioning is that ExPASy has switched from HTTP to HTTPS, so you should think of updating your cross-references to the Cellosaurus even if the "http" web traffic to ExPASy will be automatically redirected to https in January 2018. Speaking of web traffic: we are pleased to announce that on ExPASy the Cellosaurus has already been visited 413'000 times by 244'000 distinct users that have looked at 1.4 million cell line pages.

PS: Subscribe to our Twitter page (<https://twitter.com/Cellosaurus>) for tweets about new developments regarding the Cellosaurus and the universe of cell lines.