Cellosaurus newsletter of December 2016

Last week release 20 of the Cellosaurus was made available on ExPASy (http://web.expasy.org/cellosaurus/). It contains information on more than 80'600 cell lines from 558 species.

We now provide an XML version of the Cellosaurus on the FTP site (ftp://ftp.expasy.org/databases/cellosaurus). We expect that this version will facilitate the task of the many groups that want to integrate information from the Cellosaurus into their resource.

We have also extended the scope of the Cellosaurus by starting to add information on the population doubling time of cell lines as well as their microsatellite instability (MSI) status. All this while pursuing our effort of collecting STR profiles for human cell lines (we now have such data for 4'760 cell lines) and while completing and structuring the information relevant to cell line transformants. We have also started to populate the Cellosaurus with information regarding various cell characteristics such as loss of chromosome Y for some human cell lines, proliferation changes of conditionally transformed cell lines at the permissive and restrictive temperatures.

In term of external links, we have added cross-references to 2 cell line collections: the NINDS Human Cell and Data Repository (NHCDR) and Merck Millipore. We also added links to the International Genome Sample Resource (IGSR), the TOKU-E cell culture database and Wikidata. Currently the Cellosaurus cross-references 61 different resources.

As always our "to-do" list for the coming months is quite busy and we are exploring how we can better represent information of the availability of cell lines to cater for cell lines distributed by "small" organizations or individual laboratories and we are still planning the progressive introduction of information on the tissue/organ origin of the cell lines.

As stated in our previous newsletters we wish to thank individual researchers and representatives of cell line collections, organizations and companies for their support and for answering our numerous email queries.