

The SysProt Consortium

Pressrelease

EU funded systems biology consortium for adipositas induced type-2 diabetes reports first results

Berlin, June 2008

SysProt reports identification of a novel regulatory protein that appears to be involved in the development of obesity-induced type-2 diabetes in a mouse model for the human metabolic syndrome. The systems biology project SysProt (System-wide analysis and modelling of protein modification) develops and applies novel technologies to gain insight into the onset and progression of adipositas induced type II diabetes one of the major health challenges in modern societies. The research consortium consists of one SME and four academic institutions renowned for their expertise in systems biology, proteomics and diabetes research from three European countries: the German biotech company MicroDiscovery, the German Institute of Human Nutrition, the Functional Genomics Center Zurich, The BioCentre - University of Reading and the Max-Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics.

The strategy to achieve SysProts objective is an innovative, explorative systems biology approach, both on the molecular and physiological level with a strong focus on protein function and modification. The project is producing high quality proteomics data indispensable for the identification of novel circulating protein factors and post-translational protein modifications that are important for the onset, dynamics and progression of adipositas and type II diabetes. Data generation is complemented by the development of computational analysis methods for these novel data types and creation of an adequate modelling technology. Recently the pharmaceutical company Pfizer has launched a comparable US\$14-million systems-biology consortium to improve the understanding of diabetes and obesity (Nature, Vol. 453, 8 May 2008).

SysProt started January 2007 with the support of the EU (FP6-2005-LIFESCIHEALTH-7). Additional information is provided on the project website: www.sysprot.eu

About MicroDiscovery

MicroDiscovery is a leading provider of certified high quality software solutions in the areas of innovative in-vitro diagnostics, personalised medicine and biomolecular research. The company was established in Berlin in the year 2000. As a result of its high competence in realisation of customised software solutions, MicroDiscovery has acquired many renowned companies as customers. Customised services ranging from biostatistical data analysis to bioinformatical design and support of complex research projects complete the product line of MicroDiscovery.

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