

YeastBook, the Eukaryotic Cell Encyclopedia is launched by Genetics

November 14 2011

A new series of article-chapters to be published in the journal *GENETICS* (<http://www.genetics.org>) promises to help scientists better access the wealth of research knowledge obtained on an important experimental organism used to understand human gene function. The series will be authored by top geneticists from around the world and will cover practically all aspects of modern yeast research and its applications to human health and well-being.

"When investigators identify a gene in other [organisms](#), they first look in the Saccharomyces Genome Database for a homologue," wrote Alan Hinnebusch, Editor-in-Chief of YeastBook and Mark Johnston, Editor-in-Chief of *GENETICS*, in an editorial appearing in the November issue of *GENETICS*. "Because of decades of work on *S. cerevisiae* by a large research community with access to a prodigious experimental toolbox, finding a homologue (which happens more than half the time) brings not only a wealth of information that provides much insight into the gene's function, but also a robust experimental system for further investigations that promise new insights."

The series of chapters published as articles will not only help organize and analyze the overwhelming amount of data obtained on *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, but it will also serve as a significant reference tool for those who do not specialize on this organism. In total, the editors of YeastBook and *GENETICS* anticipate that the compendium will span 50 chapters, but as new research developments occur, the need for additional chapters may arise and will be accommodated by this

innovative publishing model.

YeastBook expands on the seminal monograph series The [Molecular Biology](#) of the Yeast *Saccharomyces*, first published by Cold Spring Harbor Press in the early 1980s and last updated more than 15 years ago. After YeastBook articles are published in *GENETICS* they will be compiled on a separate YeastBook web site. By publishing in *GENETICS* first, each chapter will benefit from the journal's publishing methods and infrastructure, such as its peer review system and online publishing platform, while allowing for continual updating as needed. In addition to the scrutiny of *GENETICS'* peer review, each chapter will be edited by a select group of leaders with broad expertise in *Saccharomyces* biology. The YeastBook editors were recruited by *GENETICS'* Editorial Board and the Board of Directors of the Genetics Society of America, and represent some of the world's top experts in this field.

"This is a novel approach for publication of a monograph, and it will serve the scientific community well," said Mark Johnston, Editor-in-Chief of *GENETICS*. "The chapters will be published in a timely fashion, and they will enjoy wide visibility in the pages of a well-regarded journal. I hope this will be the first of several such 'books' published in our journal."

Alan G. Hinnebush, Ph.D., Head of the Program in Cellular Regulation and Metabolism within the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, is the Editor-in-Chief of YeastBook. Mark Johnston, Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, is Editor-in-Chief of *GENETICS*.

Provided by Genetics Society of America

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