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A definitive source of HLA molecule sequences and nomenclature

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Abstract

The HLA informatics group homepage contains a collection of resources vital to anyone interested in the complex field of HLA alleles.

Content

The HLA informatics group homepage contains a collection of resources vital to anyone interested in the complex field of HLA alleles (human major histocompatibility complex or MHC genes), their nomenclature and DNA sequences. The site forms part of the [ImMunoGeneTics](#) (IMGT) project, a collection of collaborating websites that maintains sequence databases of interest to immunologists: together, the small databases of sequences of immunoglobulins, T-cell receptors and MHC molecules of all vertebrate species form the IMGT database. Monthly HLA nomenclature updates and the current World Health Organization nomenclature information are also detailed. Importantly, the site lists erroneous HLA alleles that have now been renamed or deleted.

Navigation

Navigation is easy and no broken links were found. The information is well presented and downloads swiftly. In some cases, however, the user is forced to use the browser 'back' button to return to the referring page or homepage, particularly on pages about nomenclature. There is no need for a search function because navigation through the site is simple.

Reporter's comments

Timeliness

The site is regularly updated - as soon as new alleles are added to the collection - and each of the time-sensitive pages includes the date of updating.

Best feature

The most appealing feature is the ease of access to large amounts of data that used to be hard to find (before the advent of this site, and of the Histo server, which is now defunct). The rate of change in this field is high, and the curation of this database is highly valuable.

Wish list

The only function found missing from the site is a table that links the serologically identified HLA antigens with their respective HLA allele(s). This would facilitate comparison of older results and publications with more modern data.

Related websites

[BoLA nomenclature committee website](#) is intended to be the definitive source of information on the bovine major histocompatibility complex. The [MHCPEP database of MHC-binding peptides](#) comprises over 13,000 peptide sequences known to bind MHC molecules.

Table of links

[HLA Informatics Group, Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust, London, UK](#)

[BoLA nomenclature committee website](#)

[MHCPEP database of MHC-binding peptides](#)

[ImMunoGeneTics](#)

References

1. HLA Informatics Group, Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust, London, UK.