WebWatch

Eat Right Site

While we live in a world where there is intense interest in healthy eating, paradoxically we only have to walk down the street to be surrounded by the evidence of the effects of unhealthy eating. Trying to connect these disconnected perspectives is NAFWA, the Nutrition and Food Web Archive. Organized by Christopher Theberge, who is nothing if not passionate about nutrition, NAFWA has an energy and exuberance that is rare on technical web sites. You can get a glimpse of it in "The Stunning Effect of This Single Vitamin on Cancer," but it abounds on the site and contributes positively to a framework that keeps visitors clamoring for more.

[<http://www.nafwa.org>]

Rare Media

It may seem odd that a web site called NORD (National Organization for Rare Disorders) serves 30 million Americans possessing a disease commonality, but it really isn't contradictory at all. That's the astonishing number of people in this country suffering from uncommon, little studied and often mysterious disorders. The site's ambitious agenda aims to serve patients, families, patient organizations, industry partners, and medical professionals. It accomplishes these goals with information on programs for patient assistance, medication assistance, and patient networking. NORD gives news on clinical trials and databases for rare diseases, identifies physicians working with rare diseases, and provides important information to patients suffering from them. NORD also provides seed grants to researchers who are investigating rare diseases. Finally, NORD has an entire section devoted to advocacy and the Take Action Now section provides necessary information.

[<http://www.rarediseases.org>]

Bi the Numbers

There are people who have great heads for numbers and then there are others who employ the "in one ear and out the other" method of recollection. For this latter group of individuals, Harvard's BioNumbers may be a godsend. However, it is unlikely that even a propeller-head

Chicken Nuggets

While some may argue about chickens, eggs, and/or road crossings by the same, there is no debate when it comes to the value of the Gallus Expression *In Situ* Hybridization Analysis (GEISHA) site. Specializing in gene expression profiles in chick embryos during the first six days post-fertilization, GEISHA not only provides a vast array of eye-popping pictures, but also an impressive, extensive, and easily navigated dataset. The well-organized database includes multiple entry points to information, allowing users to browse by four main criteria (anatomical location, stage, gene name, and GEISHA ID) or perform text searches. Visitors can also use relevant transcription factor(s), growth factor(s), receptor(s), or microRNA(s) as criteria. Retrieved records include information from ENSEMBL and graphic images depicting the location(s) of expression in the embryo.

[<http://geisha.arizona.edu/geisha/>]

Expression pattern of microRNA 1 in a developing chicken embryo. Photograph by Diana Darnell. Copyright © 2009 the GEISHA Project.

would carry around in its memory the vast array of figures on display at this interesting and informative site. For example, how many recall the efficiency with which proline is absorbed by human intestines? The answer is 77.7%. How about the fact that there are an average of 160,000 copies of p53 in human cells or that the volume of a HeLa cell is approximately 2425 cubic microns? A wonderful site that has something to offer anyone interested in biological number trivia, bionumbers is for biologists spanning a very wide, nerdy spectrum.

[<http://bionumbers.hms.harvard.edu/>]

Getting the Fat Out

Of the many health challenges facing this country, one of the most preventable ones has to be childhood obesity. The roots of the problem are numerous and the fixes are not simple, owing to a complex set of pressures arising from culture, commercial interests, and economics. One hope for improving the situation is education, which is the path being taken by the NIH's National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) site. Topic areas include NCCOR projects, such as the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems (wide-ranging data relevant to obesity research), the NCCOR webinar series, a

food marketing research roundtable, and a collection of funding opportunities inside the CDC and NIH.

[<http://www.nccor.org/>]

Cyberplant Collaborative

If you're an iBotanist working on an iProblem requiring iComputing solutions, you surely will want to check out the iPlant Collaborative Web Portal, which aims to empower "a new plant biology." All iKidding aside, plant molecular biologists will find bountiful information at the iPlant site. Highlights include the iPlant Tree of life (phylogeny), a discovery environment (web interface to access data and application resources), DNA Subway (education interface to bring iPlant to the classroom), atmosphere (cloud-enabled computational resources), and the iPlant Leaflet Newsletter.

[<http://www.iplantcollaborative.org/>]

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