

New project to catalogue and analyse human proteins

Ambitious plans to catalogue all human proteins and analyse their interactions have been unveiled in the United States. Myriad Genetics is forming a US\$185 million collaboration with the software company Oracle and the electronics corporation Hitachi to characterize the human proteome over the next three years. They hope to produce a proprietary database that includes all human protein interactions, biochemical pathways and a comprehensive catalogue of purified proteins. Structural biologists can use the data on protein structures to identify regions within a protein that are therapeutically important. It is expected that this information will then play a key role in drug designing. (Nature, 5 April 2001)