The World of Bodybuilding Materials

Biomaterials Network, or Biomat.net for short, is a very active information system (re)founded in February 2000 in Porto (Portugal) by Pedro L. Granja (Institute of Biomedical Engineering). The name of both the institute and the information system point to a well established area of research. Trying to cope with the wealth of detailed information contained in just a single issue of this internet monthly, you will certainly share this opinion. As an example, in the issue dated March 14, there is a list of impact factors of ten journals on biominerals. The site is targeted towards researchers in both industry and academia interested in the development and production of materials that can be used in medicine as a replacement for tissues and mineral structures.

An annotated table of contents of the special biomaterials issue of *Science* was the most prominent piece of information in the *Biomaterials World News* section. This is probably the best current overview on the area of biomaterials and tissue engineering. Other sources are used for short and precise reports on, for example, educational issues in the field. Other than *Biomaterials World News* there is also a selection of *Biomaterials Articles* including links to their online repositories, such as "Biomedical polymer turns from liquid to gel instantly" (Composite.about.com).

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Conferences, symposia, meetings, workshops, and courses are announced and current trends of past and upcoming events are discussed in the new meetings and developments sections. Additional cross-links help to increase the number of announcements to three to four times as many. Links to the conference programs facilitate the choice. The selection of conferences underlines the interdisciplinary character of the site. However, three extremely active fields of interest, which certainly fit the mission of the site to find new solutions with new methods, are hardly present: biomimetic chemistry, biomineralization, and genome sequencing of model organisms in connection with bioinformatics. For example, a strongly biometic concept leads to bonelike structures through self-assembly,[1] a molecular investigation of the bacterial formation of specific magnetite crystals points to a first mechanism of biomineralization,[2] and a comparison of the genome sequence of zebra fish and humans may reveal the key genes responsible for bone structures.[3]

Figure 1. On the cover of *Science* (8 February 2002): Bodybuilding with biomaterials.

Biomat.net is on the best way to become biomaterials researchers' favorite information system as it has a promising approach to unite all activities in this field, from molecular biology to production. Its quality is controlled by international adivsory and editorial boards under the leadership of editor Pedro L. Granja.

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[1] Jeffrey D. Hartgerink, Elia Beniash, Samuel I. Stupp, *Science* **2001**, *294*, 1684 – 1688.
[2] K. Grünberg, C. Waver, B. M. Tebo, D. Schüler, *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* **2001**, *67*, 4573 – 4582.
[3] Press release by Exelixis, Strasbourg, June 6, 2001.

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