

edited by Mitch Leslie

EXHIBITS

Paprika and Muscles

Luckily for science, the young Albert Szent-Györgyi (1893–1986) had a steady hand and knew anatomy. After 2 years as a frontline medic for Austria-Hungary in World War I, the future biochemist and Nobel laureate shot himself in the upper arm and blamed enemy fire. The well-placed wound liberated Szent-Györgyi from the trenches and allowed him to complete medical school.

That's one of the historical tidbits you'll find at this new biographical site. Szent-Györgyi went on to isolate vitamin C, eventually producing large quantities for research from the paprika peppers of his native Hungary. Nabbing the vitamin and discovering several steps of the Krebs cycle, the biochemical process that generates most of the cell's energy source, ATP, earned him the 1937 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine. His career spanned continents—he worked and studied across Europe before joining the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory in Massachusetts—and fields. For instance, he also identified actin, one of the proteins that power muscle contraction. Part of the National Library of Medicine's Profiles in Science series, the site stashes 72 years' worth of Szent-Györgyi's research papers, along with photos and reminiscences from colleagues.

profiles.nlm.nih.gov/WG

TOOLS

Time and Temperature

This graphing tool, created by biogeochemist Jeffrey Hicke of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, allows ecologists and other researchers to plot more than a century of U.S. temperatures without having to wrestle with often-complex climate data sets. Visitors can enter coordinates for a particular location in the lower 48 states, and the site graphs temperature anomalies—each year's deviation from the long-term average—for the nearest weather station. Plots can display maximum, minimum, and average temperatures from up to four data archives. Users can also chart aggregate values for 35 ecoprovinces, zones with similar climate and vegetation such as the chaparral of southern California.

www.nrel.colostate.edu/~jhicke/climate_data

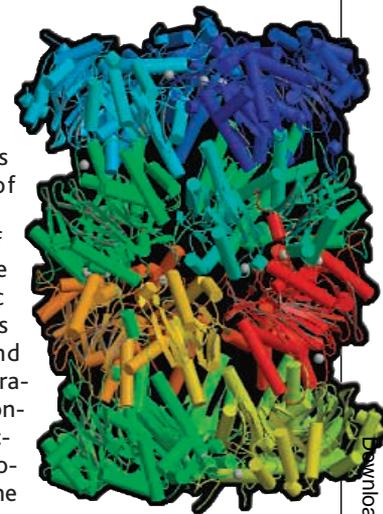


WEB TEXT

Making Sense of Metabolism

This online text can help students keep track of the multitude of chemical reactions seething within cells. Biochemistry of Metabolism, hosted by Joyce Diwan of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, is designed for college courses and includes plentiful diagrams, illustrations, and animations. The text's content runs from carbohydrate structure to the cleanup of worn-out proteins by the proteasome (right), the cell's garbage incinerator.

www.rpi.edu/dept/bcbp/molbiochem/MBWeb/mb1/MB1index.html



IMAGES

Plant Pinups

Despite its name, this Peruvian lily (*Scilla peruviana*; below) hails from the Mediterranean. The flower was the 2 June attraction at Botany Photo of the Day, a new site from the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden in Vancouver. Modeled after a similar NASA astronomy site, Botany Photo of the Day showcases photogenic plants from around the world, including many growing in the garden's collection.

www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/potd



RESOURCES

Woodpecker Watch

Even kindergartners will probably be keeping an eye out for the ivory-billed woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) after observers this spring reported that the bird, thought to be extinct, hangs on in the swamps of eastern Arkansas (*Science*, 3 June, p. 1460). If you're setting out to look for one or think you've caught a glimpse, consult this site hosted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York, which is collecting reports of sightings. You'll find tips on how to distinguish the bird from the similar pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), which is usually smaller and sports dark, not white, trailing edges on the wings. The site also offers extensive background on the ivory-bill's decline, including footage from a 1935 expedition to northern Louisiana that made the first recordings of the woodpecker's calls.

www.birds.cornell.edu/ivory/index.html

Send site suggestions to netwatch@aaas.org. Archive: www.sciencemag.org/netwatch

WEB TEXT: Making Sense of Metabolism

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