The Evolution of Enzyme Mechanisms and Functional Diversity

Janet M Thornton*¹, Nicholas Furnham, Gemma L Holliday, Sergio Martinez Cuesta, Syed Asad Rahman

Keywords: Enzyme activity, functional diversity

Abstract

Enzyme activity is essential for almost all aspects of life. With completely sequenced genomes, the full complement of enzymes in an organism can be defined, and 3D structures have been determined for many enzyme families. Traditionally each enzyme has been studied individually, but as more enzymes are characterised it is now timely to revisit the molecular basis of catalysis, by comparing different enzymes and their mechanisms, and to consider how complex pathways and networks may have evolved. New approaches to understanding enzymes mechanisms and how enzyme families evolve functional diversity will be described.

References

- 1. Martinez Cuesta S, Furnham N, Rahman SA, Sillitoe I, Thornton JM. The evolution of enzyme function in the isomerases. Current Opinion in Structural Biology (2014, 26:121-130
- 2. Gemma L. Holliday, Asad Syed Rahman, Nicholas Furnham, and Janet M. Thornton. Exploring the biological and chemical complexity of the ligases (2014), J Mol Biol Volume 426 (2014) p.2098-2111
- 3. Furnham, N, Sillitoe, I, Holliday, GL, Cuff, AL, Laskowski, RA, Orengo, CA, and Thornton, JM. Exploring the Evolution of Novel Enzyme Functions within Structurally Defined Protein Superfamilies. 2012, PLoS Comput. Biol. 8, e1002403.
- 4. <u>Rahman, Syed A., Cuesta Sergio M., Furnham Nicholas, Holliday Gemma L., and Thornton Janet M.EC-BLAST: a tool to automatically search and compare enzyme reactions.</u> Nature methods. Volume 11, (2014), p.171-4