

T H E S Y N A P T I C L E A P

Open-source biomedical research

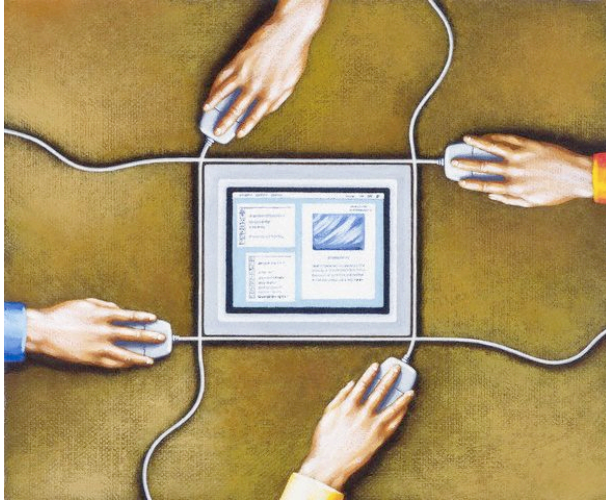


Image courtesy of Tomek Olbinski

Who We Are

The Synaptic Leap is a new organization dedicated towards accelerating medical research. Our volunteers are primarily from the software industry and have extensive portal and collaborative online experience.

Mission Statement

To provide a network of online communities which connect and empower scientific and medical researchers to conduct open-source style research.

Why We Are Doing It

We believe that effective collaborative community tools that promote transparent research and connect resources will:

1. Generate new ideas more quickly
2. Reduce redundant work

Thus, ultimately medical cures will be discovered more quickly and effectively.

Partnering with Tropical Disease Initiative

The Synaptic Leap has extensive portal software and online collaborative community experience. The Tropical Disease Initiative has extensive scientific research and biotechnology intellectual property experience. We have joined forces and with our combined strengths are building our pilot research community focusing on malaria.

The Malaria Research Community, Our Pilot

Malaria is arguably the most under-researched disease killing over a million people a year. It's time to take research on malaria to the next level. By allowing scientists working on the disease to more easily share their knowledge and exchange ideas, we hope to magnify the current efforts and help these dedicated scientists to find solutions more quickly.

Our pilot community allows scientists to create usernames for themselves, post blogs, debate ideas on discussion forums, and read aggregated news feeds from various news sources about malaria. Additionally, Dr. Marc A. Marti-Renom, a computational biologist from UCSF and a member of the Tropical Disease Initiative, is building a genome poll and collaborative tool that will allow the malaria community to comment on and rank the genes for future collaborative projects. We hope this is the first of many scientific collaborative tools that is added to The Synaptic Leap. A user-driven community is the key to success.

Our Long-Term Vision

Our vision is to provide an extensible multi-community platform for a number of diseases whereby the scientists can augment the collaborative tools with scientifically specific tools. The more research scientists who connect in, the more powerful the community.

Malaria Pilot:

<http://www.thesynapticleap.org/malaria>

Tropical Disease Initiative:

<http://www.tropicaldisease.org>

Quotes for Our Cause

"None of us is as smart as all of us" -- J. Robert Oppenheimer, head of the Manhattan Project.

"Alchemists turned into chemists when they stopped keeping secrets." -- Eric Raymond, The Cathedral and the Bazaar.

"The value of a communication system grows as approximately to the square of the number of users of the system" -- Metcalf's law