

# **Transformative High-Resolution Cryo-Electron Microscopy (CryoEM)**

# What Is CryoEM?

Cryo-Electron microscopy (CryoEM) is a method used to obtain detailed images of biological molecules in their native state. Such cryoEM images can provide fundamental insights into mechanisms of action and guide scientists in identifying potential new therapeutic targets for vaccines and drugs to combat diseases. Recent advances in cryoEM technology enable users to determine structures at unprecedented detail. However, many labs have limited expertise and lack access to the necessary high-end microscopes, slowing adoption of these powerful cryoEM technologies and progress in a range of biomedical fields.

# Why the NIH Common Fund CryoEM Program?

To address this issue, the NIH Common Fund, which supports trans-NIH programs that focus on major biomedical challenges and emerging opportunities, is seeking to improve the availability and utility of cryoEM by establishing three National Service Centers and four curriculum development efforts through the Transformative High-Resolution Cryo-Electron Microscopy program. The Centers' mission is to make cryoEM accessible by offering access to instrumentation, and training to increase the number of independent cryoEM laboratories. The CryoEM Centers (see below) have constructed new facilities and are equipping them with state-of-the-art microscopes. These centers are providing user access as indicated and onsite training (see other side). The four curriculum development efforts (see other side) are focusing on online approaches to maximize outreach and broaden impact.



Photo Credit: Veronica Falconieri, Sriram Subramaniam, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health

Find out more here: https://commonfund.nih.gov/CryoEM

## **CryoEM National Service Centers**



- Located at the SLAC National
- Accelerator Lab, Menlo Park, CA
- User proposals are being accepted for access to high-end Titan Krios and Talos Arctica instruments
- Training workshops are available through online registration. In-residence training applications being accepted now
- Four new high-end instruments will be available by summer 2020



National Center for CryoEM Access and Training

- Located at the New York Structural Biology Center, New York, NY
- User proposals are being accepted for access to Titan Krios microscopes and the Chameleon specimen preparation device
- Applications are now being accepted for embedded cross-training and facility manager training
- Four new high-end instruments (Titan Krios) will be available by spring 2020

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

- Run by Oregon Health and Science University and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, in Portland, OR
- Open for Rapid Access, Standard Access, and Programmatic Access user proposals for use of Titan Krios and Talos Arctica microscopes
- Training via group workshops, 1-on-1 cross-training and online materials
- Four high-end microscopes (Titan Krios) available for data collection and training

https://cryoem.slac.stanford.edu/s2c2/

http://nccat.nysbc.org/

https://pncc.labworks.org/





# National Centers' Onsite Training Activities

#### Stanford-SLAC CryoEM Center

Although the advanced facility is in development, the hosting center is offering training. While Short-Format Training is planned, the In-Residence Training applications are currently being accepted. Investigators, staff, postdocs or students are eligible. Applications will be competitively considered for available positions.

#### National Center for CryoEM Access & Training

Training applications can also be submitted for NCCAT's two available training programs. The Embedded Training, a 3-month immersion experience or The Facility Manager Training, open to individuals who will have amplified impact, responsible for managing, leading or training other researchers at facilities.

#### Pacific Northwest CryoEM Center

The training programs at this center are in development. Several types of training and cryoEM educational events are planned, including an Annual Symposium, Intensive Workshops, Personal Trainer Sessions, and *1–3* month Apprenticeships.

## **CryoEM Online Educational Resources**

## Online Curriculum: Getting Started in CryoEM Video Lectures

This comprehensive online cryoEM curriculum, being developed at the California Institute of Technology, covers theory and practice of major cryoEM modalities. The curriculum targets: expert users, including PIs teaching cryoEM in courses, and naïve users. The course will provide additional resources, including exam questions, review slides, and more.

Find out more here: http://cryo-em-course.caltech.edu/



#### **Online Curriculum: CryoEM 101**

This online course, currently in development at the University of Utah, will have a media-rich curriculum to supplement users' own hands-on cryoEM training. The material will contain videos, animation, and interactive simulations, covering the major components of cryoEM workflow, from sample purification to image processing.

Find more info here: https://cryoem101.org/

#### Virtual Reality Augmented Hands-On CryoEM Training

CryoVR, being developed at Purdue University, will provide virtual self-paced hands-on training to help interested users overcome constraining training barriers, such as staff time, high cost, and limited access.

Find out more here: https://www.purdue.edu/cryovr/

#### Principles of CryoEM Structure Determination

This curriculum, being developed at Yale University, will provide video, software, and an e-book to provide the foundations for understanding cryoEM image processing and reconstruction.

Find out more here: https://cryoemprinciples.yale.edu/

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