

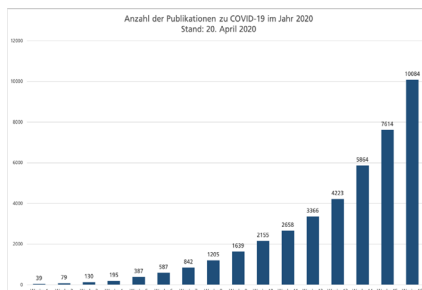
PRESS RELEASE

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Fraunhofer offers knowledge discovery tools to handle the flood of research data and information about SARS-CoV-2

With the new website „covid19-knowledgespace.de“, Fraunhofer SCAI – together with Fraunhofer IME, Fraunhofer IAIS, the Information Center for Life Sciences ZBMED and other research partners – is opening a new kind of knowledge space with analysis tools and information on COVID-19. Central services in the COVID-19 Knowledge Space are the Biomedical Knowledge Miner „BiK>Mi“ containing a highly curated cause-and-effect model for SARS-CoV-2, the literature mining environment „SCAIView“, which has been optimized for COVID-19 text mining, and a special terminology representing major entities and concepts of COVID-19.



The scientific community worldwide has taken up the fight against SARS-CoV-2, which is also reflected by the sharp increase in the number of scientific publications on this subject. More than 2000 new publications per week appeared in connection with COVID-19 at the end of April 2020. The information contained in these publications can provide decisive pointers to new active ingredients for drugs and cause-effect-relationships – if it is possible to maintain an overview. To this end, Fraunhofer SCAI has set up the new website „covid19-knowledgespace.de“.

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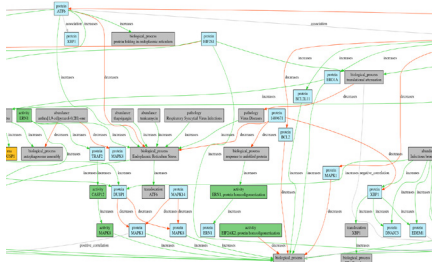
The number of publications on COVID-19 has grown sharply since the beginning of the year.

In a joint effort, the Fraunhofer institutes SCAI, IME, and IAIS, the Information Centre for Life Sciences (ZB MED), and other research partners have succeeded in providing the research community with a unique collection of analysis tools and data sources. Central offers are the Biomedical Knowledge Miner BiK>Mi, which gives access to a highly curated, knowledge based cause-and-effect model of COVID-19 and a search with the knowledge discovery service SCAIView in the research literature on COVID-19.

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BiK>Mi creates pathways of manually curated knowledge to provide users with the latest information on molecular interaction.

„We can refer to many years of experience in structuring and curating scientific data and knowledge in an indication area, however, with a focus on the field of neuroscience,” says Prof. Dr. Martin Hofmann-Apitius, Head of the Bioinformatics department at Fraunhofer SCAI. Since the corona pandemic has kept the world busy, Hofmann-Apitius and his team have applied the tools and methods developed in numerous funded projects to publications on COVID-19. The result is the new website, which shows the new possibilities opened up by translational, computational biomedicine.

The work on the COVID-19 Knowledge Space was also supported by the Institute’s spin-off company, „Causality BioModels” in Cochin, India.

The work on the COVID-19 Knowledge Space was also supported by the Institute’s spin-off company, „Causality BioModels” in Cochin, India. The company, which was founded last year, created a comprehensive cause-and-effect network based on scientific literature on the new coronavirus, providing a comprehensive overview - the COVID-19 knowledge graph - on the mechanisms underlying the pathophysiology of the virus.

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