

**THE BLINK PROJECT: A NEW BIOMEDICAL RESEARCHERS' DATABASE
(WWW.DOYOUBLINK.NET)**

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The Blink project (<http://www.doyoublink.net>) is an on-line national database for the biomedical research sector, with the goal to create the first tool in Italy to organize the vast amount of information related to the research community as a whole. Today, we are at an important crossroads: the academic world, which has long been the repository for research in our country, is seeking a new form of organization and a new identity, in order to make it more open and competitive at the international level, and our highest institutions are continually urging us to concentrate our efforts and initiatives in order to encourage more effective research.

In this context, the Schering Foundation aims to make a major contribution in one of our most active and vital research areas today, that of the biomedical sector. The database project is being developed together with La Sapienza University in Rome, the Mario Negri Institute in Milan, and the Italian Pharmacology Society, with the aim of creating an Information Technology tool that enables us to gather up-to-date information on the different areas in which research takes place, with particular reference to the pre-clinical research sector.

The database provides users with information on who is doing research (a Researchers Registry), what is being researched (with specifics on the different areas), and where the research is being carried out (via a territorial map).

All of this information will enable us to create ideal links between researchers, who will be provided with up-to-date, verified information that gives them access to a system of virtual benchmarking.

Furthermore, the gathered data, once it is analyzed and stratified, will provide a current, detailed portrait of biomedical research in Italy, thereby offering institutions a powerful tool that can help them to define new, targeted policies to provide support and/or incentives.

On the occasion of the 33th National Congress of the Italian Society of Pharmacology (Cagliari, Italy, June 2007), the Schering Foundation will present the first report based on the gathered data. Here it will also promote prizes for the best research project presented; the B-Link community will decide the winners via an online voting in the following days.