

■ **A three-dimensional crystal structure of the main protease enzyme of the SARS\* virus has been released to the public** by the Protein Data Bank (PDB), Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, US. The availability of the information to medical researchers throughout the world is crucial because the enzyme is considered the primary target for new antiviral drugs being developed to fight the disease. The actual structure was determined by Structural GenomiX, San Diego, US, which presented the data to the PDB. The information was then rapidly processed by a team at the PDB to make it available in the public database.

\* severe acute respiratory syndrome

Protein Data Bank. SARS information for antiviral drug design released by Protein Data Bank. Media Release : 30 Jul 2003. Available from: URL: <http://www.eurekalert.org> 809023894