How to Download VMD

1. You can download VMD from the following website:

http://www.ks.uiuc.edu/Development/Download/download.cgi?PackageName=VMD

2. For windows machines, choose the Windows OpenGL download option.

3. You will first need to register before you can download the software. Enter in your first name and last initial (no spaces) as your user name. Make up a 6 character password and press "continue".

4. Enter in your first and last name & your email address. Your affiliation is "Academic", the number of people using the software is "1", & you are using the software for "teaching".

5. You are not funded by NIH, so select "no" for this question. Now, re-enter your password and select "I Agree to the Terms of this License".

6. Now the download should begin. You will be asked to save the VMD installer; save it to the desktop.

7. Minimize your browser window and double click on the icon labeled "VMD 1.6". Click "setup" to extract the installer. The installer wizard will automatically load after extraction. Select "next", then "yes" (to the license agreement), then "next" 3 more times & the files should begin installing. When it is done, click finish on the installer wizard.

How to Obtain a Structure From the Protein Data Bank

1. The easiest way to so this is to simply open up VMD, select "New Molecule" from the file menu in the VMD Main window, and type in your protein's PDB ID

followed by a carriage return (hit the enter key on your keyboard). The file type drop down menu should automatically change to "Web PDB Download". If it does not, you should change this yourself. Now, just make sure you are connected to the internet and press the "load" button. It may take a few minutes for your protein to load, so be patient! 2. If you don't know your protein's PDB ID, then you can go to the Protein Data Bank site, www.rcsb.org, to get it. Scroll to the bottom of the page to where it says "Molecule of the Month". Click on the "Previous Features" link. Look for your protein in this list and click on its name. Links to the PDB Ids for structures of your protein will be located in these description pages. If there are multiple PDB Ids listed, choose the one on the last page titled "Exploring the Structure". Now that you have the PDB ID, go back and follow the instructions is step 1!