



Nome News Issue 14

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Meetings

Elspeth travelled to Odaiba, Tokyo, Japan for the start of the Human Full-length cDNA Annotation Invitational on 25th August. Scientists from over 40 organisations attended to annotate 42,000 cDNAs supplied from six databases, and we hope in due course to assign approved symbols to all of the genes identified, utilising this annotation data. This also proved a valuable forum to raise the profile of approved gene nomenclature with all the organisations present.

Elspeth and Ruth have just attended the HAWK2 Human Annotation Workshop (Cambridge, UK) 2-4 September where further discussions took place regarding standardisation of annotation for the human genome.

Sue, Hester, Elspeth and Matt will all be at this year's ASHG meeting in Baltimore (15-19 October). Please visit the HUGO/Nomenclature booth to discuss any gene names and symbols.

Gene Nomenclature Committees

Nomenclature is gaining popularity among other species beyond humans and mice. We have recently been contacted for naming advice by groups studying *Anopheles sp.* and *Trypanosoma brucei*.

Genew Search Engine Update

Since the new search engine went online, 93% of users have opted for the quick gene search option, indicating that this resolves most user queries. However, don't forget that the advanced search options are also there and can be very useful in resolving more complex queries.

Nomenclature Goes Public!

Approved gene symbols are now appearing in the [Metro](#), one of the most frequently read free daily newspapers in the UK. Recent examples include articles on [SRC](#) (Molecule 'clue' to spread of cancer, 5 Aug 02), and [FOXP2](#) ('Talk gene' puts man above apes, 15 Aug 02).

New look Homepage

We have updated the Nome Homepage to provide easier access and more links. Have a look at:

Gene Name Updates

We have updated all gene names that include molecular weight designations to conform with the SI unit for kilodaltons: kDa with no space after the molecular weight e.g. *AQP1* is aquaporin 1 (channel-forming integral protein, 28kDa).

Gene Families and Groupings

In collaboration with the Chemokine Nomenclature Committee, of the IUIS (International Union of Immunological Societies) we have updated the chemokine gene symbols in the following manner (one example from each group is shown):

New Symbol	Previous Symbol
<i>CCL1</i>	SCYA1
<i>CXCL1</i>	GRO1
<i>XCL1</i>	SCYC1
<i>CX3CL1</i>	SCYD1

If you would like to be added to our Nome News mailing list or if you have questions or comments on any human gene nomenclature issue, please email us at: hgnc@genenames.org