



Nome News Issue 18

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Meetings attended

Our new method of checking gene nomenclature via online access to the newly submitted abstracts, followed up by contacting the authors in advance of the [Human Genome Meeting \(April 27-30 2003, Cancun, Mexico\)](#) was successful. A number of authors had updated their symbols from the original abstract submission, most notably those referring to *TP53*.

The winners of this year's HUGO nomenclature competition for the highest score for correct gene symbols in a poster were Yan-Zhi Du with "Exploring the gene expression regulation networks in chronic myeloid leukemia cells after co-treatment with arsenic trioxide and Imatinib" (poster 295), and John Matese with "SOURCE: a unified resource containing functional annotations, ontologies and gene expression data" (poster 313). Yan-Zhi Du, from The Shanghai Institute of Hematology, has won a year's subscription to Nature Genetics, and John Matese from Stanford University has won a year's subscription to Nature Reviews Genetics.

Hester attended the Nomenclature Committee of IUBMB (NC-IUBMB) and IUPAC-IUBMB Joint Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature (JCBN) Meeting (May 3-4 2003, Dublin, Ireland), presenting information on the HGNC and the Virtual Gene Nomenclature Workshop. We are now looking at better ways of incorporating and updating enzyme EC numbers in Genew.

Matt and Michael presented a poster at the European Human Genetics Conference 2003 (May 3 - 6, 2003, Birmingham, England) and checked the nomenclature in over 900 posters. We were impressed by the widespread use of approved symbols and will be contacting those few authors who used non-approved symbols to advise them of the correct nomenclature.

Chromosome 14

For the publication of "The DNA sequence and analysis of human chromosome 14" by Heilig et al. (Nature 2003), we confirmed and approved 1,063 gene symbols out of 1,435 sequences sent to us; 286 of the sequences we will not be naming at present, as they either represent putative or pseudogenes of unknown genes.

Upcoming meetings

Matt will be representing the HGNC team in Australia this June and July, with a talk at the [Sixth Annual Bio-Ontologies meeting](#) (28th June) in Brisbane and a poster at the International Congress of Genetics meeting (6-11th July) in Melbourne.

Virtual Workshop

The [Virtual Gene Nomenclature Workshop](#) is still going strong. We have now identified sequence for 23% of the genes listed, and updated the locus type of over 6%. The deadline for workshop completion is 30th June 2003, so now is the time to send those stray sequences in!

Gene Families & Groupings

In consultation with researchers in the field, we have agreed a new nomenclature scheme for the vomeronasal olfactory receptors, based on the two sub-types rather than chromosomal location. The new approved stem symbol is "VN1R#", for "vomeronasal 1 receptor #".

We have radically updated the histone nomenclature system in line with the publication by Marzluff et al. (Genomics 2002) to ensure consistency with the mouse gene symbols. Thus, we have updated 72 replication-dependent histone genes with the new approved stem nomenclature of "HIST*H#^" for "histone *, H#^", where * is the chromosomal cluster, # is the histone type and ^ is the gene locus, e.g. HIST1H1A for histone 1, H1a.

We realize that this system only encompasses the replication-dependent histones and so we are also looking into updating the remaining 20 non-replication dependent genes.

Call for HGNC International Advisory Committee nominations

The HGNC relies on input from the [International Advisory Committee](#) (IAC) on a number of policy issues. The committee reaches the end of its term this year, and we are currently seeking nominations from anyone who would like to have input on human gene nomenclature issues. Please send your nominations to hgnc@genenames.org.

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