



Nome News Issue 19

Issue 19. July 2003

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Meetings

Matt is currently representing the HGNC team in Australia, having already spoken at the sixth annual [Bio-Ontologies](#) meeting (28th June) in Brisbane, he is travelling on to the International Congress of Genetics meeting (6-11th July) in Melbourne.

Gene Symbols

We have recently reviewed and updated the taste receptor nomenclature (stem symbol TAS#R#), which we are encouraged to see is being used in a number of recent publications ([Cytogenet Genome Res 2002](#), [Science 2003](#), [Physiol Genomics 2003](#)). During the nomenclature process we felt that the phenylthiocarbamide tasting gene should keep its original symbol PTC. However, due to clashes in OMIM with the alias PTC used for "papillary thyroid carcinoma" we have now agreed to assign the approved symbol TAS2R38 for "taste receptor, type 2, member 38", while maintaining both phenylthiocarbamide and PTC as search terms in our database.

ARK database

Our close working relationship with the Mouse Genomic Nomenclature Committee ([MGNC](#)) at the Jackson Laboratory has always promoted the use of consistent nomenclature for mouse and human orthologs. The [ARK database](#) has recently clarified its use of consistent nomenclature for orthologous genes in the cat, chicken, cow, deer, horse, pig, salmon, sheep, tilapia and turkey. The ARK website states that "...animal gene nomenclature should follow the rules for human gene nomenclature, including the use of identical symbols for homologous genes and the reservation of human symbols for yet unidentified animals genes".

New Nome News Editor Varsha has been assisting with the Nome News since the March 2003 edition and she has now taken over Hester's role as the Nome News editor.

Virtual Workshop

We have reached the initial deadline for our [Virtual Gene Nomenclature Workshop](#), and we would like to thank everyone who took the time and effort to send us sequence. Currently we are still collating the information and have further extended the deadline to the end of July to give us time to update all the information both online and in Genew. To date we have been able to assign sequence to 326 (24%) gene symbols and update the locus type of 83 (6%) gene symbols. We are now considering withdrawing the entries for gene symbols such as the 43 "protein spot in 2-D gel". These proteins were identified solely by electrophoresis, many years ago, and it has been suggested that it may never be possible to identify their gene sequence.

Polymorphism Nomenclature

We have had increasing numbers of requests for nomenclature for DNA segments and Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs). While we do name some genomic features for publication, e.g. LINE1 repeat elements, we do not currently provide this service for SNPs. At present we would suggest that dbSNP::rs## numbers are used to aid identification. We would welcome your comments on this issue at hgnc@genenames.org.

Chromosome Projects

For the publication of "The male-specific region of the human Y chromosome is a mosaic of discrete sequence classes" by Skaletsky et al. ([Nature 2003](#)), we confirmed and approved 99 gene symbols. However, there are still over 100 duplicated pseudogenes and ampliconic pseudogenes, which we will consider naming when further information is available.

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