



## Nome News Issue 20

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### Meetings

September sees Hester in Dublin, Eire at the International Cytokine Society Conference (20-24th September). She will be presenting a talk on "Naming novel cytokines".

Ruth will be attending the Comparative and Functional Genomics meeting in Hinxton, UK (2-5th November), where she will present a poster on the results of the Virtual Gene Nomenclature Workshop.

Sue, Elspeth, Connie and Varsha are representing HGNC at [ASHG 2003](#) in Los Angeles, USA (4-8th November). Please feel free to stop by the HUGO booth to ask about any nomenclature issues or just to say hello! Sue and Varsha will also be attending the HGVS meeting (4th November).

### Polymorphism Nomenclature

Thank you to everyone who has contacted us regarding our request for comments on polymorphism nomenclature. We would like to clarify that it is really the naming of SNPs outside genes where the greatest confusion is being generated.

For SNPs within genes, we recommend using the Human Genome Variation Society (HGVS) [mutation nomenclature guidelines](#). For example substitutions are designated by ">", such that 1997G>T denotes that at nucleotide 1997 of the reference sequence a G is changed to a T. There is also the "Proposal for an allele nomenclature system based on the evolutionary divergence of haplotypes" ([Nebert DW, Hum Mutat 2002](#)) which may be useful to authors.

The two most relevant databases identifying gene-associated and other SNP variations are [HGVBbase](#) and [dbSNP](#). Some journals now request an identifier from one of these databases for any novel SNPs that are to be published. However, some well-known polymorphisms have yet to make it into these databases.

### Virtual Workshop

As a direct result of the Virtual Gene Nomenclature Workshop 593 gene symbols (44% of the 1355 symbols we started with) now have sequence data associated with them. We have updated the locus types of a further 197 gene symbols. We have also marked 33 gene entries for withdrawal, as we were unable to locate any evidence of their existence. Please view the list and let us know if you disagree with the withdrawal of any of these gene entries. This list will be updated regularly, so watch this space!

### Gene Symbols

We were disappointed to see that the chromosome 7 publication (Hillier LW et al, Nature 2003) contained some symbol errors. Unfortunately, this has already led to some confusion regarding the synonym RIP60. We would ask all sequencing groups to get in touch with us as soon as possible and at least six weeks before initial manuscript submission to enable us to verify and approve the gene symbols.

### Nomenclature in Other Species

We have amended our [guidelines](#) to include new recommendations for the nomenclature of human Corf orthologs in other animals. For example, a pig ortholog of the human C7orf10 on pig chromosome 1 would be referred to as C1H7orf10 with the gene name: chromosome 1, human chromosome 7 open reading frame 10. This has been agreed jointly with the Mouse Genomic Nomenclature Committee ([MGNC](#)).

The proposal to eliminate capitalized gene symbols in Drosophila gene nomenclature could possibly affect up to 73 of the 328 human genes whose names are based on or make a reference to, their orthology to Drosophila genes. If the Drosophila community accept this proposal we will need to decide whether to reflect any changes in the nomenclature of the affected human orthologs and we are interested in your opinion on this.

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](mailto:hgnc@genenames.org)