



Nome News Issue 21

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Guideline Update

We have updated the [guidelines](#) to include the approval of the KIAA# identifiers as temporary symbols. We will not be approving all the KIAA# identifiers, only those needed for publications when no other information is known about the gene. It is intended that these temporary symbols will be changed when function is identified.

Meetings

Sue, Elspeth, Connie and Varsha represented the HGNC at ASHG 2003 in Los Angeles, USA (4-8th November). We scanned the ASHG abstracts in advance, finding only 32 that did not use approved symbols (in comparison to 46 last year). Once again we prepared letters explaining about approved gene symbols and placed them in the pigeon holes at ASHG, asking the authors to visit the booth to discuss their posters with us.

Fanconi anemia gene nomenclature

The gene symbols for Fanconi anemia (FA) genes carry the root *FANC#*, followed by a letter, to be assigned in alphabetical order in order of discovery. If a gene with an existing approved symbol is identified as a FA causing gene, the original gene symbol is usually maintained and an appropriate *FANC#* gene symbol may be assigned as an alias. Nomenclature guidelines agreed with the community are available from our [website](#).

Approved Symbols in Nature

[Nature](#) are the latest journal to insist on the use of approved symbols for all their human chromosome papers. They now require a letter from the authors stating that they are working with the HGNC, followed by an email from us before the paper is finally accepted for publication.

HUGO Human Genome Meeting (HGM2004)

We are already checking gene nomenclature for the HGM conference, through online access to the newly submitted abstracts. This will enable us to contact the authors in advance of the meeting ensuring the use of approved symbols.

Symbols for Chromosome 6

For the 2003 publication of "The DNA sequence and analysis of human chromosome 6" by Mungall *et al.* we confirmed and approved 1,010 gene symbols for the gene sequences sent to us prior to publication. They reported evidence-supported identification of 1,557 genes and 633 pseudogenes. We will also be assigning symbols to the 633 pseudogenes

Visit by MGNC

We will be exchanging information with the [Mouse Genome Nomenclature Committee](#) more directly this November when they visit London. This will give us a valuable opportunity for discussion, particularly on the assignment of orthologous gene symbols.

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