



Nome News Issue 23

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Wellcome Trust Funding

We are very happy to announce the success of our application to the Wellcome Trust Functional Genomics Development Initiative (FGDI) for Biomedical resources, collections and databases. This is in conjunction with the [Mouse Genomic Nomenclature Committee](#) (MGNC), and the three year funding will support the development of resources in two key areas:

Human and Mouse Orthologous Annotation (HUMOT) - Co-ordinating the naming of genes from the human and mouse transcriptome projects to reduce confusion by ensuring that the same genes in both organisms are given the same gene symbol.

Human Gene Ontology Annotation (HUGOA) - Assigning standard terms to describe the biological processes, molecular functions and cellular components (Gene Ontology) to human gene products during the nomenclature process.

We will soon be advertising for positions in these areas, so watch this space.

Olfactory Receptors

Following continuing refinements to the human genome sequence data we have been asked to approve a further 92 new olfactory receptor (OR) symbols. However, along with these updates, approximately 100 OR gene records will need to be merged to remove duplicates. This will result in 980 approved OR symbols. We would very much like to thank Janet Young ([Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)) and Tsviya Olender ([The Human Olfactory Receptor Data Exploratorium](#)) for their assistance with this.

Meetings

Sue, Hester and Elspeth will be in Berlin for the [HUGO Human Genome Meeting 2004](#) (4-7th April). We will be sharing a booth with Lois Maltais from the [MGNC](#), so please do stop by to ask about any nomenclature issues or just to say hello! Prior to the main meeting, Sue will be attending the [Human Genome Variation Society meeting](#) and Hester will be one of the tutors at the "Utilising the Human Genome Sequence Workshop" organized by the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute.

HGNC International Advisory Committee

We would like to welcome the following new members to the [IAC](#):

Rolf Apweiler

[Head of Sequence Database Group at EBI, UK](#)

Tom Bonner

[Chief of Gene Discovery Unit, National Institute of Mental Health, USA](#)

Chris Gunter

[Editor of Nature, USA](#)

Todd Taylor

[Genome Mapping and Resources Team Leader at Riken Genomic Science Center, Japan](#)

Peter Turnpenny

[Royal Devon and Exeter Healthcare Trust, UK](#)

Server Maintenance

Due to essential hardware maintenance, HGNC services will be reduced for a maximum of four days in March/April. During this time we may not have the facilities to answer your queries as promptly as normal. If you have not received a reply to your email within two weeks, please resend the information. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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