



Nome News Issue 24

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Meetings attended

Elspeth gave an invited talk about nomenclature at the [HUGO Human Genome Meeting 2004](#) (HGM2004). This was included in the Genome Annotation and Bioinformatics session and outlined our role in the human genetics community, whilst briefly touching on some of the problems we have encountered naming a variety of genomic features.

The winners of the HGM2004 nomenclature competition for the use of approved gene symbols in a poster were: Peter Karlskov-Mortensen (The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Denmark) with "Comparative mapping of porcine chromosome 17" ([poster 230](#)), who has won a year's subscription to Nature Genetics and Geraldine Grant (George Mason University, USA) with "TGF beta 1-mediated genes in cultured chondrocytes" ([poster 84](#)), who has won a year's subscription to Nature Reviews Genetics.

Hester represented the HGNC at the Annual NC-IUBMB and JCBN meeting in London (1-2 May 2004).

MicroRNAs

In conjunction with the [Mouse Genomic Nomenclature Committee](#) (MGNC) we have approved 176 MIRN symbols. We have used the numbering scheme implemented by the [Rfam database](#) (which is based on the mature miRNA sequences), while adapting the stem symbol to conform with our guidelines.

Genes determining two different precursor sequences that express identical mature sequences have been assigned the same alpha-numeric stem symbol with distinguishing hyphenated numbers e.g. MIRN101-1 and MIRN101-2. Different but related mature sequences have been assigned the same alpha-numeric stem symbol with distinguishing letters e.g. MIRN106A and MIRN106B.

Server Maintenance

We have recently upgraded our server, but due to ongoing security issues we have had to temporarily disable our FTP service. We apologize for the inconvenience caused and would like to assure you that we are working hard to get the service back online as soon as possible.

Nomenclature for referees

We are renewing our campaign to ensure approved gene symbols in publications. Please support us by commenting on gene nomenclature when you review manuscripts. Please insist that approved gene symbols are used, preferably throughout the manuscript but at least in the title and abstract. Sometimes it may be worth reminding authors that 'Electronic retrieval of these data would be greatly helped by use of approved gene symbols'.

Chromosome Projects

We are currently working on the nomenclature for the genes on 14 chromosomes. We have also assigned gene symbols to the recently published DNA sequence for human chromosomes 13 (Dunham A. et al. 2004) and 19 (Grimwood J. et al. 2004).

Publications

Imanishi T, ... Bruford E, et al. [Integrative Annotation of 21,037 Human Genes Validated by Full-Length cDNA Clones](#). PLoS Biology. 2004. Volume 2, Issue 6

Dunham A, ...Wright M, et al. The DNA sequence and analysis of human chromosome 13. Nature. 2004. 428(6982):522-8

Upcoming Meetings

Matt will be representing the HGNC at the [29th FEBS Congress](#) (26 June - 1 July 2004) in Warsaw, Poland where he will be presenting the poster Family Matters - Naming Genes Within Families.

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