



Nome News Issue 25

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Hester Leaving

We are very sorry to announce that Hester is leaving the HGNC after seven years, four of which she has been project manager. Hester has made an enormous contribution to the development of the nomenclature team as an efficient and high profile group, and the fact that the value of this work is increasingly recognized. She will be greatly missed and we wish her every success in her new position.

Wellcome Trust Positions

We are pleased to announce that we have now filled the Wellcome Trust funded positions. Ruth has been appointed to the post of Human Gene Ontology Annotation (HUGOA) curator, and Matt as the Human and Mouse Orthologous Annotation (HUMOT) curator. Michael has been appointed to the HUGOA Gene Nomenclature Bioinformatics Support position. Congratulations to them all!

Watch this space, as we hope to make further appointments in the near future.

Update to HGNC Guidelines

Our guidelines have recently been updated with regard to splice variants, multiple promoters and pseudogenes. Please view the updated [guidelines](#).

Recent Publications

Humphray, ...Povey S, et al. [The DNA sequence and analysis of human chromosome 9](#). Nature. 2004 May 27;429(6990):369-74

Deloukas, ...Lovering RC, et al. [The DNA sequence and comparative analysis of human chromosome 10](#). Nature. 2004 May 27;429(6990):375-81

Peptidase Nomenclature

The [IUPAC-IUBMB Joint Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature](#) (JCBN) and the [MEROPS database](#) advocate the use of the word 'peptidase' to describe enzymes that hydrolyze peptide bonds. In Genew, we have historically used a combination of 'protease' (153 records), 'proteinase' (104 records) and 'peptidase' (78 records) in approved gene names.

These are just four of the gene families affected by this issue:

ADAM - a disintegrin and metalloproteinase domain #
 ADAMTS - a disintegrin-like and metalloprotease (reprolysin type) with thrombospondin type 1 motif, #
 SERPIN - serine (or cysteine) proteinase inhibitor, clade #, member #
 CASP - caspase #, apoptosis-related cysteine protease (interleukin 1, beta, convertase)

We have the following three options and would like your opinion as to which of these you support:

- 1) Change 'protease' and 'proteinase' in all approved gene names to 'peptidase', with the previous names included in Genew as a synonyms
- 2) Exclusive use of 'peptidase' for new gene names, leaving previously approved gene names as they are
- 3) Continue to use 'protease', 'proteinase' and 'peptidase'

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