



## Nome News Issue 30

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### Meetings attended

Sue, Elspeth, Matt and Connie attended the HUGO [HGM2005](#) conference in Kyoto, Japan (18-21 April). They shared a booth with Lois Maltais from Mouse Genome Informatics ([MGI](#)), and Susan Bromberg from the Rat Genome Database ([RGD](#)), so that any questions concerning human, mouse and rat orthologous genes could be answered.

Poster prizes of a year's subscription to Nature Genetics and Nature Reviews Genetics, respectively, were awarded for the highest number of correct approved gene symbols to Masaru Katoh, for his poster (no. 209) entitled "Comparative genomics and proteomics for comprehensive characterization of genes within the human genome" and to Santos Alonso Alegre for poster no. 355, "Phylogenetic and population-genetic analysis of candidate loci in human pigmentation". We would like to thank the Nature Publishing Group for their continued support of these prizes, and especially Myles Axton, Editor of [Nature Genetics](#), for his reminder to HGM attendees of the importance of approved nomenclature in effective scientific communication.

Following HGM2005 we organised a closed meeting with [MGI](#), [H-Invitational](#) and [RIKEN](#). We all have an interest in providing a common nomenclature for human and mouse orthologous genes, and it is hoped that further collaboration between these groups, and utilisation of the data in the human and mouse transcriptome datasets, will help further this aim.

### Hot Topic

A reminder that we are still canvassing for opinions on our latest hot topic: 'Does it matter if a disease phenotype and its causative cloned gene have the SAME symbol?' Read about the problem on our hot topic page and email [hgnc@genenames.org](mailto:hgnc@genenames.org) to cast your vote.

### GAPD becomes GAPDH

Historically the housekeeping enzyme glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase was approved with the symbol GAPD. However, this gene is more commonly known as GAPDH, and this is the symbol used in most publications. Therefore the committee has decided to change GAPD to GAPDH. There are a number of GAPDH pseudogenes and the symbols for these will be updated too.

### Mitochondrial Gene Nomenclature

Symbols for the 37 coding genes encoded in the human mitochondrial genome have recently been updated. Each of these symbols now has an added hyphen after the "MT" prefix, e.g. MTATP6 is now MT-ATP6. This change means that the human and mouse mitochondrially encoded genes now have the same symbols; e.g. MT-ATP6 and mt-Atp6 respectively. In addition it will be easier to search for these genes in the public databases using the term "[MT-](#)"; previously this was problematic since many other genes have approved symbols that also begin with "MT", such as non-coding mitochondrial genes and genomic features (these are now searchable using the term "mitochondrially encoded"), the metallothioneins, and nuclear encoded genes whose products act in the mitochondria.

### Tetraspanin Nomenclature

In the spirit of re-organisation, we have also been working on the tetraspanin family. Thirty two tetraspanin family members are now either approved with the root symbol TSPAN# or have the root symbol TSPAN# as an alias. The remaining 6 TM4SF#s have the new name: transmembrane 4 L six family member #. As TM4SF10 and 11 did not fall in the tetraspanin or L6 families they have been renamed TMEM47 (transmembrane protein 47) and PLLP (plasma membrane proteolipid (plasmolipin)).

### Upcoming Meetings

Varsha will be attending the GO Annotation Camp organised by the GO consortium and to be held at Stanford University from 1-4 June. She is the second member of the team to be trained in GO annotation as part of the HUGOA project.

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Elspeth on being elected to the [HUGO council](#). Thanks to everyone who voted for her, we look forward to having the HGNC represented at the highest level within HUGO.

### Publication

Suske G, Bruford E, Philipsen S. Mammalian SP/KLF transcription factors: Bring in the family. *Genomics* 2005; **85**(5):551-6 ([PMID 15820306](#)).

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)

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