



Nome News Issue 36

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Upcoming Meetings

GO Annotation Camp

Ruth will be attending the [GO Annotation Camp](#) at Stanford University, California (July 10-14).

ICHG

Elspeth will be attending the 11th International Congress of Human Genetics in Brisbane, Australia (August 6-10).

Meetings Attended

HGM2006

Sue, Elspeth, Matt, Ruth, Tam and Varsha attended the 11th HUGO Human Genome Meeting, [HGM2006](#) in Helsinki, Finland in May. The HGNC team presented 3 posters entitled HCOP: The HGNC Comparison of Orthology Prediction Search Tool; Variable Copy Number Gene Nomenclature; and Gene Nomenclature and Gene Ontology, the Perfect Partnership? The HGNC also shared a booth with Lois Maltais of the Mouse Genomic Nomenclature Committee ([MGNC](#)), where we welcomed researchers with queries about gene nomenclature.

The HGNC poster prizes were awarded to J. Ollila, University of Tampere, Finland for an impressive summary of KEGG pathways involved in B cell activation and V.M. Kavsan, Institute of Neurosurgery, Ukraine for an interesting comparison of microarray and SAGE techniques in human glioblastoma. Ollila received a year's subscription to Nature Genetics; Kavsan received a year's subscription to Nature Reviews Genetics. Many thanks to the Nature Publishing Group for their continued support of these prizes.

HGNC/HGVS Side Meeting

HGNC and HGVS ([Human Genome Variation Society](#)) also organised a [satellite meeting](#) at HGM2006. The focus of this meeting was Copy Number Variation (CNV) and ~80 people were in attendance with invited talks from Evan Eichler, John Armour and Xavier Estivill. During the meeting it was agreed that a method of naming CNV genes was required and a discussion followed with suggestions for how this could be achieved.

The HGNC concluded the meeting with a [summary](#) of main points which will shortly be refined and incorporated into our [Guidelines](#). These points include the premise that a "CNV symbol" will be a new category in the HGNC database, with a unique symbol identifier which can be placed on a reference genome and the CNV symbol entry will include a link to the [Database of Genomic Variants](#).

HGNC will provide a "CNV symbol" upon request when the following criteria are reached: the "CNV gene" is listed in the [Database of Genomic Variants](#); NCBI and VEGA (if annotated by VEGA) agree upon the co-ordinates for the CNV copy in a reference sequence; the "CNV genes" are greater than 97% identical.

Hot Topic

We are still canvassing for opinion on our current hot topic of 'Nomenclature in Other Species'.

Nomenclature in Other Species

The authority for HGNC to name human genes derived originally from the human genetics community and has, in general, been accepted by others with an interest in human genes. Working in parallel with the [MGNC](#) we have developed nomenclature which has been adopted by the species-specific nomenclature committees of other mammals and some more distant species. However, there are several mammalian species which, as far as we are aware, do not have a dedicated gene nomenclature committee. Examples include the chimp, macaque and dog. In principle, should the HGNC take on the task of naming the genes in some of these species? And if so, which?

See here for details and email your comments and suggestions to us at hgnc@genenames.org

Gene Nomenclature in Publications

The HGNC realise the crucial role journals should play in the task of aiding information retrieval. One way that we feel would greatly improve data disambiguation would be if more publications followed the lead taken by journals such as [Nature Genetics](#), [Genomics](#) and [Genome Research](#) in enforcing the use of approved gene nomenclature.

To this end we are planning to target [journals](#) that we feel currently could do more to encourage authors to use standardised nomenclature. Hence we would welcome feedback from you as readers, authors, reviewers, editors and staff of journals, as to which journals our efforts should be directed towards, and also which journals strive to reduce confusion.

Please email us (hgnc@genenames.org) with your comments. **Publications**

Gregory SG, ... Lush MJ, *et al.* **The DNA sequence and biological annotation of human chromosome 1.** Nature. 2006 May18;441(7091):315-321. PMID:[16710414](#)

Muzny DM, ... Wright MW, *et al.* **The DNA sequence, annotation and analysis of human chromosome 3.** Nature. 2006 Apr27;440(7088):1194-8. PMID:[16641997](#)

Maltais LJ, Lovering RC, *et al.* **New nomenclature for Fc receptor-like molecules.** Nat Immunol. 2006 May;7(5):431-2. PMID:[16622424](#)

Zody MC, ... Khodiyar VK, *et al.* **DNA sequence of human chromosome 17 and analysis of rearrangement in the human lineage.** Nature. 2006 Apr20;440(7087):1045-9. PMID:[16625196](#)

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

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