



Nome News Issue 39

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Hot Topic Update

Our recent Hot Topic on potentially offensive gene names gained international media attention with items appearing in Nature Online and such prominent publications as the New York Times and the UK Guardian. Sue was also interviewed on Radio 5 Live and the BBC World service

HCOP Expanded

The HGNC Comparison of Orthology Predictions search tool, [HCOP](#), enables users to compare orthologs predicted for a specified human gene, or set of human genes. HCOP was originally designed to show orthology predictions between human and mouse and was then expanded earlier this year to include rat and chicken.

Now with the recent addition of dog and fruitfly there are currently 6 genomes available for comparison in HCOP. We have also expanded the number of available orthology resources so that in addition to the Ensembl, HGNC, HomoloGene, Inparanoid, MGI and PhIGs databases we now include Treefam, and PhyOP (a dog-human specific dataset, see [Ponting & Goodstadt, 2006](#)).

Users can assess the reliability of the prediction from the number of these different sources that identify a particular orthologous pair. We intend to further expand HCOP to include orthology information from other orthology prediction databases and other species, and would welcome your comments and suggestions.

Upcoming Meetings

HGM2007

The 12th HUGO Human Genome Meeting, [HGM2007](#), will be held from 21-24th May 2007 in Montreal, Canada. Early Bird Discounts are available for [registrations](#) made before the 16th February 2007.

GO Consortium meeting 2007

Ruth will be attending the GOC Meeting to be held at Jesus College, Cambridge on 7-10th January 2007. Ruth will be presenting a poster discussing the contributions made by HGNC to the Gene Ontology.

Meetings Attended

IMGC 2006

Matt attended the 20th International Mammalian Genome Conference held in Charleston, South Carolina, USA from 12th to 16th November, where he presented a poster on "HCOP: The HGNC Comparison of Orthology Predictions Search Tool". He also met with Lois Maltais (MGI) and Mary Shimoyama (RGD) to discuss human, mouse and rat gene nomenclature issues, and attended the "International Committee on Standardized Nomenclature for Mice" annual meeting.

Perl Workshop

Tam and Michael attended the 2006 London Perl Workshop (<http://london.pm.org/lpw/> a one day, grass-roots, free Perl conference) There was the usual eclectic mix of talks ranging from web frameworks through to the problems of parsing postcodes and solving Sudoku with 'regular expressions'! We would like to congratulate the organisers for staging another informative and entertaining meeting.

Histone Nomenclature Review

The HGNC is in the process of reviewing the nomenclature of all human histone genes. We, therefore, welcome and encourage input from the research community in order to establish a histone nomenclature system that will ideally be used by researchers in future publications, and incorporated into our database, the [Histone Sequence Database](#), and all the major genome databases.

To comment on the problems of the current nomenclature system and/or to propose a new nomenclature system, please consult the [Histone gene nomenclature review](#) page and email hgnc@genenames.org.

NLR family nomenclature proposal

A new nomenclature system for members of the NLR gene family has been approved following extensive discussions with the scientific community. This family includes: CIITA, CARD15, CARD4, CARD12, CIAS1, BIRC1 and NALP1-14 and the new nomenclature can be viewed at the following [page](#).

Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for 2007 from the HGNC Team

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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