



HGNC Newsletter Winter 2010-2011

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There are currently **30124** approved symbols

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HGNC would like to wish you all the best for 2011

In this newsletter: we celebrate a symbol number milestone and introduce our new and improved Quick Gene Search tool.

An HGNC landmark

We are pleased to announce that we have now approved over 30,000 symbols! Over 19,000 of these symbols represent protein-coding genes; over 6500 represent pseudogenes and over 2500 represent non-protein-coding RNA genes. To view full details of the type of genes that we have named, visit our statistics and downloads page at www.genenames.org/stats.

Quick Gene Search: new and improved

We are pleased to announce that we have recently released an updated Quick Gene Search which has added functionality compared to the previous simple search. You can use this tool to search for multiple symbols, symbol aliases, keywords (such as parts of gene names) or database IDs. You can also choose to search for a result that contains (the default search), begins or equals your search term by selecting the appropriate radio button.

Quick Gene Search ranks your results in order of relevance. For example, a search for results that contain "AKAP1" returns the approved gene symbol *AKAP1* at the top of the results list, genes that have approved symbols containing AKAP1 such as *AKAP10* and *AKAP11* are further down the list, genes with symbol aliases that contain this term such as *AKAP110*, a symbol alias for *AKAP3*, are further still down the results list. The results table has a "Best Match" column so you can see why each result has been returned. Results are now paginated and you can select the number of results per page; the default is 20 but you can choose to display 50, 100, 500 or all results within one page. To view more information on a result, click on the approved symbol which will take you through to the HGNC Symbol Report for that particular gene.

Gene symbols in the news

Many of our approved symbols made it into the international media during recent months. A number of genes were reported as showing associations with various aspects of human

behaviour: a mutation in the *HTR2B* gene has been linked to [violent behaviour](#); individuals with the same variant of the *DRD2* gene were reported as being likely to befriend one another while individuals with the same variant of the *CYP2A6* gene are apparently [more likely to avoid each other](#); variations in the *SLC1A1* gene have been associated with [obsessive compulsive disorder](#).

There have also been several reports on gene variants that predispose individuals towards different diseases: a variation in the *CLCNKA* gene expressed in the kidney has been linked to [an increase risk of heart failure](#); people with a mutated *MCC* gene are [predisposed to developing colorectal cancer](#) but their tumours respond well to radiotherapy; a mutation of the *AIP* gene has been shown to cause gigantism. This solves the mystery of a famous 18th century "giant". Analysis of DNA from the skeleton of Charles Byrne, which is on display in the Hunterian museum, shows that he carried an *AIP* gene mutation causing a pituitary tumour which would have caused [an increase in secretion of growth hormone](#).

Meeting News

Ruth attended the nomenclature session of the "Proteins with a BPI/LBP/Plunc-like domain: revisiting the old and characterizing the new" meeting on the 6th January in Nottingham, UK. Many ideas were discussed for the nomenclature of genes within the "PLUNC" branch of this family. These ideas will be further discussed over the next few months.

Publications

Holmes RS, Wright MW, Laulederkind SJ, Cox LA, Hosokawa M, Imai T, Ishibashi S, Lehner R, Miyazaki M, Perkins EJ, Potter PM, Redinbo MR, Robert J, Satoh T, Yamashita T, Yan B, Yokoi T, Zechner R, Maltais LJ. **Recommended nomenclature for five mammalian carboxylesterase gene families: human, mouse, and rat genes and proteins.** *Mamm Genome*. 2010 Oct;21(9-10):427-41. PMID: [20931200](#)

Seal RL, Gordon SM, Lush MJ, Wright MW, Bruford EA. **genenames.org: the HGNC resources in 2011.** *Nucleic Acids Res*. 2011 Jan;39(Database issue):D514-9. PMID: [20929869](#)

If you would like to be added to our HGNC Newsletter 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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