The Promise and Challenges of the Human Genome Program





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Human Genome Project: A Scientific Revolution





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Sequence the 3.1647 billion base pairs of human DNA and identify the ~26,000 genes contained in the human genome



First Genome Sequenced 1995

25 thousand sequences

6.25 x 10⁸ pair wise comparisons



"so we should venture on the study of every kind of animal without distaste; for each and all will reveal to us something natural and something beautiful."

Aristotle's "On the Parts of Animals"

Microbial Genomes



Burkholderia cepacia





Cytophaga hutchinsonii



Desulfitobacterium halfniense



Enterococcus faecium



Ferroplasma acidarmanus



Magnetospirillum magnetotacticum



Nitrosomonas europaea



Prochlorococcus marinus



Pseudomonas fluorescens



Rhodobacter sphaeroides



Rhodopseudomonas palustris



Sphingomonas aromaticivorans



Thermomonospora fusca



Xylella Trichodesmium fastidiosa erythraeum



Nostoc punctiforme



Marine synechococcusß



Magnetococcus *MC-1*

White House Announcement



Important Dates in Genomics

1986 DOE announces Human Genome Initiative

1990 DOE & NIH join forces and launch the Human Genome Project (HGP)

2000 Completion of the working draft by the HGP and Celera

2003 Finished human genome delivered on the 50th anniversary of the Watson-Crick paper



Genome Transplantation



Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications

An integral component of the Human Genome Project

Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues Raised by Advances in Genetics

- Genetics and race
- Genomics, stem cells, and cloning
- Germline gene therapy
- Use of genetic technology for "enhancement"
- Gene patenting
- Education of the public and health providers

There is no Shortage of Concerns



The Sequence is Only the Beginning



BY AUTH FOR THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER



- Predictive genetic tests available for a dozen conditions
- Interventions to reduce risk available for several of these
- Gene therapy successful for several conditions
- Many primary care providers begin to practice genetic medicine
- Reasonably effective federal legislative solutions to genetic discrimination and privacy in place in U.S.
- Access remains inequitable, especially in developing world



- Gene-based designer drugs for diabetes, hypertension, etc., available and highly effective
- Cancer therapy is precisely targeted to molecular fingerprint of tumor
- Dx/Rx pharmacogenomic approach is standard practice for many drugs
- Mental illness diagnosis transformed, new therapies under study, societal views shifting



- Comprehensive genomics-based health care is the norm
 - Individualized preventive medicine available
 - Environmental factors and their interaction with genotype, pinpointed for many diseases
 - Illnesses are detected early by molecular surveillance
 - Gene therapy and gene-based drug therapy available for many diseases
- Full computer model of human cell replaces many laboratory experiments
- Average life span reaches 90 years, stressing prior socioeconomic norms
- Major anti-technology movements active in U.S., elsewhere

Proteins: The Workhorses of a Cell





Ari and Marista Patrinos at the HGP closure From Haristic Check to F

HUMAN GENOME ROW Lyrics paraphrased by Ari Patrinos from Bob Dylan's "Desolation Row" 1965)

They're handing out postcards of the genome They're painting the sequence brown NIH is filled with groupies The circus is in town Here comes the great Jim Watson They've got him in a trance One hand's tied to the double helix The other's in his parts And all the sequencers are restless They need somewhere to go As Francis Collins looks out tonight From Human Genome Row

Now, some of the gaps are stubborn Repeat regions are to blame Genbank's Prince Lipman Will treat them all just the same All except some on one and two and four Eight, seventeen and how Everybody will have to do With what's in there for now And the great Francis, he's dressing He's getting ready for the show He's going to the carnival tonight On Human Genome Row

So, at midnight imperial Guyer And all his superhuman crew Come out and round up everyone Who knows more than they do And they bring them to Bethesda Where the know-it-all machine Is strapped across their shoulder And then upon the screen Flash very tough instructions From program managers who go Check to see that nobody's escaping From Human Genome Row Dr. Mike, he wants the world To fit inside Bermuda's cup While all the microbe lovers Are trying to blow it up Don and Babara at Science are fretting They wanna have a serious role While Francis and disciples Chant "have mercy on their soul" They all play on penny whistles You can hear them blow If you lean your head out far enough From Human Genome Row

Now, DOE is looking out the window For her I feel so afraid On her twenty-fifth birthday She already is an old maid For her, nuclear waste is quite romantic She wears plutonium shrouds Her profession is nuclear weapons Her sins are her mushoom clouds And though her eyes are fixed upon Physics' great rainbow She spends her time peeking Into Human Genome Row

Across this town they nailed the curtains They're getting ready for the feast And the mighty Francis Collins A perfect image of a priest They're spoonfeeding Patrinos To get him to feel more assured Then they'll kill him with self-confidence After poisoning him with words And Branscomb's shouting to Rubin Get outa here if you don't know Ari's just been punished For strolling Human Genome Row