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From: McKay, Dan [SMTP:dmckay@cookroach.com]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2000 12:07 AM
To: mark.nagumo@uspto.gov
Subject: comments

I would object to any patenting of cDNA fragments, proteins, applications, etc. These projects are generally government funded or backed by private investors. The work is going to occur regardless. There is no need to give these companies or institutions a substantial windfall by granting them patents. Also, if patents are granted, there will be a race to obtain patents and subsequent litigation (and lawyers' fees) over issues such as priority and the scope of the patents. All of these dead weight costs should be avoided as a matter of public policy. Therefore, I would not allow patents on any aspect of the human genome. I think it is also immoral and generally outside the framework of the patent laws to grant patents on products of nature.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.