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This is a personal comment.

While I have no supporting documentation or legal precedent I would like to make a comment on the issue of patenting of the human genome.

I would like to state that the patenting in part or in whole of the human genome is a mistake and should not be allowed. For an individual or a company to claim ownership of this is an affront to humanity. Patents are intended to protect inventions. But nothing has been invented here. The human genome has existed for millions of years and belongs to no one person or entity. We share it in common and as such it is a resource that should be owned by all.

What if Issak Newton had patented the Laws of gravity. Would NASA have to pay a royalty every time it made a calculation in order to send the shuttle into space, or would a child have to pay every time he threw a ball. Obviously this is absurd.

The argument has been put forward that the lack of patents would stifle innovation. If this is the case then we will just have to take the chance. Certainly patents should be awarded for the products of this discovery or the methods by which the discoveries are made but the contents, the genome itself should remain public source since it is the property of humanity.

Toby