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David Brautigan

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From: David Brautigan [SMTP:db8g@virginia.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2000 3:59 PM
To: linda.therkorn@uspto.gov
Subject: patenting of DNA sequences

Dear PTO:

Though there already has been patenting of biological materials, I am concerned that patenting of segments of genes, or specific DNA sequence regions, including those identified by expressed sequence tags (ESTs), will impede the more complete characterization of these genes and delay or restrict the exploration and application of genetic materials for the public good.

I do support the patenting of genes where the complete DNA sequence is known and a function of the gene product is determined and there is a specific and narrow application. If possible I would advocate that no restrictions be applied on the non-commercial use of these genes. This would allow for research applications without encumbrances of approvals, licensing, etc.

I urge that you apply high standards of "specific, substantial, and credible" evidence in conferring patents to DNA sequences, as recommended by the National Institutes of Health.

Sincerely

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