

Mouse Tales

Quality is our highest priority

Beginning in November, we are implementing a blind sample screening policy. You will be able to submit up to 1% of your total monthly volume as blind samples that we will pay to process. The samples chosen would have been previously typed (either in your lab or by us) and all we ask is that you alert us after processing to which samples were tested and whether the genotypes were consistent with previous results so that we may improve our QA/QC records. More details on this program will be available shortly. If you're interested in participating, please let your Genotyping Consultant know.



\$\$\$ Funding Opportunities \$\$\$

- * Genetic Variants of Complex Disease. The National Human Genome Research Institute has issued an RFA for projects designed to identify genetic variants associated with complex diseases. They have \$27.5 million to fund 3-5 grants over 4 years. Letters of intent are due October 19, 2007, with the applications due November 19. In conjunction with this RFA, there will be an additional grant of \$3.1 million to establish a Coordinating Center for the grants awarded. One of the center's main goals will be to "develop criteria and methods for identifying highly-replicated, putative causal variants suitable for detailed epidemiologic pursuit within individual population studies." Additional information can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HG-07-014.html>.
- * New Methods for Genomic Analysis and Visualization Technologies. The National Cancer Institute has issued an RFA for projects aimed at "exploratory projects looking at the development of highly innovative and novel advanced genomic data analysis methods and visualization technologies." Of particular interest to the Institute are new methods to identify previously unknown associations between genomic alterations, pathways, and cancer. The \$2 million earmarked for this RFA will fund 6-10 grants for one year. Applications are due December 10. More information can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-CA-08-005.html>.
- * \$1000 Genome. Eight related RFAs have been issued by the National Human Genome Research Institute to develop tools to lower the cost of sequencing the human genome to \$100,000 and eventually \$1,000. A total of \$20 million has been set aside for these various projects. More information on all of these RFAs can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HG-07-016.html>.
- * RNAi and Other Methods to fight Oral Disease. The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research has issued an RFA for projects that aim to utilize simple technologies, including RNAi that modify the expression of genes associated with oral, dental, and craniofacial diseases and disorders". NIDCR hopes to fund 5-10 grants with a total of \$2.5 million. More information can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DE-08-005.html>.



Current Events

In a recent issue of Nature, a group of French and Italian researchers have sequenced the complete genome of a Pinot Noir variety which led to insights into how wine production may have evolved over the centuries. They describe gene duplication events that provide more copies of genes responsible for the production of essential oils and other compounds linked to the wine's aroma, as well as additional copies of the gene for resveratrol, the compound linked with the health benefits associated with drinking wine. The Nature letter can be found at <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature06148.html>.

The Patent Reform Act of 2007 was passed by the House of Representatives earlier this month. This bill, if enacted, would lead to sweeping changes in how patents are awarded and regulated. Many groups within the biotech community have opposed the bill, citing the changes appear to be designed for IT and high-tech industries and will only serve to stifle innovation within the life sciences industry. The Act is expected to be voted on in the Senate soon. Please visit the House or Senate websites to find out more about this bill.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about our service or wish to begin outsourcing your genotyping needs, please contact us and our Genotyping Consultant will be happy to assist you.

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