

Beyond the Human Genome Project

New Discovery Paths and Diverse Applications







In 2003 scientists in the Human Genome Project obtained the DNA sequence of the 3 billion base pairs making up the human genome

What we've learned so far from the Human Genome Project





Only about 2% of the human genome contains genes, which are the instructions for making proteins

Other Lessons from the Human Genome Project



Humans have an estimated 30,000 genes; the functions of more than half of them are unknown



Almost half of all human proteins share similarities with other organisms, underscoring the unity of live

Much is still unknown!

New Scientific Discovery Paths

Enabled by DNA Sequences and Technologies



Scientific Discovery Path

Explore how DNA impacts HEALTH

AGAGTTCTGTC	G A G A
AGGGTTATGGC	GAGA
C G T T C C G G G A A	тссс
T C T T T G A C G A C	Identify and understand
T C T T A G A G G A C	the differences in DNA
G A G C T G G T C T	sequence (A, T, C, G)
AGAACTGGTAT	among human
C C T A G G C G T T A C C T T G G C G T G A	populations
AAGCTTGGCCG	AACG
AGGCTTAGCCG	AACG
C C A G T A C A T G A	ACGA
CCG GGTACATGT	ACGA

Understand what all the GENES do

Discover the functions of human genes by experimentation and by finding genes with similar functions in the mouse, yeast, fruit fly, and other sequenced organisms

Scientific Discovery Leann what the rest of the 01000101110100010101000 Identify important elements in the nongene regions of DNA that are 010110001000110001100 present in many different organisms, including humans

ATGGCCATTA

Scientific Discovery Path

Understand how the genome enables life



Explore life at the ultimate level of the whole organism instead of single genes or proteins.

The DOE Genomes to Life program provides a foundation for this understanding by using the information found in the genomes of microbes, life's simplest organisms, to study how proteins—the products of genes—carry out all activities of living cells.

of DNA Data and Technologies



Medicine



Develop more accurate and rapid diagnostics

Design customized treatments

Diverse Applications Microbes for energy and the environment

Microbes thrive in every environment on earth, but the vast majority DO NOT cause disease. Understanding them at a basic level will enable use of their diverse and sophisticated abilities.

Clean up toxic wastes
Capture excess carbon to help reduce global climate change
Generate clean energy sources (e.g., hydrogen)

Bioanthropology

- Understand human lineage
- Explore migration patterns through time



Agriculture, livestock breeding, bioprocessing

 Make crops and animals more resistant to diseases, pests, and environmental conditions

Diverse Applications

- Grow more nutritious and abundant produce
- Incorporate vaccines into food products
- Develop more efficient industrial processes

DNA identification

G G G A G CG G G G G A G (-G (-(-

Identify kinships, catastrophe victims

- Exonerate or implicate people accused of crimes
- Identify contaminants in air, water, soil, food
- Confirm pedigrees of animals, plants, foods, wines

This presentation is a companion to the BEYOND THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT poster produced by the U.S. Department of Energy Human Genome Program

Free copies available www.ornl.gov/hgmis/posters/beyondhgp/



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