



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20545

~~February~~
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Dave Smith

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Dear Mark:

Some general thoughts you might wish to consider in guiding the discussion at the genome workshop.

1. Develop a consensus on the desirability of sequencing the human genome over the next 10-15 years (e.g., by the year 2000?). What are the potential scientific and medical benefits and are they sufficient to justify costs?
2. If the consensus is that an initiative could potentially have major economic and medical impacts far outweighing the costs, then what is the best scientific strategy? Numerous strategies are possible and they should be summarized, and an attempt made to prioritize them. For example, one possibility is a two-phase strategy. The first phase could primarily consist of the development of robotics, miniaturization, etc., and simultaneously, in the first phase, the ordering of genes on chromosomes. The second phase would be a shift in emphasis to sequencing, with priorities and approaches dictated by developments in phase one.
3. National and International Cooperation: If such a project is undertaken, it will be national in scope, and involve cooperation among all three components of the R&D community; via, universities, national laboratories, and the private sector. Some consideration should be given to international cooperation. It is worth noting that the Administration is particularly interested in identifying areas in which the U.S. and Soviet Union can reach agreement on cooperation.

Please note that this outline is meant only to be suggestive and not intended for direct quotation--you should modify as you and your closest advisors deem appropriate.

Please be sure the participants are aware of OHER.

Sincerely, 


Charles DeLisi, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Health
and Environmental Research
Office of Energy Research

cc: Dave Smith, ER-72 (via e/mail)