

08/19

Lisa Fenn
Acting Committee Secretary
Australian Senate, Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Lisa Fenn

Thank you for providing the Australian Medical Association (AMA) with the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate's *Inquiry into Gene Patents*.

The AMA strongly reaffirms the fundamental principle of equal dignity inherent in all people and asserts that the human genome should be regarded as the common heritage of humanity.

We support research related to the human genome whilst recognising the range of complex ethical issues that arise as a consequence. Concurrently with research, resources should be directed to the consideration of these issues, and to community education regarding the benefits and risks of the application of genetic research.

The AMA's position on gene patents states that the holding of patents should not infringe the principle that the human genome is the common heritage of humanity. Further, gene patents should not present an obstacle to the prevention, management, and treatment of disease (*AMA Position Statement on Human Genetic Issues. 1998. Revised 2000. Revised 2002*).

Research into the human genome has the potential to benefit humanity and should be applied to the prevention, management, and treatment of disease. Human genetic research must be conducted under appropriate ethical guidelines and in secure environments according to recognised international standards.

We commend the establishment of the Inquiry and look forward to the recommendations.

Yours sincerely

Dr Rosanna Capolingua
President
rc:ks

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