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Intro to Human Genetics

21 February 2011

# The Issue of Genome Sequencing

The issue of genome sequencing is a controversial subject. In the informative article, "Public Access to Genome-Wide Data: Five Views on Balancing Research with Privacy and Protection," viewpoints of this issue are discussed by experts. Genome sequencing is determining the order of the genes and their corresponding pair. This process can be helpful to humans because it can help to diagnosis and predict diseases, for accurate pharmaceutical purposes, and gene therapy. However who should have access to this information gathered? This concept has been a debate for years, especially when it comes to who can view the data collected.

Through a scientific explanation, researchers explain their opinions of who should have access to genome information, as well as why people should care. There is a risk of privacy of who obtains this information. Sometimes this information can leak to outside the community of scientists. This is one opposing viewpoint to having genetic data freely available to taxpayers. As the article mentions, interference can occur, which is a problem. It can be used wrongly by people involved in the fields of insurance and credit, which can further lead to discrimination based upon an individual's genetic data provided. Another criticism of allowing the genetic databases available to the public is that there is not a clear enough code of conduct for the

community who views this information. The article (Martin Bobrow) suggests that this issue should be adjusted.

After reading this, I believe that scientist should have access to the information, though individuals should have the right to view their own information for themselves as well. I agree with the paper referenced by Homer in this article that scientists should have to agree to a code of conduct and show proof that they are a viable scientist in order to have access to the information. This would allow scientists to have access to the genetic databases, which could further lead to helpful advances in the scientific community, further advancing the human species.

Works Cited

Church G, Heeney C, Hawkins N, de Vries J, Boddington P, Kaye, J, Bobrow, M, and Weir, Bruce. 2009. Public Access to Genome-Wide Data: Five Views on Balancing Research with Privacy and Protection. *PLoS Genetics* **(10)**: e1000665-1000665.