HUGO

The Human Genome Organisation

July 7, 1989

Dr. Andrei D. Mirzabekov
Institute of Molecular Biology
of the Academy of Science
2 Vavilov Street
117984 Moscow B-334

Dear Dr. Mirzabekov:

On behalf of HUGO, I wish to express my gratitude to you and your colleagues for your hospitality during the meeting in the Institute of Molecular Biology jointly with UNESCO on June 26 and 27 and separately with the HUGO members and members of your group on the proceeding days. I feel that much was accompished in defining the complementary roles of HUGO and UNESCO. Furthermore, all of us actively involved in the Human Genome Project were given an opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the program planned for the USSR. Finally, and most importantly, we had an opportunity to evaluate how HUGO can assist in coordinating the programs of the rest of the world with those of the USSR.

As you know from your familiarity with the objectives of HUGO, international fellowships and traineeships, both short term and long term, and collaborative research projects fostered through HUGO are seen as very important. HUGO should also attempt to arrange mechanisms for the exchange of biomaterials and technologies for the conduct of the research. The coordination of data is seen as a role of great importance for HUGO. The progress of the project will be hastened if there is not duplication of effort. The standards of channels of publication will not be adequate for this task. Electronic linkages through computer systems will be necessary. HUGO is seen as having a major role in the networking of data bases. In the implementation of all the objectives of HUGO, world-wide, the executive committee has considered it important to establish regional offices. Offices in London, Bethesda, and Osaka are in the process of being set up. As was proposed in the meeting of HUGO on June 25, the establishment of a regional office in Moscow should be given consideration for implementation at an early date.

At present, and in the next few months, we will be heavily involved in fund raising for these responsibilities of HUGO, as well as in the establishment of the three offices mentioned. I am personally attracted to the idea of a Moscow office and will recommend it to the Executive Committee of HUGO.

In conclusion, may I repeat my thanks to you for arranging a useful meeting for us in Moscow and a useful visit to the institute in Kiev. I also would like to repeat my committment to developing the collaborative links between the Human Genome Project in the rest of the world and your own in the USSR, through the agency of HUGO.

With very best regards,

Sincerely,

Victor A. McKusick

Victor A. McKusick, M.D.
President - HUGO

President: Victor A. McKusick, Blalock Bldg., Rm. 1007, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA
Telephone: 301-955-6641 Telefax: 301-955-4999
Secretary: John Tooze, European Molecular Biology Organisation, Postfach 1022.40, D-6900 Heidelberg, West Germany
Telephone: 6221-383-031 Telefax: 6221-387-306

CC: John Tooze