

GENETICS

HUGO CHANGING OFFENSIVE GENE NAMES

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[Hsien Hsien Lei](#) has a good comment on gene names approved by [Human Genome Organization \(HUGO\)](#) Gene Nomenclature Committee which are nevertheless offending . Some of the inappropriate names are LFNG – lunatic fringe homolog (Drosophila), MFNG manic fringe homolog (Drosophila) as well as SHH sonic hedgehog homolog (Drosophila). There are many more names that arise only from a particular culture (like death executioner Bcl-2); it seems also a particular kind of humour to call a deaf mouse Beethoven. Yea, yea.

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