

Imperial College  
London

25<sup>th</sup> July 2004

Re *Nasonia* genome project

Dear Jack

I am writing in full support for the proposal to sequence the entire genome of the parasitic wasp *Nasonia*, which has been the subject of a huge body of research over the past several decades. I think it extremely important that we begin to learn more about the genomes of parasitic wasps, and more generally about the Hymenoptera, because the phylogenetic relationships among these insects are rapidly becoming understood. Further, these insects have intimate associations with their hosts and no doubt many genes that have evolved specifically to target particular host defence systems. The comparative study of these is likely to be immensely rewarding in terms of our understanding of co-evolutionary processes, speciation mechanisms, and insect physiology. The *Nasonia* genome will be an important first step towards this, though I sincerely hope it will be only the first of several parasitic wasps to be sequenced.

This proposal has my full support,



Dr Donald Quicke  
Reader in Systematics  
Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society  
Past President, International Society of Hymenopterists