To all Cytogeneticists, Geneticists, Clinicians, and Scientists for whom the Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Hematology still represents a cultural and practical tool,

Unfortunately in two weeks the Atlas web site will be dismissed because of financial support shortage. It is a no profit initiative and it relies on donations. This letter serves as an input to all Colleagues working in the field to think about to a next future without this precious instrument.

Perhaps, none of us have realized how many times, just with a quick click, we have filled a gap about an information, how many times we checked if the breakpoint we found was already described, etc etc. The Atlas has been a good companion for "classical" and "modern" cytogeneticists, an invaluable instrument in the daily running of cytogenetics labs. The Atlas is also a corpus of knowledge for academics and researchers.

The Atlas has no similar sites that can substitute it, it has been built with the effort of expert clinicians and researchers in cytogenetics, molecular biology, oncology, haematology, and pathology. All these fields are perfectly integrated giving a complete overview of each type of malignancy or the benign counterpart.

The encyclopedic knowledge in cancer genetics contained in the Atlas will serve even more nowadays that, next generation technology made the molecular cytogenetic almost obsolete. To understand the new molecular findings we have to put the sequence on a chromosome: we cannot let our chromosomes to die.

To help the Atlas, it takes less than two minutes: think to renounce to a cup of coffee just for one week. If all of us do it, the Atlas would be safe.

1- Go to http://atlasgeneticsoncology.org and donate, but do not forget to sensitize also public institution and scientific associations.

2- Please, also, sign this petition (Name/Title/Institution where you work/Town/Country) and send it to AtlasGeneticsOncology@gmail.com

First signatories

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Cagliari, Italy

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Director, Cell & Molecular Biology Academic Program  
Leader, Comprehensive Cancer Center Genetics Program  
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Other Support Letter, 2015

(...) It would indeed be a pity to lose the Atlas as a ready online reference source as your letter clearly indicated (...)

George C. Prendergast, Ph.D., Professor, President & CEO
Professor, Dept of Pathology, Anatomy & Cell Biology
Sidney Kimmel Medical College & Co-Director, Cell Biology and Signaling Program
Lankenau Institute for Medical Research, Kimmel Cancer Center
Thomas Jefferson University
Editor-in-Chief, Cancer Research

(...) I too use this resource on a regular basis, and would miss it terribly were it to disappear(...)

Patricia L. Crotwell, PhD, FACMG, Director,
Sanford Medical Genetics Laboratory, Sioux Falls, SD

(...)Professor Huret’s Atlas has been a remarkable resource for cytogeneticists the world over, and it is a remarkable contribution to the field that has influenced or aided so many of us. It has been heartening to see the generous pledges of support from many list members (...)

Pr Robert G. Best, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Division of Clinical Genetics, at the University of South Carolina (USC)
School of Medicine

WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF THE ATLAS. It is a very important vehicle for dissemination of information to academics worldwide.

Professor G. Sherbet,
Institute for Molecular Medicine, Huntington Beach CA.

The Atlas is really a landmark of the Cytogenetics of tumor and leukemia and it is really too sad to know that it is in trouble, again. Thanks to your big effort to start and taking care of it, to motivate all contributors to maintain it alive, the Atlas is now "a piece of us all". For this reason, we should try to find a solution.

(...) Pr Roberta Vanni
Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy

I realize that you had been struggling already quite some time to keep the Atlas alive. We all who are working in this field depend on it and use it daily.

(...) Prof. Dr. Oskar A. Haas
I love the Atlas.

Mary E. Tang,
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Burlington, Vermont, USA

I really admire your work. Thank's a lot for your ongoing activity. The Atlas is of really incredible value.

Prof. Dr. med. Detlef Haase
Klinik für Hämatologie und Medizinische Onkologie
Universitätsmedizin, Göttingen, Germany

Dear Jean Loup,
What a bad news!
The Atlas is a little jewel and it would be a pity to lose it.

Pr Cristina Mecucci
Laboratorio di Genetica Ematologica e Oncologica
Università degli Studi di Perugia

The Atlas is a remarkable resource for most everyone in cytogenetics, and worthy of our full support.

Whatever the outcome of the Atlas in days to come, I want to congratulate you on providing a service to clinical cytogeneticists around the globe at a time when the pace of discovery has been remarkable, and the need for up to date information profound. Few in our field will have the opportunity to offer our professional colleagues anything quite so useful on such a large scale, and I want to thank you for your foresight and creativity.

Highest regards,
Bob Best
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at the USC School of Medicine
Greenville, South Carolina, USA
Diplomate, American Board of Medical Genetics, Founding Fellow, American College of Medical Genetics

The Atlas really deserves it as it was doing great and it was a great help for the scientific community.
Adriana Zamecnikova
Kuwait Cancer Control Center, Laboratory of Cancer Genetics, Kuwait

(...) to retain this important resource would be helpful.
Thanks and sorry you are having such troubling times.

Jennifer
Jennifer J.D. Morrissette,
Clinical Director, Center for Personalized Diagnostics Department of Pathology, University of Pennsylvania, USA

(...) about the Atlas. This is a resource that we all need and use on a daily basis.

Sheila Dobin, Ph.D.
Section Chief, Cytogenetics-Pathology/Associate Professor Texas A&M Univ, USA

I heard the dire news about the ATLAS.

Professor Betsy Hirsch, PhD
Dept. of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology Director of Cytogenetics University of Minnesota, USA
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Perugia (Italy), 24 February 2015

I herewith would like to express my explicit support regarding the maintenance of the Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Haematology edited with great competence and dedication by Professor Jean-Loup Huret, Poitiers University. It's my personal feeling and general opinion in the scientific community that this in progress database provides the scientific community and the professional cytogenetists, oncologists and hematologists with an incredible body of targeted and up-to-date information hard to access in the widespread literature.

The classification of the Atlas into entities by theme, the inclusion of deep insights, teaching items and much more make the Atlas a valuable and flexible interdisciplinary resource. For this and many other reasons I am convinced that it would be dysfunctional that this initiative might stall or decline because of lack of economic support.

Sincerely,

Cristina Mecucci
Prof.ssa Cristina Mecucci
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University Hospital S. Maria della Misericordia

06132 Perugia, Italy
Ph. 075 5793808
Fax 075 5793691
cristina.mecucci@unipg.it

I am a cytogenetics fellow at UCLA. I recently heard rumor that the atlas website will be shut down in a few months. Just wondering if that is the case. The website is very critical for us to perform our work.

Daniel Chen, MD, Ph.D.
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, USA

Ivan H. Still
Associate Professor of Biology, Arkansas Tech University, USA
LETTER OF SUPPORT

St. Anna Kinderkrebsforschung
CHILDREN’S CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Dear Dr. Huret,

The Atlas of Genetics Cytogenetics in Oncology and Haematology http://atlasgeneticsoncology.org/ is a unique and essential resource for all scientists working in this particular field or research. We all have used this valuable collection of information for many years and are therefore very sorry to read about the critical situation of this database and especially how difficult it is to finance it, keep it alive and up to date, despite its world-wide use.

We, the undersigned, are very grateful for all the effort you and your group in the University of Poitiers have so far put into building up this extraordinary enterprise, sincerely hope that you (with the help and support of all of us) will be able to continue this indispensable work, from which we all profit, and assure you of our strongest support in this matter.

With best wishes (also on behalf of all undersigned)

Prof. Oskar A. Haas, MD
Labdia Labordiagnostik GmbH
Children’s Cancer Research Institute
St. Anna Children’s Hospital
Medgen.at GmbH
Vienna - Austria

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<td>Karin Knupf</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>CCAI LABDia</td>
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<td>Hege Drexler</td>
<td>PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chantal Lucini</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>CCAI LABDia</td>
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Dear Dr. Huret,

You have done a fantastic job with the Atlas; it is an extremely valued entity. (…)

I wish you all the best in continuance of these endeavors.

Nyla A. Heerema, Ph.D.
Professor, Director of Cytogenetics, Department of Pathology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA

Será que você poderia encaminhar esta solicitação a diretoria da SBG?
Eu trabalho com citogenética e cancer e tenho utilizado rotineiramente este atlas para consulta. Recebi esta solicitação de ajuda e estou repassando para ver se podemos ajudar
Elvira DRP Velloso
Serviço de Hematologia Hospital das Clínicas FMUSP,
São Paulo, Brasil

The Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics has been a remarkable resource for cytogeneticists and molecular biologist around the world. It is a remarkable contribution to the field that has influenced or aided so many of us. Therefore, I strongly support the Atlas.
Dr. Xiaolong Yang, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, at Queen’s University, Canada

We need the Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Hematology.
Silvia Soriani
Department of Laboratory Medicine, Niguarda Ca’ Granda Hospital,
Milan, Italy

L’Atlas est un compagnon de travail pour les cytogénéticiens. Il nous accompagne depuis si longtemps dans notre pratique quotidienne qu’il parait inenvisageable de le voir disparaître.
(...)
Dr Chrystèle Bilhou-Nabera
Service d’Hématologie Biologique, Hôpital Saint-Antoine
Paris, France

We hope you et the support to maintain this important reference and teaching material.
C. Gomez-Manzano, M.D., Associate professor, Tenure
Dpts. Neuro-Oncology and Genetics, U.T. M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Faculty, Cancer Biology Program, Graduate School of Biomedical Science, University of Texas
Houston, TX

The Atlas is a great resource and I strongly support it.
Jonathan Ham,
Reader in Molecular Neurobiology,
Cancer Section, Developmental Biology and Cancer Programme, UCL Institute of Child Health,
London, UK.

I strongly support the attempts to raise further funding for this important database.
Fredrik Mertens, MD, PhD,
Dept of Clinical Genetics,
Lund, Sweden

(...) J’espère que cet outil précieux qu’est l’Atlas continuera de vivre, en espérant qu’une solution pérenne puisse être trouvée pour le plus long terme...
Amitiès,
Laurent Dano, PhD
Laboratoire Régional de Cytogénétique Hématologique d’Alsace, Plateforme d’Oncobiologie de l’Institut Régional du Cancer d’Alsace, Hôpital de Hautepierre
Strasbourg, France

It’s a terrible news!
Atlas is a very important tool in my field and I declare my support to the continuation of the Atlas.
Cristina Gervasini,
Medical Genetics, Department of Health Sciences, Università degli Studi di Milano,
Milano, Italy

Please do not let this valuable light to the Cytogenetics and Genetics community go out.
Charles Bangs, CG(ASCP), Supervisor,
Cytogenetics Laboratory, Stanford Health Care
Palo Alto, CA

I found the Atlas website a very useful as well as user friendly resource and tool.
(…) I have been visiting the site easily several times a week. It would be highly unfortunate not to be able to consult it anymore.

Reinhard Ebner, Ph.D.
CSO, CytoTest, Inc.
Rockville, MD, USA

I am emailing to express my strongest support for the Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Hematology. The Atlas is an outstanding tool for us working in Hematology Research and Patient care. Please keep the Atlas alive.

Tobias Neff, MD, Assistant Professor
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/BMT, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine/Hematology
UC Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus
Aurora, CO

Atlas has been a vital resource for both clinical and educational purpose and loss of this resource will cause irreparable loss to the genetics community. It should be saved at any cost. I fully support continuing the Atlas.

Gopalrao V.N. Velagaleti, Ph.D
Director, Cytogenetics Laboratory, Professor, Pathology, Pediatrics and Clinical Laboratory Sciences
Department of Pathology, University of Texas Health Science Center
San Antonio, TX

No similar sites that can substitute it, it has been built with the effort of expert clinicians and researchers in cytogenetics, molecular biology, oncology, you have my full support

Dr. Mustafa Daghistani, PhD, Msc, DIC, CG(ASCP)CM, Associate Clinical Scientist, In charge of Cytogenetics Unit
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, King Abdulaziz Medical City - Jeddah
Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

I admire you for the hard work and the efforts to keep the Atlas alive and running.

(...) Anwar Mohamed, MD, Professor Pathology Department,
Wayne State University School of Medicine, Director of Cytogenetic Lab,
Detroit Medical Center University Laboratories
Detroit, USA

I agree in that there is a great need for the Atlas and in that every effort should be made to maintain it indefinitely: it will be very useful to practitioners and scientists at all levels around the world, and very valuable for students and post-docs (…) Thank you very much for maintaining this extraordinarily useful resource!

Alberto J. L. Macario, M.D.
Istituto EuroMediterraneo di Scienze e Tecnologia (IEMEST)
Palermo, Italy; and Department of Microbiology and Immunology
School of Medicine, University of Maryland at Baltimore
IMET, Columbus Center
Baltimore, MD 21202, USA

The Atlas is our cytogenetics flag ............... we cannot let it disappear !!!!!
Paola Dal Cin Ph.D.
Professor of Pathology, Cytogeneticist, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

I fully support the ATLAS. It has been an incredible source of information
Wael El-Rifai, MD, Ph.D.
H. William Scott, Jr., Chair in Surgery
Professor, Surgery & Cancer Biology
Director, Surgical Oncology Research
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
760 Preston Research Building
2220 Pierce Avenue
Please see signed petition in support of keeping alive the Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Hematology. The availability of the Atlas has been, and continues to be, an invaluable resource for my staff and me. We frequently use in in our clinical cytogenetics lab as well as for research purposes. I hope its existence will continue.

Joseph R. Testa, PhD, FACMG, Chief of Laboratory Genetics and Weg Chair in Human Genetics
Fox Chase Cancer Center,
Philadelphia, USA

It will be a great tragedy if the site closes down. It is an incomparable resource.

Subrata Sinha
National Brain research Centre
Manesar, Haryana, India
The Atlas should be continued!!!
Thomas Ried, M.D., Chief, Cancer Genomics,
NCI, National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD

I am a signatory to a petition below in strong support of the continuation of this atlas. It has been invaluable to me over the years as a critical source of information that is not readily available in a single place, and it would be a tragedy to let this lapse. Please reconsider the value that this site has to the scientific community focused on cancer research and eradicating this scourge through the development of more effective, more targeted and less toxic therapy. The Atlas has been an invaluable tool in this fight.
Garrett M. Brodeur, MD
Audrey E. Evans Chair in Molecular Oncology | Professor of Pediatrics | Associate Chair for Research | Director, Cancer Predisposition Program | Associate Director, Abramson Cancer Center | The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia | Oncology Research,
CTRB Rm. 3018 | 3501 Civic Center Blvd | Philadelphia, PA

The Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Hematology is a unique, valuable and important source of information for both clinicians and scientists alike. I urge that it be allowed to continue.

Dr Bryan Ward
Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
Nedlands, Western Australia

Thanks for the fantastic site,
James M. Fink, MD, PhD,
Medical Director of Cytogenetics, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Hennepin County Medical Center,
Minneapolis MN

The atlas is a crucial resource.
Brenda Lauffart  MPhil, Instructor of Chemistry
Arkansas Tech University
Russellville, Arkansas, USA

Atlas is needed for many more years to help young cytologists. Please save ATLAS..

Rishi K. Verma, Research Scholar
Department of Biotechnology, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, (NIT, Allahabad),
Uttar Pradesh, India.

Your work is so important. I hope from the bottom of my heart that the Atlas will be saved. (...)
Roberto Rosati,
Curitiba (PR) Brazil

The Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Hematology represents an invaluable source of information, which is unique and unmet by others.
Your work is a landmark in the field and is of detrimental importance to all of us working in diagnostics as well as in the education of students.
I am more than grateful to you and your group for the efforts to keep this work alive online and sincerely hope that your efforts will turn out successful!
(...)
Jörg Berg, MD, EurClinChem, Professor of Laboratory Medicine, Director of Molecular Diagnostics
Institute of Laboratory Medicine, AKh General Hospital Linz
Linz, Austria

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Donators, February-March 2015
Joerg Berg
Norman Lacayo
Eric Jeandidier
Roberto Rosati
Nicholas Griff
Brenda Lauffart
Cristina Burcov
Ji Yeon Sohn
Charlotte Schmidt-Salzmann
Marian Harris
Michael Tyrkus
James Fink
Ivan Still
Janice M Lage
Raluca Verona
Kristin Karner
Kedar Inamdar
Nevin Berkmen
Antoine Ittel
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Kari Miller
Oskar Haas
Tinuccia Dettori
John Lees
Julie Sanford Biggerstaff
Ana Teresa Braz
Julia Bridge
Maria A Luiza Macedo Silva
Kathrin Muegge
Wendy Henderson
Aurelia Meloni-Ehrig
Mahieu Boissan
Maria Pia Briziarelli
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Simona Panni
Susana Raimondi
Taha Zeggwag
Yi-Hong Zhou
Ewa Rajpert-De Meyts
Diane Jordan
Catherine Henry
Tarik Moroy
Kelly Miller
Roberta Vanni
Dymphna Margriet Ouwens
Peter Jordan
Ulrich Pfeffer
Richard Parfitt
Philippe Campeau
Anne Gatignol
Kay Huebner
Mike Eccles
Joerg Schwock
Mesut Muyan
EuJuSeo
Baptiste Gaillard
Agnes Daudignon
Carole Bonnigal-Barin
Gwenaël Nadeau
Gary Dahl
Wendy Flejter
Carol Phillips
Sylvie Tondeur
Claus Kerkhoff
Boris Wang
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RG Administration
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Darrel Hager
Detlef Haase
Laila Mnayer
Paola Silvia Dal Cin
Charles Bangs
Mary Tang
Silvia Soriani
Wendy Cuccuini Leboulanger
Marc de Braekeleer
Catherine Godon

See also http://chromosomesincancer.org/en/acknoledgements-to-the-atlas.html