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

Roberta Vanni
University of Cagliari,
Cagliari, Italy

Pr Felix Mitelman
Department of Clinical Genetics, University of Lund,
Lund, Sweden

Biaoyang Lin, Ph.D., Professor and Director, Systems Biology
Zhejiang-California International Nanosystems Institute (ZCNI), Zhejiang University,
Hangzhou, China
Affiliate associate professor,
Dept. of Urology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Mr. Anil Kumar Yadav, Scientific Officer, Cytogenetics Division, Tata Medical Centre (TMC), Kolkata, India.

Diane K. Jordan, PhD, FACMG, Cytogenetics Laboratory Director
OSF System Laboratory
Peoria, IL, USA

Ratna Chakrabarti, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Central Florida
Orlando FL, USA

Francesca Pentimalli, Group Leader,
CROM, National Cancer Institute of Naples, Naples, Italy

Francine Durocher, PhD, Professeure Titulaire
Département de médecine moléculaire, Faculté de Médecine, Université Laval, Cancer Genomics Laboratory, CHUL Research Centre, CHUQ, Québec, Québec

Andre Filipe Vieira, post doc fellow
IPATIMUP
Porto, Portugal

Philippe DELANNOY, Professeur de Biochimie, Codirecteur de l’Ecole Doctorale Biologie – Santé de Lille
Université de Lille - Sciences et Technologies, Unité de Glycobiologie Structurale et Fonctionnelle (UGSF) UMR CNRS 8576,
Villeneuve d’Ascq, France

Prof. Dr. Claus Kerkhoff
Department of Biomedical Sciences, School of Human Sciences, University of Osnabrueck
Osnabrück, Germany

Paola Massimi, Researcher
ICGEB,
Trieste, Italy

Christine Terre, Praticien Hospitalier
Centre Hospitalier
Versailles, France

Paula G Heller, M.D, Ph. D
Hematology Research, Instituto de Investigaciones Médicas Alfredo Lanari, University of Buenos Aires
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Marian Stevens-Kroef, PhD, Clinical Laboratory Geneticist
Radboud University Medical Center, Department of Human Genetics
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Hossain Mossafa, Medical genetics Oncohematology Laboratory CERBA
Cergy Pontoise, France

Rebeca Manso PhD student
Pathology Department, IIS-Fundación Jiménez Díaz, UAM
Madrid, Spain
Dr Michael Roger Eccles, Professor and Chair in Cancer Pathology,
University of Otago,
Dunedin, New Zealand

Joerg Schwock, MD PhD FRCPC MIAC, Clinical Fellow - Cytopathology
Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto
Toronto, ON, Canada

Dr Michèle Allouche, MD, PhD, Equipe Universitaire EA 4555
CPTP, INSERM U.1043, Bât. B, Pavillon Lefebvre, CHU Purpan
Toulouse, France

Lidia Larizza, Professor,
IRCSS Istituto Auxologico Italiano, Via Ariosto 13, 20145,
Milano, Italy

Pascale Cornillet-Lefebvre, MCU-PH,
Laboratoire d’hématologie, CHU de Reims
Reims, France

Lorencia Gonzalez Mariscal, Professor,
Center for Research and Advanced Studies,
Mexico, México

Dr. C.H.M. Mellink
Laboratoriums specialist klinische genetica, Afd. Klinische Genetica, Laboratorium Cytogenetica, Academisch
Medisch Centrum
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Pr Nicolas Sevenet, PU-PH, Professeur de génétique
UFR des Sciences Pharmaceutiques, Collège des Sciences de la Santé, Université de Bordeaux & Institut
Bergonié
Bordeaux, France

Simona Panni, Assistant Professor
DiBEST Dep., University of Calabria,
Rende, Italy

Vladimir Lazarevic MD
Department of Hematology, Skane University Hospital
Lund, Sweden

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

Martin Berchtold, Professor
Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen
Copenhagen, Denmark

Mathieu Boissant, PharmD, PhD, Maître de Conférences des Universités en Biologie Cellulaire, Praticien des
Hôpitaux de Paris, Leader du Groupe: Nucléoside diphosphate kinases et dissémination métastatique
Université Pierre & Marie Curie (Paris VI),
Paris, France

Clelia Tiziana Storlazzi, Assistant Professor
Department of Biology, University of Bari
Bari, Italy
Suzanne Demczuk  PhD, FCCMG
Cytogenetics Division Head, Royal University Hospital
Saskatoon, Canada

Steven Richebourg, MD
Laboratoire de Cytogénétique onco-hématologique, Hopital Saint Sacrement, CHU de Québec, Québec, Quebec

Lucienne Michaux, MD, PhD
Centrum voor Menselijke Erfelijkheid
Leuven Belgium

Giuliana Gregato, PhD
Laboratory Unit of Clinical Haematology-Oncology, IstitutoEuropeo di Oncologia
Milano, Italy

Ann Jackson MSc FRCPath, Clinical Scientist
SW Thames Regional Genetics Laboratory
St George’s University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
London, UK

Dr Georgia Zoumpoulidou, Research Associate
Cancer Cell Signalling- Proliferation, UCL Cancer Institute
London, UK
PETITION SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE CYTOGENETIC LABORATORY OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND CHRU BREST, FRANCE

Nathalie Douet-Guilbert, M.D., Ph.D.
Marie-Josée Le Bris, Pharm. D.
Marc De Braekeleer, M.D., Ph.D.

Audrey Basinko, Pharm. D.
Frédéric Morel, Ph.D.

Hôpital Morvan, bâtiment 5bis – 2, avenue Foch – 29609 Brest cedex
Téléphone : 02 98 22 36 94 - Télécopie : 02 98 22 39 61 - Email : Marc.Debraekeleer@univ-brest.fr

Xiaolong Yang, Ph.D, Associate Professor,
Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, Richardson Laboratories, Room 201D, Queen’s University
Kingston, Ontario, Canada

João Agostinho Machado-Neto, PhD
Hematology and Hemotherapy Center, University of Campinas
São Paulo, Brazil

George C. Prendergast PhD, Professor, President & CEO
Lankenau Institute for Medical Research
Wynnewood PA

Martin Höglund, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Senior Consultant
Dept. of Haematology, 50C, Uppsala University Hospital
Uppsala, Sweden

Donald R. Halinka MBA, MT-ASCP CG
Chief Technologist Cytogenetics
West Penn Hospital, Allegheny Health Network
Candelaria Gomez-Manzano, MD, Associate Professor,
Departments of Neuro-Oncology and Genetics, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, USA
Patrizia Casalini PhD
Molecular Targeting Unit, Exp. Oncology Dpt.
Milano, Italy

Patrizia Lavia, Research Director
Institute of Molecular Biology and Pathology, CNR National Research Council of Italy,
Rome, Italy

Tarik Möröy, PhD, Président et directeur scientifique
Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal, Chaire de recherche du Canada en hématopoïèse et différenciation des cellules immunitaires
Professeur chercheur titulaire
Département de microbiologie, infectiologie et immunologie
Université de Montréal
Montréal, QC, Canada

Ignacio Casal, Group leader “Functional Proteomics”
Centro de Investigaciones Biologicas Laboratorio de Proteómica Funcional
Madrid
Spain

Miguel Reyes-Múgica, M.D.
Marjory K. Harmer Endowed Chair in Pediatric Pathology
Chief of Pathology and Head of Laboratories
Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
Professor of Pathology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Editor-in-Chief
Pediatric and Developmental Pathology
Pittsburgh, PA

Paul Murphy, PhD, Professor,
Department of Physiology & Biophysics, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Cathy Moelans, PhD
University Medical Center Utrecht (UMCU)
Utrecht, The Netherlands

Jonathan Ham
Cancer Section, Developmental Biology and Cancer Programme, Camelia Botnar Laboratories, UCL Institute of Child Health,
London, UK.

Ronald B. Gartenhaus, MD, Professor of Medicine, Co-Leader, Molecular and Structural Biology Program
University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center
Baltimore, MD

Dr Enric Domingo, Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, Oxford, United Kingdom
Tian TIAN, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Genomic Regulation,
Barcelona, Spain

Fredrik Mertens, MD, PhD,
Dept of Clinical Genetics,
Lund, Sweden

Ana Teresa Maia, PhD
Assistant Professor, Group Leader of Cancer Functional Genomics Group
Institute for Biotechnology and Bioengineering, Centre for Molecular and Structural Biomedicine
Department of Biomedical Sciences and Medicine
Faro, Portugal

Wendy Cuccuini, MD, PHD, Praticien Hospitalier
Laboratoire central d’hématologie, unité de cytogénétique, hôpital Saint-Louis,
Paris, France.

Larisa Nonn, PhD, Associate Professor
University of Illinois at Chicago

De Plaen, senior scientist and lecturer,
de Duve Institute,
Brussels, Belgium

Erica Di Cesare, PhD
Institute of Molecular Biology and Pathology, CNR National Research Council of Italy c/o Department of Biology and Biotechnology Sapienza University
Rome, Italy

Javier Marquez, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Faculty of Sciences, University of Malaga
Malaga, Spain

Patrick M. Brauer,
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, University of Illinois College of Medicine,
Chicago, Illinois

Thomas Lion, MD, PhD, Professor and Medical Director
Labdia Labordiagnostik GmbH
Children’s Cancer Research Institute
Vienna, Austria

Ulrich Pfeffer, PhD, Group leader
IRCCS AOU San Martino – IST Istituto Nazionale per la Ricerca sul Cancro,
Genova, Italy

Adriana Zamecnikova DrSc, MSc, PhD,
Kuwait Cancer Control Center, Laboratory of Cancer Genetics,
Kuwait

Dr. Sivan Danon
Ella lemelbaum Institute for Melanoma, Cancer Research Center, Sheba Medical Center
Ramat Gan, Israel

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. (Univ. A’dam) Johannes W.G. Janssen
Institut fuer Humangenetik, Cytogenetisches Labor, Universitaetsklinikum Heidelberg
Heidelberg, Germany

Sibylle Mittnacht, PhD, FRSMed, Professor of Cancer Biology
UCL Cancer Institute,
London UK

Pedro A. Lazo MD, PhD, Profesor de Investigación CSIC
Instituto de Biología Molecular y Celular del Cáncer, Centro de Investigación del Cáncer
CSIC-Universidad de Salamanca, Campus Miguel de Unamuno s/n
Salamanca, Spain

Dr. Cristina N. Alonso, Biochemist and Hematologist,
Hospital de Pediatría J. P. Garrahan,
Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Katalin Csiszar, Ph.D. Researcher
CAM Department, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii
Honolulu, HI

Masahide Kuroki, M.D. & Ph.D., Professor & Chairman
Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Fukuoka University
Fukuoka, Japan

Cameron N. Johnstone, PhD, Research Fellow
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Erika Di Zazzo PhD
Seconda Università degli studi di Napoli
Napoli, Italia

Giovanni Galasso-PhD student
Seconda Università degli studi di Napoli
Napoli, Italia

Daniel Keppler, PhD, Associate Professor,
Dept. of Biological & Pharmaceutical Sciences, TUC-College of Pharmacy
Touro University California,
Vallejo, CA

José Sanders van Elten
Radboud university medical center
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Peng Lee, MD, PhD, Professor
New York University School of Medicine
New York, NY

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

Everly Conway de Macario, Ph.D.
Department of Microbiology and Immunology, School of Medicine, IMET, University of Maryland, Columbus Center
Baltimore, MD, USA

Paola Dal Cin Ph.D.Professor of Pathology,
Cytogeneticist ,Brigham and Women’s Hospital ,
Boston, MA

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

France Léveillé, PhD, Stagiaire CCMG, Cytogénétique
CHU Sainte-Justine,
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dominique Bellin</td>
<td>Ph.D. Student</td>
<td>University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD</td>
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<td>Alessandra Carbone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Laboratoire de Biologie Computationnelle et Quantitative, UMR7238 CNRS-UPMC</td>
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<td>Lars Rönstrand, Professor,</td>
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<td>Division of Translational Cancer Research, Lund University</td>
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<td>Corinne Grafl</td>
<td>Clinical Research Associate</td>
<td>Childrens Cancer Research Institute</td>
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<td>Dr Sabrina Tosi Dphil, Lecturer in Biosciences, Head of the Leukaemia and Chromosome Research Laboratory</td>
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<td>Audrey BIDET</td>
<td>Praticien Hospitalier</td>
<td>Laboratoire hématologie CHU Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France</td>
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<td>Rui Zhao, Associate Professor,</td>
<td></td>
<td>Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, University of Colorado School of Medicine,</td>
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<td>Leo Derksen, Labmanager</td>
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<td>Radboud university medical center Nijmegen, The Netherlands</td>
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<td>Roseline Godbout, Ph.D.</td>
<td>University of Alberta</td>
<td>Edmonton, Alberta, Canada</td>
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<td>Olivia Fox, Registered Clinical Scientist,</td>
<td>Oxford Medical Genetics Laboratories,</td>
<td>Oxford, UK.</td>
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<td>Dr Salah Boudjadi</td>
<td>University of Sherbrooke</td>
<td>Sherbrooke, Canada</td>
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<td>Pr Pierre Fenaux</td>
<td>Service d'hématologie séniors</td>
<td>Hôpital St Louis/université Paris 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irwin H. Gelman, Ph.D.</td>
<td>John and Santa Palisano Chair of Cancer Genetics</td>
<td>Professor of Oncology Director, Cell &amp; Molecular Biology Academic Program Leader, Comprehensive Cancer Center Genetics Program Roswell Park Cancer Institute</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elm and Carlton Streets
Buffalo, NY

Dr Nathalie NADAL (Praticien Hospitalier)
Laboratoire de Cytogénétique, CHU le Bocage,
Dijon, France

Sainan Wei, PhD, MS, FACMG, Associate Professor,
Department of Pediatrics and Human Development, Michigan State University,
Lansing, MI

Somsubhra Nath, Ph.D.
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, USA

Jean-Baptiste Gaillard, Praticien Hospitalier
Laboratoire de Cytologie Clinique et Cytogénétique, CHU Caremeau
Nimes, France

Dr Judith Luciani, PhD
Cytogénétique hémato-oncologique, Centre de Génétique Médicale UCL
Bruxelles, Belgique

Alka Chaubey, PhD, FACMG, Director, Cytogenetics Laboratory,
Greenwood Genetic Center,
Greenwood, SC

Ruthann B. Pfau, Ph.D. FACMG, Director of Cytogenetics and Prenatal Diagnosis
Center for Human Genetics Laboratory, Department of Pathology
University Hospitals Case Medical Center
Cleveland OH, USA

Ying Zou, MD, PhD, DABMG, Director of Clinical Cytogenetics Laboratory; Associate Professor,
Department of Pathology, University of Maryland
Baltimore, MD

Dongbin Xu, Ph.D., Laboratory Director
Shodair Children's Hospital
Helena, MT

Jinglan Liu, B.Med., M.Med., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Pediatrics
Drexel University College of Medicine, Director, Clinical and Molecular Cytogenetics, St. Christopher's Hospital
for Children
Philadelphia, PA

Carine GERVAIS, praticien hospitalier
Laboratoire de cytogénétique onco-hématologique, CHRU Strasbourg
Strasbourg, France

Bas. M. Linssen-Wiersma
RadboudUMC
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Elise Chapiro, MD, PhD, MCU-PH
Groupe Hospitalier Pitié-Salpêtrière, Service d'Hématologie Biologique
Paris, France

Docteur Marie-Agnès Collonge-Rame, Praticien Hospitalier
Service de Génétique Biologique-Histologie-BDR, UF Cytogénétique-UF Oncogénétique, Hôpital Saint-Jacques -
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 reference source is valuable to professional cytogeneticists, oncologists, and hematologists, with an incredible body of targeted and updated information hard to access in the widespread literature.

I am a cytogenetics fellow at UCLA. I recently heard rumor that the atlas website will be shut down in 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

(...)
Dear Jean-Loup,

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)

[Signature]

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

---

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...

Amitiés,
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 new!

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 Scienza 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 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

At this point in time, the Atlas is needed for many 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

Donators, February-March 2015
Joerg Berg
Norman Lacayo
Eric Jeandidier
Reinhard Ebner
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Marc de Braekeleer
Catherine Godon

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