Letters to the editor

In conclusion, we would like to propose a further area for thought and critique. Like the great flourishing of descriptive projects in the 19th century, our modern renaissance of descriptive projects appears to be dependent on new technologies. During the enlightenment, natural philosophers set about to explore and circumscribe the world, map and name its geography, identify and delimit its plants and animals into categories of genus and species, and finally to contain all this within the intellectual borders of an encyclopedia—a collection of all knowledge. In the 19th century, it was the technology of shipbuilding and open sea navigation in the context of nationalism that gave scientists access to a new world and facilitated the immense travel and exploration essential to these projects. Likewise, recent descriptive projects have been facilitated by technologies that grant access to a new landscape; in this case, it is the technologies of high-throughput sequencing and computational power in the context of a wealthy, aging population concerned about its health. Unlike the technologies of earlier explorers, these new technologies promise a certain completeness in map-making, a glimpse of the new world en toto, as if mapping the continents from a satellite in space. This analysis highlights the scientific opportunities created by novel technology. As technologies grant scientists access to new landscapes, descriptive projects of naming, mapping, and classifying necessarily follow. To what extent will scientific methodologies and focus then always be determined by the contemporary technologies? The difference this time is that genomics technologies tantalizingly promise completeness in mapping the new topography, thus granting scientists access to a new hypotheticoinductive science.

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Erratum

In the article "The Stickler syndrome: Genotype/phenotype correlation in 10 families with Stickler syndrome resulting from seven mutations in the type II collagen gene locus COL2A1"¹ in the January/February 2003 issue of *Genetics in Medicine*, the names of Ekaterina Tsilou, MD and Benjamin I. Rubin, MD, of the National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, Baltimore, Maryland, was unintentionally omitted from the list of authors. The authors regret this omission.

Reference

 Liberfarb RM, Levy HP, Rose PS, Wilkin DJ, Davis J, Balog JZ, Griffith AJ, Szymko-Bennett YM, Johnston JJ, Tsilous E, Rubin BI, Francomano CA. The Stickler syndrome: Genotype/phenotype correlation in 10 families with Stickler syndrome resulting from seven mutations in the type II collagen gene locus COL2A1. *Genet Med* 2003;5:21–27.

Erratum

In the article by Mascarello et al. in the September/December 2003 issue of *Genetics in Medicine*, the title was incorrectly printed in the article. The correct title should be as follows: Problems with ISCN FISH Nomenclature make it not practical for use in clinical test reports or cytogenetic databases. The title appears correctly in the Table of Contents.

Reference

1. Mascarello JT, Cooley LD, Davison K, Dewald GW, Brothman AR, Herrman M, Park JP, Persons DL, Rao KW, Schneider NR, Vance GH. Problems with ISCN FISH Nomenclature make it not practical for use in clinical test reports or cytogenetic databases. *Genet Med* 2003;5:370–377.