

As members of the *C. elegans* community and advisory board of the Caenorhabditis Genetics Center (CGC), we would like to express our strong support for continued funding of the model organism resources currently supported under the purview of the NCRR and targeted for future inclusion in NIGMS. These stock centers provide the foundation for basic research on fundamental biological mechanisms, which in turn has a major impact on biomedical research.

The CGC is the sole general stock center for the nematode *C. elegans* and is an extremely important research resource to both the U.S. and international communities. The numbers give some sense of the scale and value of our endeavors. The CGC has amassed >13,000 strains which are curated and distributed upon request to research institutes, universities and other academic institutions, as well as companies, in all 50 states and 66 countries. There are 1,879 user groups in the U.S. alone, engaged in a vast spectrum of research and research education missions. Researchers in all of these locales supply us, in turn, with important strains that they have generated and are of use to others. The high demand for these strains reflects their great importance to the research community; in the 2010 calendar year alone, we shipped 25,019 strains. If the CGC were not performing these duties, strain acquisition would be extremely inefficient and costly; the burden of filling requests would be placed upon individual labs, diverting scientists away from research endeavors, and the continued existence of many published strains might be in jeopardy.

We strongly believe that a mechanism to ensure support for the CGC and the other model organism stock centers must be established for the long run. We are concerned that the decision to eliminate the National Center for Research Resources jeopardizes the future of the CGC and other critical stock collections because it has not been made clear to us how NIGMS will accommodate the CGC and other resources formerly funded via NCRR when they may need to compete with existing programs and priorities.

With these considerations in mind, we respectfully request that the future support and funding for the CGC and other stock centers be explicitly designated in order to ensure the long term stability of these important resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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