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Dr. Polt Péter legfőbb ügyész úr részére

Legfőbb Ügyészség
Budapest

Tisztelt Legfőbb Ügyész Úr!

Elnök:
Dr. Sótonyi Péter
akadémikus

Alelnök:
Dr. Muszbek László
akadémikus

Titkár:
Dr. Mandl József
akadémikus

Tagok:
Dr. Naszlady Attila
az MTA doktora

Dr. Tulassay Zsolt
akadémikus

Dr. Vörös Attila
főorvos

Dr. Wittmann Tibor
egyetemi tanár

Köszönettel vettem a Nagy Gén Kft. tevékenységével kapcsolatos megkeresésre adott tájékoztatását. A levelében leírtakkal kapcsolatban jelezném, hogy az Egészségügyi Tudományos Tanács az egészségügyi ágazati jogszabályok adta keretek között az egészségügyi szolgáltatók működésének ellenőrzése, illetőleg szakmai felügyelete terén illetékes Országos Tisztifőorvosi Hivatalhoz, valamint Gyógyszerészeti és Egészségügyi Minőség- és Szervezetfejlesztési Intézethez fordult a Nagy Gén Kft. szakmai ellenőrzését kérve.


Ugyanakkor a Nagy Gén Kft. tevékenységével kapcsolatban jelzettek álláspontom szerint messze túlmennek az egészségügyi ágazati jogszabályok, illetve a szakmai szabályok megsértésén. Ahogy arról tájékoztattam, a Nagy Gén Kft. egy politikai közszereplő kérésére nem diagnosztikai céllal, hanem etnikai származás megállapítása céljából kért genetikai tesztet végzett, majd e „leletet” ismereteink szerint jogellenesen, etikailag elítélendő, szakmailag megalapozatlan módon interpretálta, a humángenetikai adatok védelméről, a humángenetikai vizsgálatok és kutatások, valamint a biobankok működésének szabályairól szóló 2008. évi XXI. törvény rendelkezéseit megsértve. A vizsgálat eredményeként olyan következtetést adtak írásban, amely egyrészt szembe megy a tudomány mai állásával, másrészt – diszkriminatív és manipulatív jellege miatt – veszélyes a társadalomra. Erről már a nemzetközi média is tájékoztatást adott, összefüggésbe hozva e kérdést egyes magyarországi diszkriminatív, rasszista megnyilvánulásokkal. Magyarország hírnevének ez a cselekedet rendkívül árt (lsd. melléklet), ezért az ETT Elnöksége úgy gondolja, hogy ezt az ügyet súlyának megfelelően kell kezelni.

Álláspontom szerint a fenti cselekmény olyan mértékben veszélyes a társadalomra, a közrendre, köznyugalomra, hogy az megalapozza a levelében leírt, az ügyészség kiegészítő jellegű közrendvédelmi fellépésének szükségességét.

Ismételten kérem ezért, hogy a z ügyészségről szóló 2011. évi CLXIII. törvény alapján a Nagy Gén Kft. jogsértő tevékenységének kivizsgálása, és a szükséges intézkedések megtétele érdekében eljárni szíveskedjen.

Budapest, 2012. július 5.

Tisztelettel:


Dr. Sótonyi Péter

NATURE | NEWS

heller

Genome test slammed for assessing 'racial purity'

Hungarian far-right politician certified as 'free of Jewish and Roma' genes.

Alison Abbott

12 June 2012



The rise of the right: Hungary's Jobbik party rallies supporters in Budapest.

T. KOVACS, MTI/AP

Officials in Hungary united this week to condemn ongoing ethnic violence and anti-Semitic attacks, including an assault on the former Chief Rabbi on 5 June. But a cause for further soul-searching has emerged: a scientific scandal recalling discredited notions of racial purity.

Hungary's Medical Research Council (ETT), which advises the government on health policy, has asked public prosecutors to investigate a genetic-diagnostic company that certified that a member of parliament did not have Roma or Jewish heritage.

The MP in question is a member of the far-right Jobbik party, which won 17% of the votes in the general election of April 2010. He apparently requested the certificate from the firm Nagy Gén Diagnostic and Research, which rents office space at the prestigious Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. The company produced the document in September 2010, a few weeks before local elections.

The certificate — with the MP's name blacked out — emerged on the web last month and was seized on by the Hungarian media. One of Nagy Gén's financial partners, Tibor Benedek — a three-time Olympic water-polo gold medallist and a member of a prominent Jewish family — immediately pulled out of the company.

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The ETT's secretary, József Mandl, chair of medical chemistry at the Semmelweis University in Budapest, says that the certificate is "professionally wrong, ethically unacceptable — and illegal". The council discussed the issue on 7 June and concluded that the genetic test violates the 2008 Law on Genetics, which allows such testing only for health purposes.

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"The council's stand is important," says Lydia Gall, an Eastern Europe and Balkans researcher at civil-rights group Human Rights Watch, who is based in Amsterdam. In Hungary, "there have been many violent crimes against Roma and acts of anti-Semitism in the past few years", she says. Politicians who try to use genetic tests to prove they are 'pure' Hungarian fan the flames of racial hatred, she adds.

Nagy Gén scanned 18 positions in the MP's genome for variants that it says are characteristic of Roma and Jewish ethnic groups; its report concludes that Roma and Jewish ancestry can be ruled out. The certificate adds: "For an interpretation of the test result and for genetic consultation relating to the family-tree research, please contact us as soon as convenient."

Nagy Gén did not respond to e-mail and telephone requests from *Nature* for comment. But a statement on its website claims that newspapers had reported the story "incompletely" and points to the certificate's recommendation for further consultation. It argues that the company "rejects all forms of discrimination, so it has no right to judge the purpose for which an individual will use his or her test result, and so for ethical reasons it could not have refused to carry out the test".

The certificate first appeared on a right-wing website, which described the intention behind the gene test as "noble", although it questioned the science. After the news blog *Petőfi utca* republished the certificate on 14 May, the Hungarian Society of Human Genetics issued a statement condemning the test. István Raskó, director of the Institute of Genetics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Szeged, and the society's vice-president, says that it is impossible to deduce origins from genetic variations at a few places in the genome. "This test is complete nonsense and the affair is very harmful to the profession of clinical genetics," he says.

Nagy Gén's rental contract with Eötvös Loránd University ended this month, says György Fábri, a university spokesman. "The university is not commenting publicly on the affair because it is not our business — our researchers had no contact with the company." In a written statement he added that the university "fully rejects" the abuse of scientific results to promote discrimination or hatred.

Nature 486, 167 (14 June 2012) doi:10.1038/486167a

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- Nature special: Eastern Europe

From elsewhere

- Medical Research Council of Hungary
- Nagy Gén Diagnostic and Research

Comments

2012-06-12 10:55 AM

leone oliva said: In a paper published in the Elsevier Journal Intelligence 38 (2010) 93-100 were proposed by Lynn ideas that I supposed outdated, at least in the scientific environment. The key statement is the following:

"The diffusion of genes from the Near East and North Africa may explain why the populations of southern Italy have IQs in the range of 89-92, intermediate between those of northern Italy and central and northern Europe (about 100) and those of the Near East and North Africa (in the range of 80-84) (these IQs are given in Lynn, 2006)."

The racism is not an idea like others and cannot be allowed, in my opinion.

2012-06-12 11:28 AM

Richard James Patrock said: I have a dream that all our little children will one day live in a world where they will judge themselves and others not by the nucleotides in their genes but by the content of their character. The only thing in the enterprise shown by the genetic test is who is free of compassion. I paid them 240 Euros to be free of any of _____'s genes. They did show beforehand and unremarkably, that my bacterial genes were better than his bacterial genes, to paraphrase a German rocket scientist.

2012-06-12 04:06 AM

Peter Kabai said: On what grounds does Ms. Abbot call Mr. Benedek a Jew? This is a typical example of antisemitism. Mr. Tibor Benedek has not identified himself as Jewish.

2012-06-12 05:20 AM

Leonard Cizewski said: Countries such as Hungary which allied itself with Nazi Germany and whose indigenous fascists participated in the Holocaust, need to take issues such as as extremely seriously.

Hungary may be proud of the number of its leading citizens who are speaking out on this issue.

That is the way to honor of the memory of the Hungarian victims of the Holocaust and a way to take responsibility for Hungary's complicity and collaboration with the Holocaust.

Racists and fascists need to be isolated and marginalized.

That is what is mature and civilized members of the family of nations do.

2012-06-13 04:18 AM

Bruce Bowen said: Here's Jessica Alba being informed of her genetic heritage:

<http://youtu.be/sZNAqwrn9hY>

Here's Eva Longoria's response to here DNA heritage: http://movies.ndtv.com/movie_story.aspx?ID=ENTEN20100137069&keyword=hollywood&subcatg=MOVIESWORLD

2012-06-13 06:02 AM

Frank Schmidt said: Poor bloke. No Jewish genes – or Roma either. I guess that means that he has no ribosomes, DNA polymerase, etc. Not too surprising; he's already shown a lack of genes specifying neural connectivity.

2012-06-16 10:52 AM

Ferenc Marincs said: I think it is OK to know about your heritage, as celebs do in the TV series "Who do you think you are". I, for example, know from family history that I am part Croatian, part Hungarian, part French, and this is quite normal an ususal in Europe. But it is NOT OK to know that who you are NOT, in particular in Hungary where people had to proof under the Horthy regime that the they are not Jews.

2012-06-19 06:07 AM

Stephan Lloyd Watkins said: Oh boy, here we all go again. You got gatica on one side, and ethnically cleansing opponents on the other. Maybe the 2/3 of the world without records of birth and landlines are really more free. Still, with whole genome sequencing it turns into How long ago was my last Black or middel eastern ancestor Vs, "Do I have a black ancestor". But then the purist say "10,000 years" which you might find 2 in the whole of Europe somewhere like that. Then they can be the new emporor, and kill everyone else...hope its a boy and a girl.

I hope you can all appriciate sarcasm.

2012-06-19 08:27 AM

Tom Thumb said: In what sense are "notions of racial purity" discreditted? Race is a categorization much like geologic rock type classification. The constituent minerals vary and there can be more variance within a rock type than between two rock types, but scientifically useful and valid. The same is true of genetic constituents of race, and, like granites or diorites, the races show common properties derived from microbiological causes. These predictable traits are used in medicine, psychology, and other fields.

The key difference between rocks and race is that our culture suffers from a great "Nazi phobia". It's sad that scientists so often pander to public sentiment but I guess it's nothing new.