



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 11, 2003

I send greetings to the International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium as you mark the successful completion of the Human Genome Project. This historic milestone is also the 50th anniversary of the description of the double-helix structure of DNA.

The American system of medicine is a model of skill and innovation and is adding good years to countless lives. The completion of the sequencing of the human genome, begins another era of medical progress. New gene-based screening tools are alerting patients when they have an elevated risk of diseases so they can take an active role in preventing them. Scientists believe many new therapies will be tailor-made to an individual's genetic makeup, resulting in fewer adverse effects. The scientific accomplishments and international collaboration of the Consortium bring hope and promise to countless individuals who suffer from disease and others at risk.

My Administration has demonstrated our strong commitment to medical research by completing a five-year doubling of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget to more than \$27 billion. As a result of this increase, the NIH now trains 1,500 more scientists per year and issues 10,000 more research grants than it did in 1998. This investment will help turn today's research opportunities into more of tomorrow's medical success stories.

I commend the scientists, researchers, and all others involved in the project for your tireless work to attain new scientific breakthroughs that enhance lives. Your efforts contribute to an improved system of medicine and will benefit the health and well-being of all mankind.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "W".