

Corporations attempting to claim Patents on Your Genes!

This article is no joke, although it certainly sounds that absurd... Please read on.

Judge strikes fear into biotech industry with nullification of patents on human genes BRCA1

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by Mike Adams, Editor of NaturalNews.com

Earlier this week, a federal judge struck down patents on the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes. These are the genes used by many doctors to attempt to predict breast cancer risk. Of course, the very idea that genes alone can determine your cancer risk is provably false, but that's another story altogether. (About 6% of women with breast cancer have these "cancer" genes present – inserted by Dr. Alenov) For the point of this story, just keep in mind that lots of women have their DNA tested for the presence of these BRCA genes in order to (they think) determine their breast cancer risk.

But one corporation called **Myriad Genetics** holds seven patents on these genes. Although the patents are shrouded in lawyer's language, this company essentially claims **to own these genes** as if it had invented them! Furthermore, this company held that *the mere act of testing for these genes* was a violation of their patents.

Now, a more sensible person might instantly recognize that your genes existed long before Myriad Genetics came around. Depending on your frame of belief, your genes were either created by God or by Mother Nature, and to grant monopoly ownership over those genes to corporations seems absurd beyond all reason.

But no: This corporation and its lawyers argued with a straight face that they alone effectively owned *your BRCA genes* and that **no one could even test for the presence of those genes without paying them a royalty!**

United States District Court Judge Robert W. Sweet disagreed with the patents in his 152-page decision (see NY Times PDF file at <http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packag...>) which strikes down seven patents formerly belonging to Myriad Genetics. This victory was achieved, in part, by the American Civil Liberties Union which helped challenge the BRCA patents last year. The ACLU argued (quite correctly, in my view) that human genes are products of nature and should never be owned by Man.

As stated in a NY Times article (source below), an ACLU lawyer explained it like this: "The human genome, like the structure of blood, air or water, was discovered, not created. There is an endless amount of information on genes that begs for further discovery, and gene patents put up unacceptable barriers to the free exchange of ideas."

Striking back at biotech

If this decision stands, the resulting consequences could be hugely damaging to the biotech and pharmaceutical industries, both of which depend on government-granted monopolies (patents) to lock in their corporate profits. Biotech companies have been ramping up research on gene-based diseases for a decade or more, hoping to cash in on the genetic monopolies that would guarantee them profits for all sorts of human diseases that they could tie to "genetic disorders."

Dr. Alenov's commentary:

Corporations currently own the patents on all GMO foods. (Genetically modified organisms) Articles like this shed light on the very real threat that exists between your freedoms and corporate greed. Do you think any one company should "own" the rights to the human food supply? Currently that is exactly what has happened. A few companies now own our food supply. Farmers no longer have the right to save seeds and plant them the following year because these companies see that as patent infringement. The U.S. government has allowed this to happen. Now they are after your genes! When real life starts to sound more like a bad sci-fi movie you know something is very wrong.

For more on this, rent the very well produced documentary "The Future of Food". Make it your goal to learn something important this week. Education is the key to survival.