

Judge Rules Genes Cannot Be Patented

Utah: A judge has ruled in favor of the Public Patent Foundation, the ACLU, several cancer sufferers and several researchers and invalidated a number of gene sequence patents held by Myriad Genetics Inc.

A spokesperson from Myriad indicated that the company would appeal, warning that if the verdict is upheld on appeal it would be a big blow to the biotech industry. He claims that without patent protection investment in research could dry up.

"The court... saw that companies should not be able to own the rights to a piece of the human genome. No one invented genes. Inventions are specific tests or drugs, which can be patented, but genes are not inventions," said a foundation spokesman.

