



## Genome of *Chromobacterium violaceum* - Special Session

### INTRODUCTION

This collection of papers, put together through an initiative of the editors of *Genetics and Molecular Research*, is a natural follow-up of the *Chromobacterium violaceum* genome publication (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 100: 11660-11665, 2003). This is also a very special occasion for those involved in this previous work, as it means that the actions triggered by the organization of the Brazilian National Genome Sequencing Consortium continue on to fulfill earlier promises.

This collection consists of 14 papers dealing with features that the respective authors considered important for the understanding of the workings of a free-living organism. To fulfill their task, the authors had complete freedom of choice. As a consequence, the coverage of possible themes on *C. violaceum* is not exhaustive, but then we thought that such an aim would have been difficult indeed to achieve.

On the other hand, there are two aspects that deserve some mention here. First, that the idea of having a national network of carrying out a project as ambitious as the study of a complete prokaryote genome (see Simpson, *Nat. Rev. Genet.*, 2: 979-983, 2001, and Simpson *et al.*, this issue), in spite of its inherent difficulties, comes to fruition. Second, that some of the contributions arose from spontaneous associations between geographically distant laboratories, which is quite a remarkable result and one that was much desired. Let us now hope and make the most of our efforts to see that this initial step is followed by further advances in the near future.

Congratulations are due to the Brazilian National Genome Project Consortium for the work they performed, and to the MCT/CNPq (Ministry of Science and Technology and National Council for Research and Technological Development) for their sustained support.

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A list of the members of the *Chromobacterium violaceum* genome project is available at: <http://www.brgene.Incc.br/cviolaceum/>

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