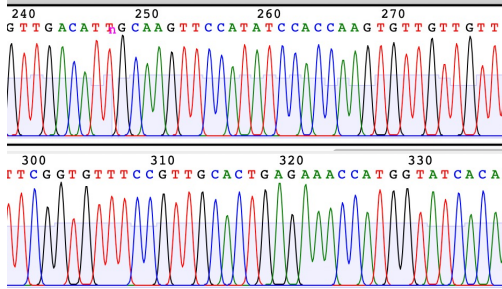


Pseudogene Suffers From Imposter Syndrome



(Human genome, 7q32.1) Describing itself as an “utterly pathetic fraud”, pseudogene ODCP-5702c is exhibiting all the classic hallmarks of ‘Imposter Syndrome’, say sources close to the genome assembly. “I have less credibility than a dead fucking retrotransposon” said the abashed genomic imposter. “I mean seriously, take away my

annotation. Please!” demanded the faux gene. “Apparently at some point in my history I may have temporarily possessed ‘ornithine decarboxylase activity – whatever the fuck that is” said the totally ineffectual sequence. The counterfeit gene, which likely hasn’t been transcribed in thousands of generations, noted that extensive rearrangements within its proximal promoter–enhancer region “mean that even basic subunits of RNA Pol II shun me”. “Not that it would matter,” added the pointless sequence, “because an early stop codon and three indels in my first exon have pretty much put the kibosh on that shit.” Reflecting on its distant past, the useless string of nucleotides observed, “At one point I probably aspired to some sort of tissue-specific sub-functionalization bullcrap. Let’s just say that goddam ship has sailed!” Although biological roles for a number of pseudogenes have recently been discovered, ODCP-5702c is not holding out much hope. “I am literally the duplication of a duplication of a duplication. What in Christ’s name does that tell you about my chances for any kind of functionality? I am simply one bogus phony-baloney motherfucker” added the genomic garbage pile. Before closing down the interview to become terminally buried in heterochromatin, the gene, which considers itself to be “less authentic than a three-dollar bill”, had one final message. “To all those ‘sad boring housekeeping genes’ out there who feel dissed, let me just say that I would give what remains of my tattered 3’ UTR just to encode a rectal-specific ass-wipe protein whose only known utility is as a western blot standard. So seriously, quit bitching already.”

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