



Letter 19, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

## ESHG-EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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### Additional collaborating members:

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### Liaison members:

Alastair Kent, (Patients Organizations, GIG and EAGS), [alastair@gig.org.uk](mailto:alastair@gig.org.uk)  
Celia DeLozier (ASHG – Education Committee)

### Sub Committees Chairpersons:

- Accreditation Committee for Clinical/Medical Geneticists (Chair Ulf Kristoffersson, [Ulf.Kristoffersson@med.lu.se](mailto:Ulf.Kristoffersson@med.lu.se))
- Accreditation Committee Genetic Nurses/Counsellors (Co-chairs Heather Skirton, [heather.skirton@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:heather.skirton@plymouth.ac.uk), and Christine Patch, [christine.patch@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:christine.patch@gstt.nhs.uk))
- Accreditation Committee for Laboratory Geneticists (Chair Jacques Beckman - Switzerland, [jacques.beckmann@chuv.ch](mailto:jacques.beckmann@chuv.ch))

### Working Groups Coordinators

- E-learning (Francoise Clerget-Darpoux)
- Public Health Genomics/Community Genetics (Martina Cornel)
- ESHG courses (Peter Farndon)

Dear Colleagues,

This is the last of my letters as chairman of the Education Committee. I am glad that Peter Farndon has accepted to take it over and I am sure this will be a good change in quality. I am very happy to have contributed to carry on the work of the committee in the last five years. It has been quite heavy work but for me has been a great opportunity to meet all of you and to learn from you. Anyway I will contribute in the next five years as board member, so we will have other opportunities to work together!

My best regards,  
Domenico

**Minutes of ESHG Education Committee (EdCo) meeting**  
ESHG conference in Vienna:  
**Saturday, May 23th, from 13.00 to 15.30, Room 1**

**Apologies from:** Heather Skirton, Maj Hulten, Peter Goetz, Francoise Clerget Darpoux, Fred Petrij, Alastair Kent and Gyorgy Kosztolanyi.

**Present:** Domenico Coviello (chair), Peter Farndon (deputy- chair), Agnes Bloch-Zupan, Martina Cornel, Celia DeLozier, Lisbeth Tranebjaerg, Vaidituis Kucinkas (left at 14.00), Tayfun Ozcelik, Maria Soller (left at 14.00), Jorge Sequeiros and Shirley Hodgson (both arrived almost at the end of the meeting).

**1) DC welcomed** and the attendees approved the agenda.

**2) Composition** of the committee:

- DC announced his election as board member of ESHG and the decision to conclude the term as chairman of the committee this year instead of next year. PF, as present deputy chair, is ready and accept to chair the EdCo from this year. DC will continue to collaborate with the EdCo as liaison person of Eurogentest project and of Eurogene project, both ending in 2010. DC thanks all EdCo members for all the work done together and recognize that thank to the common results achieved the EdCo has been recognized as one of the important column on which our scientific society will base its future work.

- Martina Cornel was willing to and was approved as continuing as a member.
- PF would ask Peter Goetz regarding continuing membership.

**3) Communications from the ESHG board.** The board decided:

- to incorporate the chair of EC as a member of the Executive Board of ESHG.  
- to promote the sub-committees of Education committees to ad hoc committees around specific topics. These ad hoc committees are now independent from EdCo and their activity will be reported directly to the board.

**4) The minutes from Brussels meeting** (January 2009) were approved. DC reported from the discussion with the EUGT and the UEMS.

**5) Report from the Education committee:** DC has written a report included in the Newsletter, disseminated with the current ESHG conference material. Addendum: The date

for the course “Counselling skills for genetic counselling: Training the trainers in a European context” was incorrect on the newsletter. The course will be held in Vienna Oct 5<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> 2009.

**6) EUROGENE project:** DC reported briefly on the work ongoing. The objective is to establish an European reference portal for Human Genetics that will bring together many multimedia resources into a single organized site and will enable authors and educators to find, organize recombine and develop multimedia educational materials. A more detailed summary is attached. ESHG is a partner of this project and last year a newly established Quality Committee produced a document on quality requirements of the education material that goes into the portal (see letter 15, available on our website). Next operative phase will be the random checking of material as soon as the collection phase will be terminated. The project will end in October 2010.

Action: DC will communicate the Quality Committee when the next phase will start.

### **7) Proposed activities**

a) EUROGENETEST (EUGT) project: DC informed that the period has been extended with six months and the project will end by June 2010. This makes it possible to arrange the last workshop in early 2010. With last activity of the project we will start the dissemination process among medical specialist non-geneticist convening a workshop with some joint activity aimed to work with colleagues to include or update the genetic content of curricula according the Core Competence Document. A working group for arranging this was established: DC , Peter Farndon, Agnes Bloch-Zupan, Tayfun Ozcelik, Lisbeth Tranebjærg (and one more person Martina would suggest but she did not give a name during the meeting). Possible collaborators: ESHG, UEMS, EUROGENETEST, selected representatives from collaborating specialities (paediatrics, obstetrics, oncology, dentistry, cardiology, neurology, audiology, ophthalmology, general practice.

Actions: DC will contact Ulf Kistoffersson to verify concurrent action and will inform the group.

b) PF has valuable experience from a similar activity in UK, where reactions from different specialties and the way we would approach them would make a great difference in their attitude and motivation. One possibility is to start with a small number of collaborating specialties in order to build up the inclination to take genetics on board. The question was raised to possibly invite representatives responsible for building teaching curricula, but this point may be out of the immediate scope of our ambitions. The overall focus is to “raise awareness towards genetics”, and an attractive title of the workshop for 40-60 participants is crucial. Case based dynamic stories have been valuable, i.e. myotonic dystrophy because it affects all organ systems and may affect people in all age groups, albeit differently. Reaching a recognition of the significance of a family history on a patient presenting in any speciality is a major goal

Action: PF will propose some examples that can be used

c) Martina Cornel informed that the PPPC (possibly in collaboration with the education committee) would propose a one-day meeting ahead of the next ESHG meeting in

Gothenburg, June 12<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 with the topic: "The changing landscape of genetic testing, including DTC testing".

Action: MC will send a proposal after discussion with PF

d) As the ESHG executive wish to strengthen the role of education in the Society's activities, a One-day strategy planning meeting for the Education committee will be held. This day will be used to discuss the scope of the Education committee, membership and future strategy of the work in the group. As part of the day it will be important to decide how to identify the educational wishes and needs by ESHG members and other groups.

Action: PF will organize. The first week of September or mid July were suggested.

### **8) ESHG courses.**

A number of courses have been planned (see report from Education Committee in Newsletter), and the ESHG is dedicated to continue this support in a structured way, and the strategy is being formulated by the board, and will contain principles of: transparency of application procedures and evaluation measures, including clear formulation of whom the course is focused to attract.

Action: Jerome and PF are finalizing the details.

Ongoing initiatives for applications for courses in 2010:

a) Ross Hastings (UK), who is chairing the ESHG Laboratory Quality Committee, has proposed to organize an ESHG course: "Quality issue of diagnostic services". One day training sessions on EQA to introduce the importance of internal and external quality control in a diagnostic setting and a one day training session which will involve examples of common diagnostic errors/pitfalls. Although the examples will be predominantly related to Constitutional Cytogenetics, the examples given are equally applicable to array-CGH, where an understanding of the different aetiologies giving rise to the abnormal result should to be considered.

Action: PF will contact RH and Jerome to finalize the proposal.

b) Agnes Bloch-Zupan is awaiting reply to an application to the EU on "Trans Euroral" course (COST action).

c) Martina Cornel is working on a course application regarding Community health and genetics

d) Ulf Kristoffersson and Shirley Hodgson are on the way to organize an Oncogenetic course announced last year.

Action: PF will ask to each of them a full plan (scientific and financial) before bring the official proposal to ESHG executive board.

e) Collaboration with EGF: Current arrangements with the EGF regarding the arrangement of courses are to some extent in line with what ESHG wants to work in the future.

Action: PF is meeting Giovanni Romeo.

### **9) International activities.**

Sylvia Metcalfe (Chair of IGEN - International Genetic Education Network) had reported to DC before our meeting, on the proposal to organize a Educational Workshop or Satellite meeting at the International Congress of Human Genetics (ICHG) in Canada (2011). She has presented the proposal also to Segolene Aymè as liaison member of ESHG at IFHGS (the organizing body of ICHG).

Action: PF will keep close contact with SM on this initiative.

### **10) DNA day**

Celia reported of 96 essays received from 13 different countries. The review panel had shrunk during the process and she will ask for more reviewers next year. For the next year the assays titles will be ready for November.

Action: CD will do.

### **11) Various topics**

a) A question was raised of how non-geneticists can acquire formal recognition of skills within clinical genetics. This is complicated by different policies in different countries of having formal recognition of medical specialty in more than one field, and a master course with a diploma may be one way to recognize this.

b) LT brought attention to a topic to which Christine Patch had alerted the PPPC about namely four white papers released by the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) on a set of topics, highly relevant to both the education committee and the PPPC: "A vision for the future of genomics: education and community engagement", "Applying Genomics to clinical problems-diagnostics, preventive medicine, pharmacogenomics", "Applying genomics to clinical problems-therapeutics", and "the future of genome sequencing" <http://www.genome.gov/>. This topic will be of great interest for both the education committee and the PPPC to look further into.

Action: These are potential topics for discussion at the one-day strategy planning meeting. PPPC will discuss this initiative further.

End of meeting

Minutes by LT 24-05-09, edited DC and PF

## **The Eurogene project – The first Pan-European Learning Service in the Field of Genetics**

The objective of Eurogene is to establish an European reference portal for Human Genetics that will bring together many multimedia resources into a single organised site and will enable authors and educators to find, organise recombine and develop multimedia educational materials.

The Eurogene web portal will be able to:

- identify and bring together educators in human genetics and facilitate their sharing of high quality educational content;
- support advanced multilingual content search to help content developers construct pedagogically sound educational packages;
- implement a trusted quality control procedure for both pedagogic and scientific peer-review;
- translate content into all major European languages using machine translation techniques;
- enhance the content by domain ontology based metadata to support the organisation of resources into a user specified structure. This includes grouping similar resources, finding alternative resources covering the same topics, and suggesting educationally sound sequences of resources leading to a specified learning objective. All this can be done using resources in one or more preferred languages.

How the portal works:

- educational resources uploaded to the portal are automatically analyzed and a set of metadata is extracted for the contributor to then check and confirm;
- in addition to standard metadata-based search the user can select one resource and ask for similar resources; select two resources and ask for possible educational pathways connecting them using the available resources; and specify a topic within genetics and request all the relevant resources.

Eurogene welcomes any organizations that would like to get involved and share their educational resources through the portal.

New content providers will benefit from:

- web publishing of their multimedia resources;
- easy retrieval of shared resources;
- access to the portal services and content;
- classification and organisation of training resources;
- quality assessment to enrich digital content;
- visibility of the material to a wide professional community;
- increased visibility of each organisation;
- networking with other institutions;
- access to information, events, forums and discussion groups;
- experience in e-learning and the web-based management of educational resources;

**More information at:** <http://www.eurogene.eu/>

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