

European Network of Genetic Nurses and Counsellors

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4th Meeting, National Human Genetics Societies (NHGSs)

Monday 2 June 2008

Background

- Increasing demand for genetic tests and information
- Pressure on existing professional groups to provide genetic healthcare
- Change in professional preparation of nurses (degree)
- Development of 'new' profession of non-medical genetic counsellors
- EuroGentest core competences written

Assessment of needs

- Ad hoc arrangements for training (often 'on the job')
- Professionals sometimes working without appropriate peer support
- Thirst for education and training
- Little opportunity for comparison and development
- Collaboration is better than confrontation!

Initiatives

- Approach to ESHG to establish a section for this group of professionals
- ESHG Board set up a sub-committee of Education Committee
- Messages to professionals in Europe to make new network known and invite membership

Progress

- Excellent response – so far over 60 members of the network from 15 countries
- Most contact electronic
- Monthly update message
- Survey of basic demographic data and to find out what members want from the network has been done
- First meeting in Barcelona on Saturday.

- Please encourage your members to join to add to the wealth of expertise in the group

Thank you for your attention