

# European Society of Human Genetics



## 4th Meeting

# National Human Genetics Societies (NHGSs)

Monday 2 June 2008, 11.15 to 13.15

CCIB Congress Center, Barcelona

## The organization of ESHG courses

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# INTRODUCTION

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This document provides a summary overview of the genetic course supported by ESHG

It does not give an exhaustive overview of everything that has been done, but wants to highlight the main decisions, reflection items and topics.

This reports will serve as basis for further discussion and decision taking on the future education initiatives of the European Society of Human Genetics.

## ESHG activity supporting Genetic Education

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Although the new established ESHG is already more than 10 old (1996) and the Education Committee has been started more than 5 years ago (2002), ESHG activity in supporting Genetic Education has been quite limited.

Three main actions have been taken every years:

- Support to already established courses by fellowships
- Education session at the beginning of the annual meeting
- One workshop on education activities selected from the abstracts sent to the annual meeting

## ESHG activity supporting Genetic Education

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Education Committee has been working in collaboration with the EC Network of Excellence EUROGENTEST and has collected information on education materials and courses present in different countries and made these info available through the web site. This work needs to be improved with the help of national societies to have more info on our web site.

The more active institution that has organized genetic courses at the European level has been the European Genetic Foundation (EGF) and ESHG has been supporting fellowships for students attending these courses.

# EGF courses supported by ESHG

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**Medical Genetics**

**Developing Advanced Counselling Skills in Genetics**

**Statistical Genetic Analysis of Complex Phenotypes**

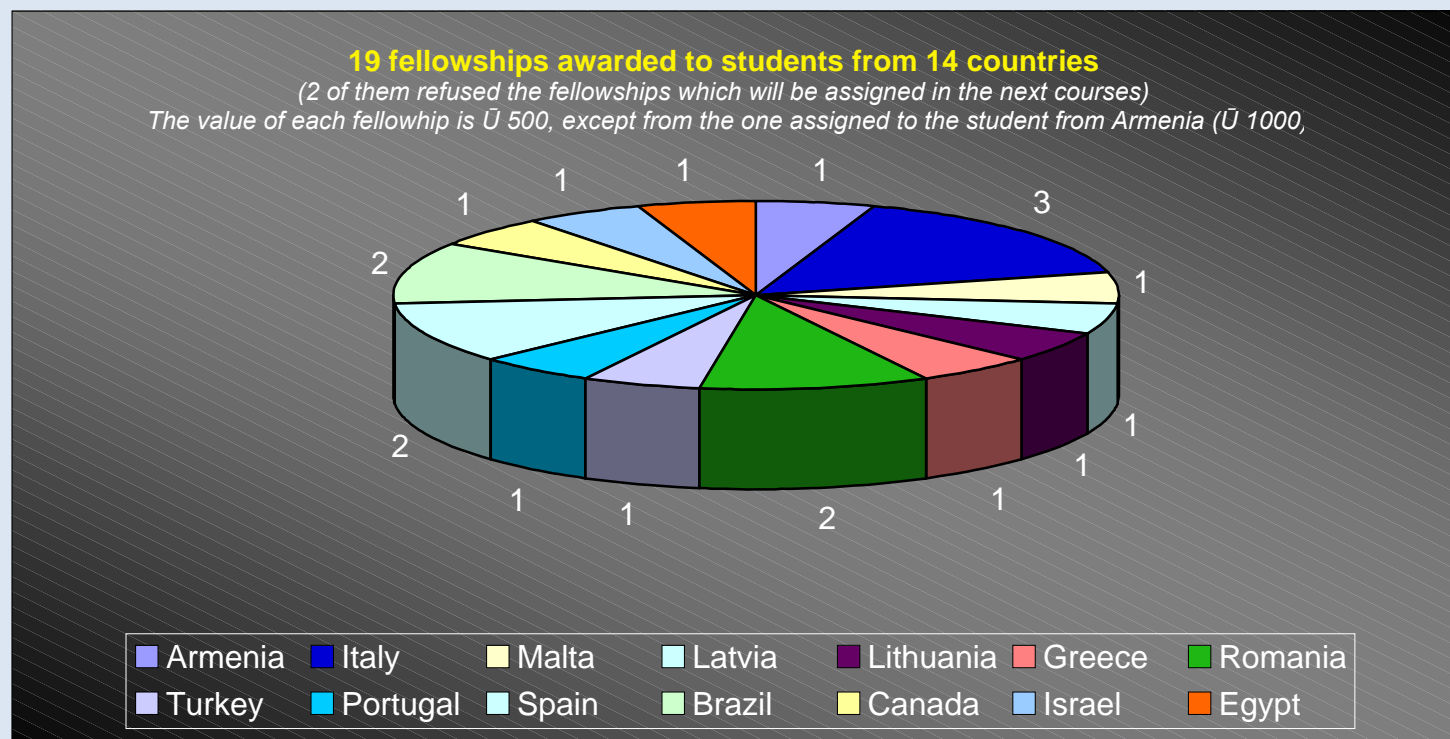
**Molecular Cytogenetics & DNA Microarrays**

**Genetic Counselling in Practice**

# ESHG fellowships for EGF courses in 2007



Country	n.
Armenia	1
Italy	3
Malta	1
Latvia	1
Lithuania	1
Greece	1
Romania	2
Turkey	1
Portugal	1
Spain	2
Brazil	2
Canada	1
Israel	1
Egypt	1
Total	19



## ESHG decision in 2007

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During the board meeting in Nice (June 2007) educational activities have been discussed and the point to organize more courses as ESHG was raised.

Many reasons were in favour of this proposal, the two main ones were:

- All EGF courses are held in Italy, that even if this is a wonderful place to visit, it could be not always the most appropriate. A rotation in different countries could be more favourable for the travelling of students.
- The requests of ESHG were quite often not taken into account, both for the visibility point of view and for the participation in the planning and decision making of the faculty members.

## ESHG decision in 2007



During the strategic meeting in Brussels (November 2007) a proposal was discussed on how to organize courses by ESHG.

### **A protocol for organising ESHG courses was approved:**

- 1) Education Committee receives and/or generates proposals for courses. Expenses for any meetings etc that are required in order to decide whether or not to run a course are met out of the ESHG account in Vienna and do not have to be agreed in advance by the Executive.
- 2) The Education Committee is responsible for all academic aspects of the course, including location, content, speakers, selecting students (and may delegate this responsibility to a Course Organiser or Organising Committee). The Executive Officer will, if requested, provide administrative support for this.



## Protocol for organising ESHG courses



**3)** If the Education Committee decides to support a course, they will present the Executive with a course outline and a budget, including:

- Full costs of mounting the course, including hire of venue, costs of bringing in speakers, providing course materials and administrative and any other costs.
- Request for financial support for student fellowships

**4)** The registration fee for the course should equal the full cost as above divided by the projected number of students.

**5)** The Executive will consider the total financial risk to the ESHG (size of risk and probability of course failing to recruit) and the cost of fellowships, but not the academic content, in deciding whether or not to support the proposal.

**6)** The Executive Officer will, if requested, handle enrolment, collection of fees, payment of fellowships and bills. The ESHG will underwrite any financial loss from the course.

This scheme will be reviewed annually by the Executive.

## Situation of organising ESHG courses today

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- ESHG will support with fellowship EGF courses for 2008 as the last year
  
- The Education Committee has received two proposals to organize a course:
  - 1) Counselling skills for genetic counselling 'Training the trainers' in a European context  
*Contact: H. Skirton*      [heather.skirton@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:heather.skirton@plymouth.ac.uk)
  
  - 2) Genetic Epidemiology Of Human Diseases  
*Contact: F. Clerget*      [clerget@vjf.inserm.fr](mailto:clerget@vjf.inserm.fr)
  
- The evaluation process is in progress

## Counselling skills for genetic counselling 'Training the trainers' in a European context

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- Counselling skills are acquired through training. While generic counselling courses are available in many countries, there are few courses in **counselling skills** specifically for health professionals who are involved in provision of genetic counselling.
- Counselling is a skill that often requires the counsellor to use and understand the nuances of the language being spoken. Therefore, it is preferable where possible for professionals to learn to counsel in the languages he or she would use in the normal course of work.
- It is proposed that the European Society for Human Genetics (ESHG) support a course to provide training for appropriate individuals, who are then able to offer courses in genetic counselling skills within their home countries. These individuals will be experienced in both clinical genetics and counselling skills before attending the course. The course will build on this personal expertise to equip them to offer training to others.

# Counselling skills for genetic counselling ‘Training the trainers’ in a European context

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## Participants

Specific persons nominated by their national societies and approved by the facilitators will be invited to attend the course. As this course is about training persons to train others, participants will be asked to facilitate an educational training course for health professionals working in clinical genetics settings in his or her own country. For this reason, it is essential that each trainer has the support of his or her national professional organisation to attend the course and to arrange a course in the home country later. This dissemination of skills is the rationale behind all ‘Training the trainer’ courses.

We will approach the national societies and ask them to propose two people with the appropriate qualifications and experience. Counselling skills training involves personal development as well as theoretical education and practical skills workshops. As the persons will be expected to train others, those who are invited will already have completed training in counselling skills and will be experienced counsellors. We stress that it is very important that those who come to do the course already have a strong background in counselling skills, as this is needed to be able to train professionals in a safe and effective way. We will provide a form to collect the necessary information on the potential participants, from which the selection of participants can be made by the facilitators in conjunction with the ESHG Education Committee.

# Genetic Epidemiology Of Human Diseases



## *1<sup>st</sup> part : methodological teaching*

MC. Babron, C. Bourgain, F. Clerget, E. Génin, L. Tiret, A-L Leutenegger, J-L Serre

## *2<sup>nd</sup> part: illustrations*

L Abel, C. Bonaïti, T. Frebourg, F. Demenais, J-P. Hugot, S. Lyonnet

### **Main Topics:**

Basic statistics, Introduction to Genetic epidemiology, The concept of linkage disequilibrium and population genetics, Association studies for Multifactorial Diseases, Fine mapping and Hapmap, Linkage analysis for multifactorial diseases, Different strategies for studying multifactorial diseases.

**Teaching place:** CHU du Kremlin Bicêtre-Faculté de Médecine Paris-Sud, Paris

### **Objectives :**

Training on the different strategies for genetic factor identification in human Diseases

**Contact:** F. Clerget      [clerget@vjf.inserm.fr](mailto:clerget@vjf.inserm.fr)