REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF EUROPEAN BOARD OF MEDICAL GENETICS

PROFESSOR HEATHER SKIRTON
CHAIR OF THE EBMG
WHY?

• Need to ensure patient safety – through minimum standards of education and competence for all three professions

• Coherence across Europe

• Need for support in many countries.
STRUCTURE OF EBMG

Three sections:

• Medical (Chair – Ulf Kristoffersson)

• Laboratory scientist (Chair – Thomas Liehr)

• Genetic Nurse and Counsellor (Co-Chairs Heather Skirton and Milena Paneque).
PRACTICALITIES

• Monthly meeting of Chairs and Jerome

• Each section operated independently but with full communication between sections

• Excellent support from ESHG Exec and Jerome.
MEDICAL SECTION

• Medical genetics is a European specialty, however, need for organised CPD and ongoing assessment of competence...

• UEMS section proposed by Swedish association-accepted

• UEMS section established...inaugural meeting on Monday
GENETIC NURSE AND COUNSELLOR SECTION

Tasks
• Compare core curriculum with existing Master’s programmes – undertaken and four approved, two more in pipeline

• Develop registration system.
THREE ROUTES TO REGISTRATION

1. Applicants with MSc Genetic counselling or genetic nursing, plus 2 years experience - demonstrate competence via complete portfolio

2. Applicants with relevant national registration – provide proof of this

3. Grandfather clause – applicants who are experienced practitioners but have no MSc, can be registered by providing full portfolio....this opportunity closes 2018
PORTFOLIO FOR NURSE/COUNSELLOR REGISTRATION

- References from two senior colleagues, who have observed the work of the applicant
- Case log of 50 cases covering all the competences
- Case studies (2) – one on ethical and one on psychological issue (2000 words each)
- Short science essays (2) showing application of science to practice (1000 words each)
- Record of continuing professional education – 30 hours per year minimum.
LABORATORY SCIENTIST SECTION

• Core curriculum was developed

• Work to assess the consistency of national curricula with the core curriculum – questionnaire answered by scientists from 41 countries
Results: guidelines for training of scientists

Excluded:
- Andorra
- Monaco
- San Marino
- Liechtenstein
- Luxemburg
- Vatican
- 41 ‘countries’ answered; → 21 have a national system
- These were compared with core curriculum to assess agreement.
LABORATORY SCIENTIST SECTION

- Clinical Laboratory Geneticist suggested as title
- System for registering scientists now being discussed.....
POTENTIAL SYSTEM FOR SCIENTISTS

• Group 1: applicants coming from a country with national education program conforming sufficiently to European curriculum and having national certificate – **provide documentation of this**

• Group 2: applicants coming from a country with national education program that does not conform sufficiently to European curriculum and having national certificate - **provide documentation and further evidence of competence**

• Group 3: applicants coming from a country without national education program – **provide evidence of competence** – requires an assessment system.
European Board of Medical Genetics

Objectives of the EBMG

The objectives of the EBMG are to develop systems of certification and/or re-certification for professionals working in genetic healthcare in Europe.

In practice, this means designing, organising and managing schemes for three divisions of practitioners:

- Clinical laboratory geneticists working with laboratory diagnosis of human genetic disorders. There is no existing European system, therefore an certification system and core European curriculum for training is required.

- Genetic nurses and genetics counsellors. There is no existing certification system at European level, and few national systems. The priority is to establish a European certification system. A core European curriculum for training at Master level is also required.

- Clinical geneticists. Due to recognition of clinical genetics as a specialty within Europe, there is no requirement to set up a system. However, consideration is being given to establishing a genetics section within UEMS. In addition, a re-certification system may be offered by EBMG as there is currently no European mechanism for clinical geneticists to demonstrate their ongoing competence.
SPECIAL THANKS

• Section chairs and committee members

• Joerg Schmidtke, Helena Kaariainen, Gunnar Houge

• Jerome!