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Dear colleague

Appended please find some information about the twelfth course on clinical cytogenetics to be held at Goldrain Castle in South Tyrol, including a program of the last course and a pre-registration form.

Time: August 26 - September 2, 2016 (arrival on Aug 26 after noon, departure on September 02 after breakfast).

Venue: Goldrain Castle. This 16th century castle was transformed into a conference centre some years ago. It is situated in north-eastern Italy, in the German-speaking region of South Tyrol (province of Bolzano/Bozen). There are different ways of access, and you have to find out what is best for you.

Access: The airport of Bolzano/Bozen is accessible by air from Rome only. From there (Bozen railway station) to Goldrain there are trains every hour with change of train in Meran/Merano. The train journey takes 1½ hours. From Goldrain station it is a 10-minutes walk to the castle. Pickup and transportation of luggage can be arranged. There are smaller airports in Verona and Innsbruck. The train from Verona to Bolzano takes 1½ hours, and from Innsbruck to Bozen 2 hours.

The airports of Zurich, Munich and Milan are larger. From Zurich to Goldrain: although you have to change 5 times, we recommend this way because of the spectacular landscape and the reliability of the connections. From Zurich airport a train (about every 10 minutes) brings you in 8 minutes to Zurich Hauptbahnhof (main station). Here you change to a train direction Chur, next change in Landquart for a train to Zernez (some trains go directly, others request a further change at Sangliains). From Zernez railway station you take a bus to Mals, crossing the border Switzerland-Italy at Müstair/Taufers. In Mals you change to the train direction Meran and get out at Goldrain/Morter station. From there it's a 10-15 minutes walk, you can see the castle from the railway station and there is a pickup service available. Train tickets Zurich airport to Mals can be purchased at the airport, from Mals (or Meran) to Goldrain at Mals station (because this train is a private one from the province of Bolzano/Bozen).

All connections are prompt and just on the opposite side of the platform, with the bus directly at the station. The trains from Munich go via Innsbruck and take about 4 hours to Bozen. Trains from Milan go via Verona and take about 3½ hours to Bolzano. Of course, one has to add the time needed to travel from the airport to the central railway station (Muenchen Hauptbahnhof/ Milano, Stazione Centrale).

The site: The Goldrain castle (see www.schloss-goldrain.com) is equipped with computer facilities and internet connection in every room of the dormitory and offers a large number of small and large auditoria and exercise rooms. About 40 beds are available in the modern dormitory connected to the castle itself, and an equal number are close by. All meals are taken in the restaurant at the conference site. Food is excellent: a combination of local (Tyrolian) and Italian cuisine. Requests for special diet should be announced in advance.



Focus of the course: The lectures are aimed at both clinicians and cytogeneticists who have strong mutual interests in the other field. Preferably, in order to have a maximum profit from the lectures and exercises, participants should have at least one year of practical experience in laboratory and/or clinical cytogenetics. A (voluntary) multiple choice examination will be held at the end of the course. One afternoon will be reserved for an excursion.

Pre-registration, registration and fee: The course will be organized if there is a minimum of 30 students; the maximum number of participants is 40. This will be decided 3 months ahead of the course, therefore by the end of May, 2017. After acceptance of the application (pre-registration form) to participate in the course (you will receive a letter confirming it), registrations will be accepted in the order of arrival of the conference fee in the bank account. We would recommend you to transfer the amount as soon as possible and well before April 01 to ensure your participation.

Students who have not paid by May 30 can not be guaranteed to be allowed to participate. A letter of confirmation will be sent out. In case of cancellation by the student between 01.06. and 01.07.2017, 80% of the fee will be reimbursed. For cancellations between 01.07. and 15.07.2017 the reimbursement will be 50%. After 15.07.2017 there will be no reimbursement.

The registration fee is 1300.- Euro, which includes accommodation, meals (including the dinner on August 26 to the breakfast on September 02) and conference documents including all powerpoint presentations in print, but not the travel. If you decide to share a room with another student, the fee will be reduced to 1150.- Euro, provided that you or we can find a second person for the room. If, for any reason, the course will be cancelled by the organizers, the entire registration fee will be reimbursed.

If you want to come with a partner who does not participate in the course, she/he will only have to pay for the second bed in the room and the dishes which she/he decides to have (eg. could be only breakfast and dinner). Fees in 2015: Bed and breakfast 45 Euro/day, with dinner 55, with dinner and lunch 65. This has to be paid to the conference centre directly at departure.

ECARUCA: Since this course is organized also by E.C.A., there is the possibility of not only training how to use the database, but also of input of own cases. Further information on this topic will follow.

For any further questions please refer to me (Albert Schinzel) or Mrs Barbara Roth (secretary).

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