

**ESHRE
PGD Consortium**

**Newsletter,
April 2007**

Welcome to the 3rd Consortium newsletter with an update of our activities

**Training courses and meetings for 2007/2008
LYON**

Next Consortium meeting

The next meeting of the consortium will be at the ESHRE annual meeting in Lyon on Saturday 30th June at 1 PM in room "Saint Clair 3A+3B". As always this is a closed meeting only for full or associate consortium members.

SIG Reproductive Genetics

The SIG, together with the SIG stem cells, has organised a pre congress workshop on Sunday 1st July in Lyon on the (Epi)genetic aspects of human embryonic and germ stem cells. Please go to the ESHRE web site for further details (<http://www.eshre.com/emc.asp?pageld=310>).

The business meeting, which is an open meeting for all SIG members, will be on Tuesday 3rd July from 1-2pm.

Biopsy trouble shooting day

The aim of this meeting is for people who do biopsy to get together and discuss their experiences with biopsy and problems they have encountered. There will also be a number of lectures by key people (Markus Montag, Cristina Magli, Anick de Vos) and advice from the manipulator and laser suppliers. Participants are invited to email any questions they have to Veerle before the meeting so that they can be added to the agenda. The provisional timetable is attached. This is open to all staff of centres that are registered with the PGD consortium (full and associate members) and will take place on Thursday 5th July 2007 in Lyon (after the annual meeting). This course is being organised by Alan Thornhill and Stephane Viville. There is no charge for the course for consortium members but it will be on a first come first serve basis. If you wish to attend please contact Veerle.Goossens@eshre.com stating your name, centre name and centre number.

Genetics for ART Practitioners 2008

After successful courses in Brussels and London, there will be a Basic Genetics for ART Practitioners course in Greece in 2008. This course is being organised by the Department of Medical Genetics, Athens University (Joanne Traeger-Synodinos and Emmanuel Kanavakis).

Certificates

Several centres had asked for certificates confirming that they are consortium members. The steering committee have agreed that all fully registered centres will receive a certificate annually to confirm that they have sent in data and are full members of the consortium.

Data collection

Data VII

The steering committee have almost completed the paper on data VII. As soon as it is accepted for publication in HR, centres whose data is included will be sent a copy of the paper and all of the filemaker pro files that were used for data VII.

Data VIII and beyond

The steering committee have agreed that the version of file maker Pro that was sent out for data collection VIII (sent to you in December 2006) will stay the same for a few years. So you can now start inputting cycles from 2006 and 2007.

Task Forces

Two task forces have been set up.

Accreditation task force

This is being chaired by Karen Sermon. Accreditation is very important for diagnostic labs (and obligatory in some countries) and ideally all consortium members should be accredited. There is no doubt that this will be necessary in every country in time, but some countries do not have accreditation. The task force is going to find out what the situation is in different countries and to see where the consortium can help

PGS / Aneuploidy screening task force

This task force will be looking into what term is most appropriate for the analysis of IVF/ICSI embryos for chromosomal aneuploidies. This includes whether this treatment is a screen, diagnosis or test. The use and indications of aneuploidy screening will also be discussed.

Invites to join consortium

All PGD centres, or IVF units doing the biopsy for PGD centres who are consortium members, are going to be invited to join the consortium. This has been started by inviting all ESHRE members who do PGD to join.

Old and new members of the steering committee

Joep Geraedts and William Kearns have stepped down from the steering committee. Thanks to both for their help over the years. Joep has been involved in the consortium since the beginning and has made an enormous contribution. As well as previously being the Chair of the SIG Reproductive Genetics, now he will become Chair of ESHRE in Lyon. Tugce Pehlivan (Spain) and Francesco Fiorentino (Italy) have joined the steering committee.

Paediatric follow up

This is about to be launched and all consortium members will be sent the information but to become part of the study centres need to meet the study criteria. It is being launched by Alison Lashwood. Details to follow.

External Quality Assessment for preimplantation FISH testing

We are aiming for a launch of this scheme in Lyon. If anyone is still interested in participation, please contact either Alan Thornhill (athornhill@thebridgecentre.co.uk) and/or Sjoerd Repping (s.repping@amc.uva.nl).

Steering Committee

The members of the steering committee are:

Chair, Joyce Harper, Past Chair, Karen Sermon, Deputy Chair, Alan Thornhill. Stephane Viville (France), Christine deDie (Netherlands), Leeanda Wilton (Australia), Paul Scriven (UK), Gary Harton (USA), Celine Moutou (France), Alison Lashwood (UK), Sioban SenGupta (UK), Sjoerd Repping (Netherlands), Joanne Traeger-Synodinos (Greece), Katerina Vesela (Czech Republic), Tugce Pehlivan (Spain) and Francesco Fiorentino (Italy)

Email list

If there is anyone at your clinic who would like to receive this newsletter, please send their email address to Veerle.Goossens@eshre.com quoting your centre number

Further information

If you would like to make any comments, suggestions or need any further information about the consortium please email Veerle.Goossens@eshre.com