



ESHRE PGD Consortium

**Newsletter,
February 2009**

Welcome to the 9th Consortium newsletter with an update of our activities.

Statutes and call for new members of the steering committee

To fit with the new statutes, several members of the consortium steering committee will be standing down this year as many have been on the committee since the beginning. We therefore welcome applications for new members to the steering committee. Your centre will need to be a 'full member' of the consortium for you to apply. Please email a short CV along with the answer to two questions: 1) What do you think have been the consortium's most important contributions until now? 2) What new initiatives would you introduce?

If interested please email joyce.harper@ucl.ac.uk and call your email 'consortium' and put your centre number.

Meetings at the ESHRE Congress in Amsterdam

Saturday 27th June, 3.30 – 4pm

FISH EQA participants meeting

This is an open meeting for anyone interested in the FISH EQA, whether you participated in the pilot or wish to take the next EQA. The results of the pilot and the 2009 FISH EQA will be discussed.

Saturday 27th June, 4-7pm

Annual PGD Consortium closed meeting for members only.

Draft agenda will be circulated soon.

Thursday 2nd July, 2009

Post congress workshop on 'The use of arrays in PGD'

Draft schedule

Francesco Fiorentino (Genoma) - An introduction to arrays

Aneuploidy arrays

Santiago Munne (Reprogenetics) - Use of CGH arrays for PGD of aneuploidy

Alessandro Borsatti (PerkinElmer) - BAC arrayCGH: a robust method to access chromosomal abnormalities in Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis

Michelle Fraser (RHS) – Clinical data using the RHS array

Tony Gordon (BlueGnome) – 24sure - pre-implantation chromosomal aneuploidy screening - the technical development of single cell analysis technology

Colleen Lynch (CARE) - Clinical experience with metaphase and array CGH

Tina Buchholz (GYN-GEN-LEHEL) - PB analysis with Array CGH in a clinical trial

Ali Hellani (Saad Specialist Hospital) - Success of aneuploidy screening using A-CGH in recurrent IVF patients

Serdar Coskun (King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center) - Whole genome amplification from single cell and its optimization for better genomic coverage

SNP arrays and haplotyping

Thierry Voet (KULeuven / University Hospital of Leuven) - Haplotyping of single human cells.

Joris Vermeesch (K.U.Leuven) - Genome wide CNV and SNP detection in cleavage stage embryos uncovers chromosomal instability

David Johnson (Gene security) Reliable concurrent diagnosis of multiple genetic alleles and 24-chromosome ploidy without embryo freezing

Bill Kearns (Shady Grove Center for Preimplantation Genetics) – SNP Microarray Genetic Analyses to Determine 23-24 Chromosome Ploidy, Structural Chromosome Aberrations and Genome-Wide Scans to Identify Disease Risks from a Single Embryonic Cell

Alan Handyside (The Bridge Centre) - Karyomapping using genome wide SNP genotyping for PGD and molecular cytogenetics

Gary Harton (Genetics & IVF Institute) – Clinical Use of SNP Arrays for PGD/PGS

Alan Thornhill (The Bridge Centre) - Pros and Cons of Arrays in Clinical Application for Preimplantation Genetic Testing

Joyce Harper (UCL Centre for PGD) – Summary of the use of arrays in PGD

To register email joyce.harper@ucl.ac.uk and call your email 'array'

Data collection

The deadline for data X has closed. Data IX paper has been submitted and the raw data will be sent to those centres who participated. Data I-IX includes data on 21,743 cycles.

Working Groups Update

1. Accreditation – Chair: Katerina Vesela

NOTICE – if you are an accredited PGD laboratory, can you please email Veerle.Goossens@eshre.com and let us know when you were accredited and who accredited you.

The draft of the guide to PGD laboratory accreditation is almost complete.

Dates for your diary – 2010 workshop on accreditation in London.

2. Misdiagnosis – Chair: Joanne Traeger-Synodinos

The paper titled: **The causes of misdiagnosis and adverse outcomes in PGD**, Wilton, L, Thornhill, A, Traeger-Synodinos, J, Sermon, KD, Harper, JC

has been published and is now available to download from the consortium web site.

Study on the confirmation analysis of untransferred embryos. Jan Traeger-Synodinos will co-ordinate this for PGD cycles analysed by PCR and Gary Harton for PGD cycles analysed by FISH. PGD centres who wish to participate in either of these collaborative studies should contact Jan (jtraeger@med.uoa.gr) or Gary (gharton@givf.com) as appropriate.

4. Database – Celine Moutou

The working group have met to discuss the presentation of the pregnancy and baby data and to discuss the frozen embryo data. Minor modifications were done in databases for data collection XI. Data collection XI for cycles performed in 2008 should be launched before end February.

5.PGD Guidelines – Gary Harton

Four documents are being prepared;
General PGD
FISH-based PGD
PCR-based PGD
Embryo biopsy

Paediatric follow up – Alison Lashwood

This project is ongoing and will be reported at ESHRE.

FISH EQA

The assessors met in January to prepare the report. This is a very difficult task as it is the first PGD EQA but we hope to send the reports out soon.

Organisers and Assessors of the FISH EQA: Ros Hastings, Joyce Harper, Alan Thornhill, Edith Coonen, Paul Scriven

PCR EQA

DNA samples for the pilot study were sent out at the end of December 2008 and the feasibility reports were submitted by participating labs at the end of January. Those labs that can proceed to single cell analysis will be sent the single cells early in February and the single cell reports are due to be submitted by labs early in March. The assessors will meet in the middle of March to prepare their report.

Members of the EQA for molecular PGD working group:

Sandi Deans (UK), Martine De Rycke (Belgium), Francesco Fiorentino (Italy), Gary Harton (USA), Céline Moutou (France), Pamela Renwick (UK), David Robinson (UK), Sioban SenGupta (UK), Jan Traeger-Synodinos (Greece)

ESHRE PGS task force

A pilot study is being organised to test different array platforms.

Web site

The web site is being updated in the next few weeks. One item that was very out of date was the details of the members. Veerle has sent you all the

members details. Can you please update your information as soon as possible and return it to Veerle by the deadline.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Basic Genetics for ART practitioners

The SIG Reproductive Genetics plan to run the course in the following locations:

Strasbourg April 2009, Portugal (either Lisbon or Porto) 2010, Roma 2011.

Biopsy trouble shooting workshop

We aim to run another biopsy trouble shooting post congress course in Roma 2010.

Quality management in PGD

A two day workshop will be held in London in 2010 (March or April).

Steering Committee

The members of the steering committee are:

Chair, Joyce Harper, Past Chair, Karen Sermon, Deputy Chair, Alan Thornhill. Veerle Goossens (Belgium), Christine deDie (Netherlands), 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