

Special Interest Group Reproductive Genetics

Short Report on the Informal Lunch meeting held on 29 June 2004 at Room 42 of the ICC in Berlin.

For this meeting all members of the SIG Reproductive Genetics have been invited. Joep Geraedts, Karen Sermon and Joyce Harper started by introducing themselves as co-ordinator and deputy co-ordinators respectively. They made clear that the aim of the SIG is broader than that of the PGD Consortium, which is part of this SIG.

PGD Consortium:

On Saturday afternoon 26 June the yearly PGD Consortium meeting was held. This meeting was for Consortium members only. Karen Sermon gave a short summary of this meeting.

Data collections:

Data Collection IV (May-December 2001) will be published soon in Human Reproduction.

Data Collection V (2002) has resulted in data from 43 centres. The data will be processed by the Steering Committee. Some changes to the database were discussed.

Guidelines:

At the Madrid meeting it was decided to write guidelines. It appeared that two sets of guidelines had been produced: one by the PGD International Society (PGDIS) and one by the ESHRE PGD Consortium. In spring the steering committee had suggested to PGDIS to publish the short PGDIS guidelines by both societies together as principles and to publish the much more detailed ESHRE document as guidelines. PGDIS felt it was important to publish just one set of guidelines together. It was voted on and decided that the ESHRE PGD guidelines would be published separately.

Teaching and training:

Within the new organizational structure of ESHRE a Training Sub-Committee has been established. This committee is responsible for all educational activities at different levels.

It was agreed that there should be two levels of education:

-Basic education

-Post-graduate training

Among the latter high level specialist workshops as well as pre-congress courses can take place.

Each SIG is invited to submit ideas about content and format for each of these activities. Suggestions of members are welcome.

The SIG Reproductive Genetics is already involved in the following activities:

Precongress courses:

2005: At the Annual ESHRE meeting in Copenhagen a joint pre-congress course on "Spermatogenetics" will be organised by the SIGs Andrology and Reproductive Genetics.

2006: For three years in a row (2003, 2004 and 2005) joint courses have been or will be organized. Therefore it was decided to have a course of the SIG Reproductive Genetics on its own in Prague. Peter Vogt and Joe-Leigh Simpson put several suggestions forward (male and female infertility, basic genetics, epigenetics etc. For 2006, it was decided to try to arrange for a meeting dealing with genes leading to infertility in the female (among others causing ovarian and uterine abnormalities).

Post congress workshop 2006: After the Annual meeting in Prague hands on workshop on PGD/PGS will be organised. It would be too much to do it before the congress since the consortium meeting on Saturday and the pre-congress course on Sunday already precede it. This meeting is organised by the SIG Reproductive Genetics and a local committee chaired by Milan Macek.

ESHRE/ESHG/EPPOSI:

On 31 March and 1 April 2005, in Sevilla (Spain) a workshop will be held on the interface between medically assisted reproduction and genetics: technical, social and ethical issues. This workshop is a joint activity of ESHRE, ESHG (the European Society of Human Genetics) and EPPOSI (the European Platform of Patients Organizations, Science and Industry). The result of this should be a set of recommendations. ESHG has already produced four sets of recommendations on important topics of concern in the field of Human Genetics (see www.eshg.org).

File maker Pro 6 course:

Immediately preceding this informal lunch meeting a FileMaker Pro 6 PGD database course was held for all members of the PGD Consortium. The aim of the course was to explain to the Consortium members how to correctly use the database. Karen Sermon and Stéphane Viville gave it. The interest was expressed to have an update on this course every year.

At the end it was concluded that a lunch for all SIG members is a good alternative to the business meetings that were formerly held. It is not only an opportunity to discuss business but also an occasion to informally meet everybody who is interested in genetics within ESHRE.