

Minutes of the Special Interest Group "Reproductive Genetics" held at the Prague Congress Centre on Tuesday, 20th June 2006

1. Report of the ESHRE PGD Consortium meeting.

The meeting took place on Saturday from 1pm to 4pm.

The possibility of a full or associate membership of the Consortium, according to the level of activity of the centre, was discussed as well as the possibilities for accreditation through the Consortium. Accreditation was deemed too difficult, and abandoned. Two types of members will be introduced. PGD Centres will pro-actively be invited to become members of the Consortium.

Several training courses were announced (see ESHRE.com).

A progress report was given for Data VI and data VII.

Different studies are about to be launched, e.g. paediatric follow-up study, quality control for FISH, and survey on FISH methodology for translocations.

2. Report of the first "Basic Genetics for ART practitioners" course.

This course, organised by Karen Sermon, took place the 7th of April in Brussels. It was well attended with around 70 persons. We have been asked to organise it on a regular basis. Alison Ashwood will organise the next one in March in London. The 2008 could take place in Athens.

3. Proposal of the next PCCs in Lyon and Barcelona

Prague PCCs was well attended with 50 to 60 participants.

Lyon : the PCCs is organised in association with the stem cell SIG. The program has been sent to the ESHRE Central Office, but it seems that few mistakes still need to be corrected. The program will be checked again. The correct programme is now given see eshre.com.

Barcelona: Stéphane Viville has proposed to set up a program around the genetics of the X and Y chromosome. Few ideas: Female meiosis/ Male meiosis/XY history, evolution/

X inactivation/X and Y transmission during meiosis/X behaviour during male and female meiosis/Y behaviour during male meiosis/Evolutionary consequences according to male or female transmission: through male transmission/through female transmission/Consequences of genetic information transmission by only one gender/Mitochondria mode of transmission and its consequences/Y mode of transmission and its consequences/The future of the Y chromosome/Female and male respective reproductive interest, the sex war.

Ideas are welcomed concerning subjects and speakers and can be sent to Stephane Viville (viville@igbmc.u-strasbg.fr).

4. Proposals for subject for the main conference in Barcelona

We have been asked to propose subjects for the main program of the Barcelona meeting. The deadline is now over, three proposals have been done, one by Karen Sermon concerning the update of PGD and two by Peter Vogt concerning (1) the Y chromosome, Y deletions and male infertility; (2) epigenetic phenomena; what do we know, what can we do in human ART.

Different subject have been proposed for the next annual meeting such as:

- mitochondrial genetics
- MicroArray what for, which ones, what can we expect, pitfalls.

5. SIG Reproductive Genetics web pages on the ESHRE web site

The initial page was created by Alan Handyside and improved by Joep Geraedts a couple of years ago. There is an urgent need to update it and render it more attractive. Peter Vogt mentioned that this involves two types of work: the web conception (the form) and the scientific aspect (the content). He offered to direct this second part with the help of any good voluntaries. Kristiina.Aittomaki (Kristiina.Aittomaki@hus.fi) volunteered to be part of the committee seeing to the web site, together with Peter and Karen (as supervisor). It is agreed that it should be upgraded every six months. The importance of the links to other sites was underlined by the audience as to decide what can be available to every one and what should have a restricted access

6. Report of the joint IPTS/Eurogentest/Epalan/ESHRE project on PGD in the EU

This EU project aimed to survey the availability of PGD in Europe. It has now been submitted for review to the EU. It will be reviewed again by the partners, and hopefully a peer-reviewed article would ultimately ensue.

7. Any other business

There was no other business.