

Minutes of the business/lunch meeting of the SIG Reproductive Genetics

Tuesday 30th Jun 2009, 1-2pm, Amsterdam

1. New rules for the SIG committee election were exposed

In brief, knowing that every thing is not yet decided, there will be one SIG coordinator, 1 SIG coordinator-elect also serving as a deputy, 1 past-coordinator, 1 deputy and 1 junior deputy. All SIG representatives will be elected by the SIG members and the SIG coordinator will be designated by the elected deputies, one year later from the representatives one deputy will be elected as coordinator-elect, who will become coordinator one year later. The next elections, organised by the central office, are planned in 2011. Let's see how the transposition will be organised.

2. Future activities

- SV has been contacted by two SIG coordinators to co-organise a PCC in 2011, the SIG for Law and Ethics and the SIG for Early pregnancy. The SIG of Law and Ethics has in mind the new ethical dilemmas coming up with the technologies allowing large scale analysis of the Genome in PGD practice. With the SIG Early Pregnancy, the programme still needs to be discussed. An agreement comes up to propose to co-organise with SIG-L&E an ESHRE campus, as an advance course, which has the advantage that it can be done sooner (some time in 2010). With SIG-EP a PCC will be organised, coordinators will get in touch and propose a first draft for the next SIGs meeting in Brussels in November (Note: A first fruitful meeting was held during the ESHRE annual meeting on Wednesday between Roy Farquharson (SIG-EP coordinator), Karen Sermon and Stéphane Viville).
- Filipa Carvalho has offered to organise the next ESHRE course “Basic Genetics for ART practitioners”, which will take place in Porto, Portugal some time in April 2010. She is now in charge of organising a programme. Alan Thornhill has asked if a second course could take place during the third trimester of 2010 and organised by Denisa Protopapescu from Romania. Stéphane will ask the central office if this is possible.
- The programme for “A celebration of 20 years of PGD” was discussed. It was agreed that it is a great idea to do it, but some discussion came up about some obvious speakers missing. It was agreed that two more speakers will be added, one from Brussels and one from Maastricht since they were pioneers in the field. It was reminded that any new activity and its programme should first be submitted to the SIG representatives and that the programme has to go through the ESHRE-EC before inviting any speakers. In general, the central office takes care of the invitations, although informal requests to possible speakers to check for their availability and willingness can be done.
- A 2nd “Biopsy trouble shooting day” will be organised, as in Lyon 2007, by Alan Thornhill and SV in 2011.
- The opportunity to organise two workshops on ES/iPS culture and on micromanipulations was discussed, but this may interfere with SIG embryology/SIG Stem cell responsibilities

3. Planned activities

It was reminded that two co-organised ESHRE campus are planned:

- ESHRE Campus 6th Workshop on Mammalian Folliculogenesis and Oogenesis: from basic science to the clinic. Potsdam, Germany 8-10 October 2009 Organised by the ESHRE Special Task Force Basic Science, in collaboration with the Special Interest Group Embryology and the Special Interest Group Reproductive Genetics (programme available on line).
- “Poor ovarian response (POR)”, inter-SIG campus and consensus conference, Bologna 19-20 March 2010 (programme almost available on line).
- PCC in Roma 2010, the programme is set up and the title is “From gametes to embryo: genetics and developmental biology”. It is co-organised with SIG embryology (programme almost available on line).

4. Proposal to set up a working group on the genetics of infertility.

The difficulties to set up a genetics of infertility network was mentioned. It was decided that Filipa Carvalho and SV will write a paper for Focus on Reproduction to try to inform and stimulate the society members to help. It was, again, underlined, by SV, the importance that this field will take in the coming years.

5. Conclusions

The meeting was very well attended. This is probably due to the reminder for the invitation that was sent a week before to all the SIG members. We should think to organise more officially this business SIG meeting in order that it appears in the official programme. SV will ask Bruno if this is feasible.

Note: ESHRE is thinking of putting all SIG business meetings at a fixed spot in the main conference, and not at the end of the PCC courses as was usual now. So once again, the SIG RG has been a pioneer.