

Special Interest Group (SIG) Reproductive Genetics
Business Meeting Minutes
Istanbul, Tuesday 3rd July 2012, 1-2pm

1. Courses since last meeting

- *Basic genetics for ART practitioners, 9 September 2011, Bucharest, Romania.* It went very well.
- *Accreditation of a Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis Laboratory (PGD Consortium), 3-4 October 2011, Athens, Greece.* This interactive workshop went very well and is being repeated in Istanbul in October 2012.
- *Comprehensive preimplantation screening: dynamics and ethics (SIG Ethics and Law and SIG Reproductive Genetics) 13-14 October 2011, Maastricht, The Netherlands.* A paper has been prepared from this meeting and it is hoped to submit it soon: Dynamics and Ethics of Comprehensive Preimplantation Genetic Testing. A Review of the Challenges Dynamics and Ethics of Comprehensive Preimplantation Genetic Testing. A Review of the Challenges. Kristien Hens, Wybo Dondorp, Alan H Handyside, Joyce Harper, Ainsley Newson, Guido Pennings, Christoph Rehmann-Sutter, Guido de Wert

2. Courses coming up (approved)

- *Genetics for ART practitioners, Rome, 7th September 2012*
- *Workshop on Accreditation of a PGD Laboratory, Istanbul, 11-12th October 2012*

3. Courses in development (not approved yet)

2013

- (planned for Sept to avoid the PGDIS meeting), Prague. *Emerging technologies in PGD and Prenatal Diagnosis (Milan Macek and Katerina Vesela)*
- It was agreed that this course should be proposed to ExCo. Topics: *Prenatal diagnosis, NIPT, PGD, PGS, array CGH, satellite symposiums on: 1. Karyomapping; 2. Sequencing.* Ursula Eichenlaub suggested that we involve another SIG such as Quality and Safety, Pregnancy etc.
- *Genetics for ART* – there was a suggestion from Germany to host this meeting.

2014

- *Stem cells, epigenetic and genetic stability and prospects of fertility preservation.* Proposed joint meeting with the SIG Stem Cells and Task Force Basic Science and Fertility Preservation. SIG Stem cells are already in agreement. It is suggested that this course will be in Brussels. Ursula, Karen, Stephane and Claudia will be organisers.
- *An update on PGS (to include discussions about the results of RCTs and maybe include a debate).* Proposed by Francesco Florentino. It was agreed that this is a good idea but should be towards the end of the year to give more time for the RCTs to be published. Location was not decided.

- *ASRM 2014 Conference*. ESHRE are looking for post graduate courses. It was discussed that we could put forward a course on the genetics of infertility including male and female and PGD. Joyce will look into this.
- *Quality management in PGD – 2013/2014?* No offers put forward to host this.

4. Annual Meeting 2013

London PCC, Genes and epigenetic mechanisms of infertility and how to minimize the risks. The programme is approved and can be found on the web.

5. Annual Meeting 2014

PCC – Proposal - Current status and future direction of PGD. Agreed.

Talks for the main meeting:

- Non invasive prenatal diagnosis by genome sequencing – Diana Bianchi
- Direct to consumer genetic testing – Pascal Borry
Diana has been invited in 2010 so we probably cannot invite her again. Ursula suggested that we invite someone who can talk in the PCC. It was agreed that they could give a general talk on sequencing in the PGD PCC.
- Milan suggestion: Predictivity of genetic testing in prenatal diagnosis– Cecille Janssen - how to read the results, how to give a message for the patients.
- Suzanna Frints suggestion: Overview of sequencing of cell free fetal DNA - Rossa Chiu (Hong Kong – could be invited instead of Diana); there are many unsolicited findings; need for guidelines; fetal fraction is very different in genome comparing to a single cell; fetal sequencing; microRNA
- To have 2 speakers – one European, one overseas – to give a debate: Different cultures; in China there is a massive sequencing and gender selection;
- Thierry Voet, from KULeuven BE/Sanger UK could be invited to give a talk on whole genome single cell sequencing and SNP haplotyping.
- Other suggestions: microRNA, retrotransposable elements to be in one topic: Genome regulation by small elements; to have this idea for the future

6. Update on PGD Consortium

Gary has finished his term as chair and has taken up a job in industry. Joyce and Jan thanked Gary for this hard work. Jan Traeger-Synodinos has taken over as chair and Joyce will stay on as past chair. An update on members was given showing how international the membership is. The number of full cycles submitted continue to grow with slightly less PGS and more PGD for single gene defects in the last data analysis. There are working groups on misdiagnosis and monitoring, database, molecular methods, accreditation, education and Jan wants to set up a new working group on HLA.

7. ESHRE/ESHG meeting report

A very successful meeting was held in March 2012 in Brussels. A paper has been drafted by all participants and Milan is currently editing this. Current issues in assisted reproduction and genetics in Europe; research, clinical practice and policy, Joyce Harper, Karen Sermon, Milan Macek, Joep Geraedts, Luca Gianaroli, Anna Veiga, Claudia Spits, Gary Harton, Stéphane Viville, Joris Vermeesch, Inge Liebaers, Michael Morris, Helena Kääriäinen, Heather Skirton, Françoise Shenfield, Pascal Borry, Martina Cornel, Sirpa Soini, Tanya Milachich, Jorge Sequeiros

8. EuroGentest report

They have funding to write guidelines on specific PGD diagnosis. There is a continued collaboration with the Consortium (workshops, etc).

9. Web site

It has recently been updated. Any suggested edits – please contact Joyce.

10. E-Learning

All SIGs are invited to suggest ideas to the ExCo.

The PGD Consortium has run a pilot to discuss cases using ‘go to meeting’. It was a 1 hour learning session with a short talk and then discussion. They will be recorded for future access. Open to all consortium members. They have a schedule for the next few case studies. Georgia Kokkali is heading this project.

It may be possible to write some e-learning material for the Genetics for ART and Accreditation for PGD workshops but the latter workshop also contains a hands-on problem solving session which would be more difficult by e-learning.

11. Any other business

Joyce will come to the end of her two year term in London 2013. The next coordinator will be Ursula. If someone wants to be a deputy - write to Joyce.