



Press release concerning the 10th meeting of the Belgian Society of Human Genetics

New discoveries in human genome research: “small pieces and the dark side”

The 10th meeting of the “Belgian Society of Human Genetics” (BeSHG) will be held on Friday February 26th at the ICC congress hall in Ghent. During this meeting, which will gather about 300 Belgian geneticists, important breakthroughs will be presented. In particular, new techniques for rapid DNA sequencing are presented which are now dramatically changing the face of contemporary human genetic research. In contrast to the early sequencing efforts of the human genome which took many years, new machines are now taking over the job finishing the job in just weeks. Also, the recent discovery of small pieces of messenger molecules that play a crucial role in the control of the regulation of gene activity will be presented, with particular focus of these so called microRNAs in the development of cancer. These Nobel prize winning molecules may offer new opportunities for targeted less toxic and more efficient cancer treatment. Finally, the growing importance of emerging new genomic information in relation to patient tailored treatment, so-called personalised medicine will be presented. More detailed info about the meeting and other activities of the BeSHG can be found on the website (www.beshg.be).