Minutes of the BeSHG Annual General Assembly held on 4 March 2011
during the 11th Annual BeSHG Meeting at the Aula Magna, Louvain-la-Neuve

Attendance: 50 members were present

1. Presidential Address: Hélène Antoine-Poirel gave an overview of the activities for 2010.
   - The Board had met 10 times over the past year.
   - The portfolio of the Treasurer had been divided into 4:
     a. The treasurer, Guy Van Camp, attended to the bookkeeping, banking and tax issues.
     b. Paul Coucke would attend to Fees (membership, post-graduate course, annual meeting).
     c. Pascale Hilbert would attend to sponsoring.
     d. Sonia Van Dooren would attend to submission of official documents.
   - The Membership and Meeting Registration Fees had been reviewed (on-line at E30- and on site at E40).
   - The evaluation of the Workgroups had been seen as a priority and had been carried out.
   - Collaboration with the High Council for Anthropology had been fruitful in drawing up proposed genetic counselling guidelines.
   - Future projects
     a. The recognition of both ‘Medical Geneticists’ as well as ‘Medical Genetics Laboratory Specialists’.
     c. DNA Day
     d. Human Variome Project, the BeSHG presently having interim membership.

2. Financial Report: Guy Van Camp reported that the 2010 financial year had brought in E38071.80
   with expenses totalling E28000.15, resulting in a net gain of E10071.65 for 2010. The BeSHG had
   at 31-12-2010 E71672.94 banked.

3. Activities of the Workgroups:
   a. WG on Constitutional Post- and Prenatal (Molecular) Cytogenetics (BelCoCyt): Björn Menten reported that the activities of this 24-strong group had been around Guidelines for Prenatal
and Postnatal cytogenetics, Accreditation of (molecular) cytogenetics, Guidelines for array CGH, the New Article 33 (RIZIV/INAMI), the exchange of difficult cases, and the discussion of special cases, observations and meetings.

b. **WG on Cytogenetics for Haematology and Oncology (BCG-HO):** Lucienne Michaux and Katrina Rack reported that this group of 23 members held 2 or 3 meetings per year, focussing on Guidelines, Education, Technical Developments, Accreditation/ EQA and Scientific issues.

c. **WG on Molecular Genetics (Belmolgen):** Willy Lissens reported that this WG had had 4 meeting in 2010. Their main subjects of discussion were Methodology/ technology, Disorder discussion (cases) and finally Logistics/ strategy and quality (article 33, BELBIS, samples abroad/ accreditation and guidelines). The new format of meetings in 2010 had been presentations by two centres per meeting and then free communications. Future issues would be the recognition of scientists and greater collaboration with other WG’s.

d. **WG on Master Course in Human Genetics:** Marc Abramowicz and Wim Wuyts reported that the second course had run on Fridays during the 2009/2010 academic year and that 12 students had presented themselves for the examinations. There was no course in the 2010/2011 academic year, the next being planned for the 2011/2012 academic year.

e. **WG on Training and Accreditation:** Christine Verellen-Dumoulin reported that the High Council for Anthropology had finally in 2011 supported the notion of the specialist in Medical Genetics. Guidelines had been prepared. Eric Legius would from now co-chair this group and they would submit the dossier to the High Council for Medical Specialization in the month of April 2011.

4. **Work Group changes:**
   a. **The Evaluation of WG’s:** Following on the recommendation of the members of the **WG on Predictive Genetic Testing**, this WG had been disbanded.
   b. **WG on Recognition of Medical Genetics Laboratory Specialist:** This WG had been formed across the members of the WG’s in order to finalise the rules for qualification in this category, and thereafter to evaluate the applications to obtain this recognition.
   c. **Proposed New WG’s:** A ‘brain-storming’ session had been held on 27 October 2010 in order to initiate the WG ‘Clinical Genetics’, who considered the issue of ‘Standard vs Complex Genetic Counselling’ at their meeting on 28 January 2011. No chairpersons had yet been selected to guide this group.
   d. The participants of the monthly Dysmorphology meeting had recently approach the Board to officially become a WG of the BeSHG. This would receive attention soon.

5. **Future Meeting:** 2 March 2012 - Liege