Dear colleagues, dear friends,

**Annual Meeting and General Assembly**: Gent, Friday 19 March 2004

**Genetics and Connective Tissue.**

9.15h: Welcome
9.30h-10.00h: W Van Hul: Bone in balance and imbalance
10.00h-10.30h: F Ramirez: Marfan syndrome and related disorders: multiple roles of the elastic matrix in morphogenesis and homeostasis
10.30h-11.15h: coffee and posters
11.15h-11.45h: L Bruckner-Tuderman: Epidermolysis bullosa: from genes to symptoms and therapy
11.45h-12.15h: M Georges: The callipyge phenotype: paradigm of non-Mendelian inheritance
12.15h-13.15h: lunch and posters
13.15h-14.15h: General Assembly
14.15h-15.30h: selected oral communications (5 x 15’) from young scientists
15.30h-16.00h: coffee and posters
16.00h-16.30h: J Vandekerckhove: Novel proteome strategies: their potential impact on biomedical research and medicine
16.30h-17.00h: M Ferguson: Scar-free wound healing
17.15h: end of the meeting

This year we will have a session of **selected communications from young scientists** (< 35 years). Deadline for abstracts: **31.12.2003**. Practical informations will follow.

4 board members will finish their term and must be replaced: all members can **APPLY to become a board member** !! deadline for application: **31.12.2003**.

**EMQN needs Belgian representative**
The European Molecular Quality Network needs a representative from Belgium. So far the board received 2 applications, listed below.
If you are interested, mail us (marcabra@ulb.ac.be) before 30 Nov 2003, including a very short (50-100 words) resume of your profile.

Belgian Society of Human Genetics
www.beshg.be

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**Board**
M Abramowicz, President
G Mortier, Secretary
F Kooy, Treasurer
K Devriendt
K Keymolen
G Pierquin
L Van Maldergem
M Vikkula

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Nov 2003
BeSHG Newsletter

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Nov 2003.

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NEWSLETTER
of the BeSHG
Elisabeth Dequeker, assistant professor at the KULeuven, is specialized in quality assessment aspects of molecular diagnosis. She is quality manager and internal auditor at the Centre of Human Genetics and a certified auditor of BELTEST. She is executive coordinator of the Concerted Action and Thematic Network of CF network and is leading the Division Diagnostic Laboratories of this network. Since 1996, she is in charge of the organisation of annual European Quality Assessment schemes on CF, a parallel scheme with the EMQN schemes. The results from her scientific work on QA aspects in molecular diagnostics have been published in high level journals. She is (co-)organiser of training sessions, symposia and satellite meetings on QA aspects in molecular diagnostic laboratories. She is the only European observer of the Working Group on Molecular Diagnostic Methods for Genetic Diseases of NCCLS (US), member of the Steering Group on Quality Assurance and Proficiency Schemes for Molecular Genetic Testing of OECD’s Working Part Biotechnology, and member of the working group laboratory systems of CDC (US).

Stefan Vermeulen is currently leading the accreditation procedure of both the cytogenetic and molecular labs in the Department of Medical Genetics at the Ghent University Hospital (ISO 17.025 and ISO 15.189). He is assistant professor in the cytogenetic department with special focus on MR/MCA syndromes, preimplanation genetic diagnosis and prenatal diagnosis. He is interested to expand his experiences on quality control at the national and European level.

The BeSHG board will chose among the applicants. If you wish to apply, please do so before 30 Nov 2003.

High Council 30th Anniversary
On 13 Febr 2004, the Conseil Supérieur / Hoge Raad will celebrate its 30th Anniversary. Mark your agendas ! Details will follow on our website.

ESGM courses
The European School of Genetic Medicine will soon start its 14th course program. Information is available at http://www.eurogene.org/index.php

Jobs
The IPG Loverval recruits a medical geneticist MD. Position currently open. Details on our website.

BeSHG meetings
The 2005 general assembly and BeSHG meeting will take place in Liege. Antwerp already applied for 2006, but applications are still open for Centers to organize and host the 2006 and 2007 meetings.

Yours faithfully,

Geert Mortier
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Marc Abramowicz
President
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