



September 2006

NEWSLETTER
of the BeSHGBelgian Society of Human Genetics
www.beshg.be**Board**

M. Vikkula (2005-2008), president
F. Speleman (2006-2010), secretary
S. Seneca (2006-2010), treasurer
L. Van Maldergem (2005-2008)
G. Pierquin (2005-2008)
Y. Sznajder (2006-2010)
J. Vermeesch (2006-2010)
G. Van Camp (2005-2008)

Dear colleagues, dear friends,***News from the 6th Annual Meeting and General Assembly***

The 17.02.2006 meeting in Antwerp with the theme of ***New Developments in Genetics*** was a great success. About 220 participants followed the exciting program and 90 abstracts were presented as posters and/or oral presentations. Several international speakers presented recent data, and overall the program was most interesting. In addition, we had two excellent sessions of selected oral communications by young scientists (< 35 years). We are grateful to the local organizing committee who had worked hard to make everything go smoothly.

The general assembly accepted unanimously the revised statutes and renewed 4 board members. The general assembly also accepted the proposed internal rules, and thus the prolongations until 2008 of the board membership of four boardees: G. Pierquin, G Van Camp, L Van Maldergem and M. Vikkula. Board elections will thus from now on only take place every second year. The presidency of Miikka Vikkula was therefore also prolonged until the next board elections of 2008.

For the first time, registrations were fully taken care of via the BeSHG web-site based interface (www.beshg.be). This was largely thanks to our secretary and Bjorn Menten. The web-site will be further developed so that all future meeting information, registrations and membership data will be managed via the web-site. This new interface should facilitate the organisation of our meetings, as well as to allow better tracking and updating of membership and contact data.

The best poster award was handed to Katleen De Preter for her poster on "Gene expression profiling of sympathetic nervous system progenitors: implications for neuroblastoma genetics and perspectives for the development of new molecular targeted therapies". Congratulations to the winner !

BeSHG c/o Prof. Miikka Vikkula, Laboratory of Human Molecular Genetics (GEHU),
Christian de Duve Institute of Cellular Pathology & UCL, Avenue Hippocrate 74, 5th floor

B-1200 Brussels, Belgium.
vikkula@bchm.ucl.ac.be

The BeSHG Working groups also reported on their activities during the past year. The two new working groups on constitutional and acquired cytogenetics have started off well, having created interactive discussion groups for harmonizing protocols. Recommendations will be eventually published in the BeSHG web-site. The workgroup on recognition of medical genetics was also discussed in detail, and as a Master Course in Genetics is in the planning, it was decided that BeSHG makes a new working group to unite both MDs and PhDs in the development of this course. All centers were invited to nominate their representatives to the BeSHG president. The first reunion, organized by Dr Marc Abramowicz, of this group has recently taken place. Prof Christine Verellen was elected as the president and Dr W. Wuyts as the secretary of this BeSHG working group.

The Annual Meeting was finalized by a cosy after-program reception offered by Innogenetics. Thank you for the sponsors!

Future BeSHG meetings:

The Seventh BeSHG annual meeting will be organized by IPG (Institut de Pathologie et de Génétique asbl) in Gosselies on Friday, the 9th of March 2007. The program draft is well underway, and should be finalized shortly. Abstracts submission will again be through the website (opening will be announced in a separate e-mail). Information regarding the meeting will be available and updated on the BeSHG web-site (www.beshg.be).

The 2008 meeting will take place in Leuven. Applications for hosting the 2009 meeting are welcome and can be submitted to the president of the society **until 31/12/2006**.

Announcements:

The **Belgian Society of Human Genetics (BeSHG) / Belgian Society of Nephrology (BVN/SBN) joint meeting** will take place on **Saturday the 2nd of December 2006** at Cliniques universitaires St Luc, Medical campus of UCL, Brussels. Full program and call for abstracts will be shortly distributed, and information can also be found via the BeSHG web-site. Attendance is limited to 125 participants.

www.beshg.be

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ASHG

American Society of Human Genetics 56th Annual Meeting
October 9-13, 2006, New Orleans, Louisiana,
<http://genetics.faseb.org/genetics/ashg/menu-annmeet.shtml>

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Yours faithfully,

Frank SPELEMAN
Secretary
franki.speleman@UGent.be

Miikka VIKKULA
President
vikkula@bchm.ucl.ac.be

Don't forget www.beshg.be !

BeSHG c/o Prof. Miikka Vikkula, Laboratory of Human Molecular Genetics (GEHU),
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