



MAY 2004

Belgian Society of Human Genetics

www.beshg.beNEWSLETTER
of the BeSHG**Board**

M. Vikkula, president
F. Speleman, secretary
F. Kooy, treasurer
L. Van Maldergem
G. Pierquin
S. Seneca
Y. Sznajer
J. Vermeesch

Dear colleagues, dear friends,***News from the 4th Annual Meeting and General Assembly***

The 19.03.2004 meeting in Ghent was a great success with an exciting program, high-quality selected abstract presentations, many excellent posters, intensive scientific interaction with 135 participants! Thank you all for your attendance!

At the Ghent meeting, the general assembly was held for the first time during lunch break. Many active members were present. Four new board members were elected: Sara Seneca (Brussels), Frank Speleman (Ghent), Yves Sznajer (Brussels) and Joris Vermeesch (Leuven), replacing Katherin Keymolen, Koen Devriendt, our past president Marc Abramowicz and our past secretary Geert Mortier. The general assembly of the BeSHG elected Miikka Vikkula as the society's new president. At the first board meeting, the board elected Frank Speleman as secretary, and Frank Kooy to continue as the treasurer. Many thanks for all the past board members, and especially Marc Abramowicz and Geert Mortier for their commitment and service for the society !

For some pictures of the meeting, click at <http://medgen.ugent.be/test/BeSoc/>.

Give us feedback on the latest BeSHG meeting :

The board would like all the members to fully enjoy our yearly meetings, the most important annual event of our society. In order to achieve this goal, the board would highly appreciate receiving your input and evaluation regarding the meeting held in Ghent. Tell us what was good and even more importantly, let us know which features or aspects of the meeting could be improved. A web-page has been created for this purpose with a list of simple questions and space for comments. **Don't hesitate to click and open the site right away at <http://medgen.ugent.be/~fpattyn/beshg/>.** The login is 'BeSHG' and password '2004'. Your opinion is important. Also, don't hesitate to launch new ideas and useful suggestions for the next meetings. This way future events will even better reflect the needs and wishes of our community.

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Workgroups

- As announced at the general assembly, the board has decided to initiate a new workgroup on « **Cytogenetics** ». The intended goals would be (1) to make guidelines for clinical protocols with the aim to prevent confusion among patients and medical professionals that interact with cytogenetic laboratories due to different practices in different centers and (2) to make guidelines on good laboratory practise in Cytogenetics.
- The first meeting is scheduled to take place on **Friday, May 14 at 2 p.m. in Leuven**
- All interested in participating in this working group should contact Joris Vermeesch at joris.vermeesch@uz.kuleuven.ac.be

Next Annual Meeting and General Assembly

will take place in **Liège**, on **Friday 28th of January 2005**. Mark your agendas and tell your colleagues!

Future BeSHG meetings

The 2006 meeting will be held in Antwerp, and applications are open for organizing and hosting the 2007 meeting.

Yours faithfully,

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Don't forget www.beshg.be !

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for the survey : <http://medgen.ugent.be/~fpattyn/beshg/>

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