

Via the EJP-program a grant has been obtained to organize a series of five workshops in five years (Leuven, Tübingen, Istanbul, Warsaw and Rome) with the ESHG and EUGT as co-organizers. Cf. to the ESHG and Eurogentest websites for future announcements of these courses.

Several strategies have been pursued to make EUGT self-sustainable (with a limited ESHG support). One has been to get ESHG-EUGT involved as formal partner with a budget in research projects. EUGT is now partner and WP-leader in the Horizon2020 project Solve-RD, and a grant has been obtained via the EJP-program to organize a series of five workshops in five years (Leuven, Tübingen, Istanbul, Warsaw and Rome).

The EUGT steering committee will undergo some changes in personnel: After four years Hans Scheffer will stop as steering committee chair. The steering committee has unanimously proposed Gert Matthijs as new steering committee chair. Gert has indicated to be available for two years. For reasons of continuity deputy chairs for the steering committee and all subcommittees will also be installed, as far as that hasn't happened yet.

We would like to invite enthusiastic colleagues to join the Eurogentest team, and help to stimulate and promote improved quality and service of diagnostic laboratories and counselling units in Clinical/Medical Genetics across Europe. Active recruitment has recently been started. A more extended overview of Eurogentest activities as well as an informal "job description" and contact information are available via the ESHG and Eurogentest websites.

For further information including ongoing activities and changes in the subcommittees we refer to the ESHG and EUGT websites [www.eshg.org](http://www.eshg.org) and [www.eurogentest.org](http://www.eurogentest.org).

The EUGT steering committee: Els Dequeker, Sandi Deans, Luca Lovrecic, Holm Graessner, Milan Macek, Hans Scheffer

## Report from the European Board of Medical Genetics

*by Thomas Liehr, Chair of the EBMG*

The European Board of Medical Genetics (EBMG), established in 2013 to set professional standards for health professionals working in clinical genetics field in Europe, has as main goal to provide systems to enable professionals to demonstrate their professional competence. From 2014 on the EBMG is an autonomous legal entity with a General Assembly held each year, held during the ESHG Annual Scientific meeting.

The EBMG comprises yet three distinct professional Branch boards, Clinical Laboratory Geneticists (CLG), Genetic Nurses and Genetic Counsellors (GNGC) and Medical Genetics and Genomics (MGG) (representing medical geneticists); there are also efforts to set up a professional branch for technicians working in human genetics diagnostics: Laboratory Genetics Technicians (LGTs) as the fourth branch. All four professional disciplines naturally collaborate in daily life and

also coordination across the Branches is well established, even though each Branch has a primary responsibility to serve their own.

In 2018/19, the successful work of the previous years was continued and extended. GNGCs and CLGs have now successfully established the online application system for those wishing to join the EBMG register as initial as well as renewal applicants. This could only be done by the support of the Vienna Medical Academy and namely Jerome del Picchia and Stefan Födermayr. The MGGs work closely together with the UEMS and started a registration system for MDs being specialists in Human Genetics.

All details of the EBMG Branch members and the registration systems are available on the website [<https://www.ebm.eu/413.0.html>]. The reports of the three Branch boards are as follows:

### Clinical Laboratory Geneticist Branch Chair: Dr Thomas Liehr

In 2019 we have 424 registered ErCLGs. In 2018/19 we had 41 applications for registration with the EBMG. 7/41 were unfortunately found to be not eligible, 12 of the remainder 36 candidates were registered already, due to using group 1 or 2 way of application. The 24 further candidates will have to undergo a written and oral test held in Gothenburg, Salzburg, Yerevan, Armenia, Jena, and/or Coimbra. The branch introduced a slightly altered test scheme, including more multiple choice questions than before and an oral exam oriented more towards case scenarios to be discussed. A paper on the rights and duties of CLGs in 50 different countries is in press in EJHG. The data can be enlarged for further countries on <https://www.ebm.eu/910.0.html> by sending a notice to [Thomas.Liehr@med.uni-jena.de](mailto:Thomas.Liehr@med.uni-jena.de). Also the CLG profession is now state recognized in Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Latvia, Northern-Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and UK. This the CLG-branch is contacting different national governments to ask their support in proceeding a request to European Union that CLG may become be EU-recognized profession based on approved EU Directive 2005/36/EC - policy developments and Proposal for modernizing the Professional Qualifications Directive = EU Directive 2013/55/EU. The CLG branch has also contributed to planning of courses to support CLG education prior to registration. Further details on the next course are available at: [https://www.uniklinikum-jena.de/humangenetik\\_media/Dokumente/Arbeitsbereiche/fish/Kurse/Announcement.pdf](https://www.uniklinikum-jena.de/humangenetik_media/Dokumente/Arbeitsbereiche/fish/Kurse/Announcement.pdf).

Please note that the applicants for 2019-2020 have to submit their data for round 1 on the website between July 15th – October 15th of this year.

### Laboratory Genetics Technicians Branch Chair: Peter Böhmer - Denmark



The LGT-branch started working with support and on initiative of Thomas Liehr. Our first goal is to recruit technicians over Europe who would be willing to actively work in this new branch. Besides, we look forward to identify contacts in each European country, to find out about existing national education schemes concerning human genetics oriented LGTs. Our long term goal is to establish a consented European core cur-

riculum for LGT education and if possible a certification system within the frame of the EBMG.

## **Medical Genetics and Genomics Branch Chair: Professor Bela Meleg**

During the last year the Branch of Medical Genetics and Genomics (BMGG) again passed a milestone as we took the first step to launch a Continuing Medical Education (CME) registry system, which will be recommended for active practitioners. The draft has been revised so far by our sister EBMG Branches, by the ESHG Exec, and is now under consideration of the UEMS Exec. We hope to be able to launch the EBMG BMGG CME Registry system at our meeting during the ESHG meeting in Gothenburg.

Parallel, after a trial exam in Milan in 2018, the UEMS Section of Medical Genetics scheduled the inaugural, first exam of European Diploma in Medical Genetics and Genomics (EDMGG) in Gothenburg, 14th June 2019. This is a joint project with the ESHG and the EBMGG. This is intended to be a knowledge-based excellence assessment tool for medical geneticists primarily in Europe, although it will be open to candidates worldwide. The EDMGG diploma title and degree will be valid for lifetime. Beside these priorities, we contributed to the Joint Action on Rare Cancers (JARC) WP8 package, the Medical Education.

## **Genetic Nurse and Genetic Counsellor Branch Chair: Christophe Cordier**

The Genetic Nurses and Genetic Counsellors Professional Branch had had a very busy year of activities, mainly because of the success of the European certification. We are proud to announce a new paper published in the European Journal of Human Genetic entitled «The recognition of the profession of Genetic Counsellors in Europe» with the full support of the Executive of the ESHG.

There are several updates for the GC&GN registration process.

1. The Grandfather routes are now closed in some countries but for applicants who work in a country without an approved Master course the grandfather clause will continue until October 2020. Please feel free to visit our website: <https://www.ebmgeu/408.0.html>.

2. The UK, American, Australian, Canadian and South African Boards already have reciprocity agreements with our European registration system, so that professionals already certificated by those systems and already working for a minimum of one year in Europe can apply for our registration system under the National route with reduced portfolio.

In October 2018 the registration cycle was run for a fifth year. We received a total of 21 notifications of intention to register. This year applicants applied using the National route (n=2), the Normal Route (n=7), the grandfather clause A (n=3), the grandfather clause B (n=2) and the grandfather clause C (n=7). 16 applicants were eligible to submit their full portfolio. The final decision will be announce to the applicant before the ESHG meeting in Gothenburg (Sweden) where we will give the official diplomas.

In September 2019, Dr. Christophe Cordier (Switzerland) will be the past-chair, Deborah Lambert (Ireland) will be the Chair, and Clara Serra (Spain) will be the new chair-elect of the Genetic Nurses and Genetic Counsellors professional branch.

Please note that the applicants for 2019-2020 have to submit their intention on the website between July 15th – September 30th of this year.

We would like to thanks all the registered GC & GN for supporting the process of professional regulation of genetic counselling in Europe.

More news and updates can be found in our website: <https://www.ebmgeu/408.0.html>.

## **Conclusion**

According to the statutes I hand over the chair to Ulf Kristoffersson at this year ESHG meeting during general assembly of the EBMG by thanking the members of each Branch for their goodwill and hard work, which has ensured the success of the EBMG.

Dear member of the ESHG!

We are pleased to invite you to the

## **Annual Membership Meeting 2019**

**at the**  
**EUROPEAN HUMAN GENETICS CONFERENCE 2019**  
on Sunday, June 16, 2019 from 19.30 – 20.30 hrs

ESHG Conference venue:  
Swedish Exhibition and Conference Centre Gothenburg  
Room H2

## **AGENDA**

1. Opening by the President of the Society, Gunnar Houge
2. Activity of the Society 2018-2019
3. Financial Report of the Society 2018
4. Presentation of an improved genetic variant classification system, developed by an ESHG task force
5. Discharge of the Board Members for the year 2018-2019
6. Opening by the new President of the Society, Alexandre Reymond
7. Results of election for President-Elect
8. Results Board Member election
9. Progress report transfer seat of the association to Vienna, Austria
10. Site of future European Human Genetics Conferences
11. Major policy questions proposed by Board
12. Future activities

Please find the minutes of the last membership meeting in Milan 2018 in the restricted area: <https://www.eshg.org/members.0.html>