

Chair's update September 2017

I hope you have all had an opportunity to recharge your batteries over the summer.

BSGM policy and projects

We have revised the Constitution of the Society. This is currently being assessed by the Charity Commission. Once approved, we will circulate, post on the website and seek your approval.

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

We hope you can join us for our annual conference: UK Clinical Genomics on 5th October 2017 at the Royal College of Physicians, London.

Please see details of the [programme](#)

Registration is open and due to close soon. Don't miss your chance to attend this wonderful meeting.

The Annual General Meeting for the Society will take place at 5.30pm immediately after the conference.

Join us also for the [Joint BSGM and Genetics Society meeting](#) 23rd and 24th November 2017 at the Royal Society, London on The Human Genome in Healthcare.

A date for your diary: 8th March, 2018 at the Royal College of Physicians, London as part of the 500th anniversary of the College. The BSGM is hosting a one day meeting Medicine – transformation through genomics with the Renal Association, British Association for Neurology, the Associations for Cancer Physicians and the British Cardiovascular Society.

Update on Consent and Confidentiality Guidance

Are you an early career genetics professional? Do you want to develop your ethical and legal thinking around genomic medicine? We need your help with 2017 guidelines on consent and confidentiality. In return you will receive excellent supervision and guidance as well as material for your CV

Thanks to an excellent briefing paper by Dr Sandi Dheensa and a constructive discussion at a multidisciplinary meeting to discuss this guidance in June, we are making good progress with this guidance. The consensus was to update it from the 2011 version rather than a complete re-write and we have received useful feedback on the elements which need to be added and/or expanded, and case studies that need to be edited or drafted.

We have lots of volunteers to proof read a final version but really need help with redrafting and edits before we get to this stage. This would be an excellent project for a junior clinical person to get their teeth into. You will have the clinical experience to see the relevance of the cases discussed, and interest in adapting existing guidance to take into account the significant changes in practice over the last 6 years.

Please contact me, Anneke (A.M.Lucassen@soton.ac.uk) or Alison (alison.hall@phgfoundation.org) as soon as possible if you are interested.

The Life sciences: industrial strategy

On the 30th August Prof Sir John Bell published an independent report to government from the life sciences sector "[The Life Sciences: industrial strategy](#)"

Genomic medicine features in the report prominently with recommendation that the CMO's recent report encouraging widespread use of genomic testing for diagnosis and screening to be supported. There is reinforcement of the view that a National Genomics Board should be created. If the ambitions set out in the report and in the CMO's report Generation Genome are to be realized there will need to be significant investment in the recruitment, retention and training of workforce in genomic medicine including counsellors, scientists, doctors and other healthcare professionals.

BSGM Administration

The administration for the BSGM is managed by the Royal Society of Biology. Any questions call 020 37937851 or email membership@bsgm.org.uk

Please contact me (william.newman@manchester.ac.uk) if you have any queries about the content of this email or any other suggestions relating to the Society.

William Newman, Chair BSGM

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