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P³G EVENTS



Participants, Hinxton Meeting, 2005

1 HINXTON: THE FIRST P³G MEETING OF 2005!

IT WAS THE KICK OFF MEETING FOR TWO IWGs: THE IWG ON BIOCHEMICAL AND SOCIAL INVESTIGATIONS AND THE IWG ON ETHICS, GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. The Hinxton meeting was also an opportunity for P³G members to be introduced to one another, and also to meet with the Board of Directors, and the recently hired members of the Secretariat. IWG1 worked on the creation of core variables and quality control. IWG3 identified ethical barriers to population genomics, talked about possible tools of and discussed an agenda for the future meetings. The meeting proved to be a real success and provided P³G with specific orientations for 2006-2007.

P³G EVENTS

2 SALT LAKE CITY MEETING: A SUCCESSFULL LAUNCH FOR THE P³G OBSERVATORY! The ASHG meeting offered a wonderful venue for our P³G working meeting! This was an opportunity to provide a brief progress report to P³G members who were not able to attend the meeting in Hinxton, and also to recruit new members.

P³G celebrated an important milestone: the official launch of the P³G Observatory. The first tools offered in the Observatory are truly innovative and have created enthusiasm both during the Hinxton meeting and in Salt Lake City. If you have not already done so, visit the P³G Observatory at: www.p3gobservatory.org. We are counting on your collaboration to identify studies to be included in the Observatory. Please send us further content and your suggestions!

ASHG meeting marked the completion of the HapMap project. P³G was designated as the focal point for future international collaboration both by Francis Collins and other speakers in plenary sessions.

3 COMING UP IN 2006:

P³G IS BUSY! We know the importance of rapidly developing research tools and of ensuring harmonization, in order to provide timely support and expertise for your project.

In 2006, we foresee the following developments:

- Kick off meeting of IWG 2 in Manchester
- Launch of the Steering Committee in Helsinki (May)
- Funding announcement for P³G (hopefully in June)
- Launch of IWG 4: Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Expansion of the P³G Observatory

➤ **P³G GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING: MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 28, 29TH, 2006.**

UPDATE FROM MEMBERS

1 ESTONIAN GENOME PROJECT

will be reorganised from a stand alone foundation to a Scientific Research Institute at the University of Tartu in order to integrate the biomedical research at the University with the Estonian Biobank. This will take place in 2006 and means the Biobank will be publicly funded. The goal is still to reach 100 000 samples over the next 4 years.

2 THE CARTAGENE PROJECT

has submitted its funding application. It is expected that this project will recruit 50 000 participants over the next 3 years.

3 MEXICAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GENOMIC MEDICINE (INMEGEN)

We are pleased to welcome INMEGEN as a P³G Regular member.

P³G IN THE SPOTLIGHT

1 FALL WAS A BUSY SEASON FOR THE SECRETARIAT WITH THE preparation of an International grant application, with hope of securing funding for the next 3 years of operation. This grant application is pivotal to the activities of P³G. Thank you to all P³G members who were able to show their support either by providing official letters or support or for moral support during the process! We expect a final decision late spring.

2 P³G IS LOOKING FOR AN IWG4 LEADER! If you are interested, please visit the P³G website to submit your application by April 30th, 2006. All P³G members are welcome to apply. The selection will be made by the Board of Directors in May 2006.

3 AN INTRANET FOR IWG IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE P3G WEBSITE. This intranet will enable more efficient exchange between members. Draft documents, agendas and minutes from meetings, and reference material for discussions will be made available in this Intranet. The intranet will also serve as an archive mechanism and for our working meetings. Once tools are developed, they will be made publicly available in the Observatory, but the Intranet offers a secure space for creation and debate. The intranet is password protected for members only. Contact the P³G Secretariat if you have not received a password.

POPULATION GENOMICS HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Andras Falus is pleased to invite you to the International Conference of Immunogenomics and Immunomics (BCII'2006) that will take place in Budapest, from October 8-12, 2006. The BCII'06 will bring together basic and clinical immunologists, researchers, bioinformaticians and engineers to present and discuss the latest developments in genomics, proteomics, informatics in traditional and systems biology related immunology. The programme is complete with satellites and tutorials (e.g. Biobanks-databank networking and informatics). www.bcii2006.org.

P³G OBSERVATORY

WWW.P3GOBSERVATORY.ORG

THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF THE OBSERVATORY IS ALMOST COMPLETED AND THE TEAM WILL BE READY IN JUNE TO FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOOLS.

In the last few months different tasks have been achieved:

> The identification of worldwide large population-based biobanks (>10 000 participants) evolves rapidly. More than 50 population-based biobanks have been identified and the information gathered will soon be online.

> Several new questionnaires were identified and will be eventually added to the questionnaire catalogue. The selected questionnaires come from birth/pregnancy cohorts as well as from population-based studies addressed to middle age and elderly participants. Before the end of March, the questionnaires of two P³G member studies (Koragen and Estonian genome projects) will be included in the website.

> To allow more precise searches in the questionnaire/Key words tool, a list of variables has been developed and will be integrated in the website. Finally, a list of selected websites in epidemiology and related fields has been added to the website.

To help the Observatory, please send us the names and coordinates of studies as well as questionnaires or consent forms, confidentiality/security and governance mechanisms you would like to add to the website!

IWG PROGRESS

IWG 3 recently published two editorial notes in the Nature Genomics Review, emphasizing the importance of population genomics and highlighting some of the current ELSI barriers and tools. (see: www.nature.com/reviews/genetics. Ethics Watch, January and February 2006)

Dear P³G Members,
We are proud to launch a P³G Newsletter!
One of our objectives is to provide updates about your population project or a project about to be started in your country: send us your short update!

We will also publish some short news of interest for the population genomics community.

Please send suggestions to :
secretariat@p3gconsortium.org
We hope to hear from you!

Mylène Deschênes, Executive Director