

human genetics commission

## HGC Open Meeting

The Human Genetics Commission and the ESRC Genomics Policy and Research Forum held an open meeting at the Macdonald Holyrood Hotel in Edinburgh on 11th April to coincide with the International Science Festival. The meeting, entitled 'Generation Scotland: Genetics Research and Health', gave the public an opportunity to learn more about Generation Scotland and discuss the social and ethical issues arising from projects that aim to use genetics to improve healthcare.

The speakers at the meeting included Professor Andrew Morris (Dundee) and Professor David Porteous (Edinburgh), both GS Chief Investigators, and Professor Graeme Laurie (Edinburgh), a member of the GS Advisory Board and Chair of the UK Biobank Ethics and Governance Council.

The event was well attended and questions from the audience covered areas such as commercialisation of GS data, the relationship of GS to the UK Biobank and the inclusion of communities and ethnic groups that are traditionally hard to reach.

Any comments, suggestions or contributions? Please e-mail [news@generationscotland.org](mailto:news@generationscotland.org) or call 0131 537 2472.

## 21CGH Widens GS Horizons

February 2007 marked the start of recruitment for the Generation Scotland project 'Genetic Health in the 21st Century', or GS:21CGH. Principal Investigator Professor David Porteous said: 'Now that the Scottish Family Health Study is well on the road, it's great to see the GS:21CGH field study also up and running. Thanks to everyone for pulling out the stops to get 21CGH started. Now we can spread the word on Generation Scotland to folks in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Banff and Buchan.'



The first 21CGH participant (left) attends the GS:21CGH clinic in Edinburgh with Research Nurses Olive Aitken and Cathy Hall

GS:21CGH Project Manager Dr Robin Morton added: 'GS:21CGH is more than just a study; it is also about helping GS build an infrastructure for genetic research in data acquisition, data management, communications, statistical genetics, project management and ethical, legal and social issues.'

GS:21CGH aims to collect genetic information from 2500 people from specific regions of Scotland,

giving a much clearer picture of the genetic differences between inhabitants of various parts of the country. This makes it easier for researchers to work out whether a particular gene variant contributes to disease risk or whether it is simply part of the natural genetic variation that occurs between different individuals. 21CGH may also help uncover the genetic history of the British Isles.

Four of the centres involved in GS:21CGH – Aberdeen, Banff, Edinburgh and Peterhead – have started sending out invitations to potential participants and clinic appointments are already underway in Edinburgh and Peterhead. In Aberdeen, a particularly strong positive response was received from women who had previously participated in the APOSS Osteoporosis study. These centres are aiming to recruit 1500 participants by the end of 2008, with the remaining 1000 participants being recruited through the SFHS clinics in Glasgow and Tayside.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh

RSE Fellows

Congratulations to GS Management Committee member Douglas Blackwood and to GS Advisory Board member Graeme Laurie on their election as Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Douglas Blackwood is Professor of Psychiatric Genetics and Graeme

Laurie is Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, both at the University of Edinburgh.



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