

Newsletter

Summer 2005, Issue 6

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CBE for Joyce Tait

Congratulations to Professor Joyce Tait on her CBE for services to social science. Professor Tait is director of the University of Edinburgh's ESRC Centre for Social and Economic Research on Innovation in Genomics (Innogen). Her background is in natural and social sciences, including technology management in the biotechnology industries, strategic and operational decision making in public bodies, public attitudes and communication.



 **innogen**
ESRC Centre for Social and Economic Research on Innovation in Genomics

ESRC Genomics Network

GS Research Fellow Dr Gill Hadow and colleagues recently published a feature article entitled Genetic Databases: Friend or Foe in the latest newsletter of the ESRC Genomics Network. The objective of the Genomics Network is to undertake a systematic, critical and technically informed explanation of the past, present and future economic and social trajectory of genomics. To subscribe please contact genomics.forum@ed.ac.uk.



New Staff

Generation Scotland is expanding and, with the initiation of the Scottish Family Health Study, a number of posts will be advertised over the coming months. Recent additions to the GS:Glasgow team, funded by GS:21CGH, are research nurses Kirsteen Gilmore (left) and Mairi McDade (right). Kirsteen has worked for several years on BRIGHT (British Genetics of Hypertension). Mairi has worked on the GOPEC (Genetics of Pre-eclampsia) study and BRIGHT. Kirsteen and Mairi are currently working on Standard Operating Procedures for GS clinic visits and are looking forward to moving into the new purpose built BHF Research Unit near the Western Infirmary. They can be contacted at 0141 211 6276 or e-mail gcl462@clinmed.gla.ac.uk (Kirsteen) and gcl241@clinmed.gla.ac.uk (Mairi).



GS:Edinburgh has recently recruited Andy MacLeod, who started as a GS:21CGH research fellow at the end of June. Andy is a statistical geneticist who will be working with Professors Harry Campbell and David Porteous, primarily on the analysis of GS:21CGH study data to identify genes that influence the susceptibility to complex disease. Andy is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh's MSc in Quantitative Genetics & Genome Analysis, and recently completed a PhD at the Roslin Institute, looking at the detection of linkage disequilibrium in inbred populations. Andy is based at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh and can be contacted at 0131 651 1061 or e-mail andrew.macleod@ed.ac.uk.

GS:SFHS Reaches Ethics Milestone

Generation Scotland: Scottish Family Health Study (GS:SFHS) has been reviewed by the Tayside Research Ethics Committee and received MREC ethical approval for Phase 1 of the study. Phase 1 of GS:SFHS, funded by the Chief Scientist's Office, will last two years, and will involve the recruitment of 15,000 family members and collection of blood samples and associated phenotype information. In addition, phase 1 aims to establish an early and sustainable consultation programme to understand and explain the public reaction to genetics in healthcare, and their reaction to participation in research. GS:21CGH sample collection is also due to begin later this year and a second GS ethical application will be submitted in September. Andrew Morris said "this is great news: all credit to Blair Smith, Gill Hadow, Bridie Fitzpatrick and many others who prepared the application with such care and attention".

GS Informatics

The GS:SFHS Informatics Sub-group, co-chaired by Dr Mark McGilchrist (GS:Dundee) and Professor Ian Ford (GS:Glasgow), have been working towards integration of IT systems to be used for this study. This includes integration of a number of databases, including Study Management, Phenotype, Genotype and Identifier databases. These systems will draw heavily on existing systems used for Go-DARTS, the Wellcome Trust study of people with diabetes and matched control individuals.

The key to integration will be effective use of study identifiers and existing identifiers such as the Community Health Index (CHI) Number, while maintaining confidentiality and legality. Mark McGilchrist said "the use and development of the CHI number is fundamental to the NHS in Scotland and is hugely advantageous for anonymised population genetics research".



We would welcome your **comments, suggestions and contributions** to this Newsletter. Generation Scotland is a rapidly expanding and diverse group of individuals working on genetic health issues in Scotland and relies on effective communication of its aims and achievements. If you have any comments or queries, please contact us at news@generationscotland.org, or call us on **0131 651 1061**.

Feel free to pass on this newsletter to other interested parties and e-mail us if you wish to add a name to the mailing list.