

GS Symposium

A GS Symposium on Pharmacogenetics will take place at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, on 29th November 2006. The programme includes talks on cancer, cardiovascular disease, mental



health, bone disease, inflammation, informatics, industry and

policy. For more information contact Robin Morton (robin.morton@ed.ac.uk, 0131 537 2472) or visit the website www.generationscotland.org.

HGC Appointment

Sarah Cunningham-Burley, Professor of Medical and Family Sociology at the University of Edinburgh,



has been appointed as a member of the Human Genetics Commission, which advises the Government on

ethical, legal and social issues resulting from advances in human genetics. Sarah is a GS Scientific Committee member and has helped co-ordinate the GS Public Consultation Exercise.

Any comments, suggestions or contributions? Please e-mail news@generationscotland.org or call 0131 537 2472.

High-performance computer cluster

Generation Scotland will generate huge amounts of genetic data, requiring powerful computers to perform the necessary statistical analyses.

Number-crunching on this scale is extremely computer-intensive and requires the use of a cluster, in which a number of machines are linked together to share the computational workload.



Although large centralised clusters already exist, demand is high and there is a long wait to use them.

To investigate the possibility of building local clusters for dedicated use, GS Informatics Research Development Manager Dave Liewald (GS:Edinburgh) has assembled a low-cost high performance cluster using 8 custom-built PCs. The cluster uses specialist operating and management systems to ensure that the workload is partitioned efficiently between the machines.

The cluster is already active, running statistical genetic analysis programmes such as GENEHUNTER-MODSCORE and GENEHUNTER-TWOLOCUS.

GS Advisory Board

The Generation Scotland Advisory Board (GSAB) is an independent body that advises the GS Scientific Committee on policymaking to ensure that GS resources are used to the best advantage of participants and the wider community. The five GSAB members were appointed by the Health Minister and are accountable to the Scottish Executive. Between them they have an impressive breadth and depth of knowledge and experience in law, ethics and genetics.

Lord Sutherland (chair) was previously Principal of the University of Edinburgh and chair of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care for the Elderly. Valerie Atkinson is a former Deputy Head of News and

Current Affairs at BBC Scotland. Mair Crouch is a Clinical Cytogeneticist and a member of the Human Genetics Commission. Graeme Laurie is Professor of Medical Jurisprudence at the University of Edinburgh. Jim Jackson is Chief Executive of Alzheimer Scotland.

At GSAB meetings, the Board members discuss a wide range of policy issues with the GS scientific team. For more information on the GSAB, and to view the minutes of GSAB meetings, see the GS website.



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