

New Roles

A big welcome to the many people who have joined the GS team over the past few months.

Lynne Hocking (Statistical Geneticist) and Jane Sheran (Nurse Manager) have both joined GS:Aberdeen.

In Edinburgh, recent GS recruits are Archie Campbell (Software Developer), Wanting Chen (Statistical Genetics PhD Student) and Julie Allan (LIMS Manager).

In Dundee the SFHS team welcomes Caroline Winder (Administrator), Fiona Gillen, Lisa Samson and Pamela Walsh (Telephone Advisors), and Susan Marfizo and Jayne Digby (Technicians).

GS Pharmacogenetics Symposium

The Generation Scotland Symposium on Pharmacogenetics was held on 29th November 2006 at the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians, Glasgow. Pharmacogenetics is the study of how genetic variation affects the way people respond to drugs, with the goal of ensuring that each patient receives the medicines that will bring them greatest benefit.

Introducing the meeting, Prof. Roland Wolf (Dundee) said that Generation Scotland had an



Prof. Munir Pirmohamed delivers his talk

important role to play both in creating and co-ordinating networks to explore the implications of the latest results and in assembling the large collections of genetic and clinical information that are necessary for pharmacogenetics research.

In the packed programme which followed, 13 speakers from the UK and the USA presented recent advances in a variety of fields including cancer, mental health, inflammation and cardiovascular disease.

1000 Scottish Family Health Study Recruits!

The Generation Scotland Scottish Family Health Study reached a major milestone in December 2006 with the recruitment of over 1000

participants. The four-figure mark was passed when Morag Houston and her mother Kathleen Davidson attended their clinic appointments at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. Morag was invited to join the study by her GP and four of her relatives decided to sign up after she told them about SFHS.

Dr. Cathy Jackson, Tayside SFHS co-ordinator, praised the volunteers who had come forward and said that many of them were seeing immediate benefits from having their health checked. Some participants had been found to have diabetes, which would otherwise have gone

undiagnosed, and had been referred back to their GPs for treatment. Therefore volunteers were getting important feedback on their current health status as well as making an extremely valuable contribution to the long-term research aims of SFHS. Since December, recruitment has proceeded apace, with over 2000 participants now signed up.

For more information about SFHS, see the Generation Website (URL below).



Morag Houston and her mother Kathleen Davidson attending Ninewells Hospital for their health check.

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

