

Newsletter

Spring 2011



Dear Colleagues,

We have now appointed a scientific administrator for ERNDIM. Dr Sara Gardner took up her position in February of this year. We wanted to wait until this could be announced and so the slight delay to the Newsletter. Sara is based in the offices of EMQN, within St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, UK. We would like to express our gratitude to EMQN for all the help that they have given in bringing about this appointment. Sara will take over the majority of administrative tasks currently performed by Malcolm Heron. However, Malcolm has kindly agreed to stay on until the end of next year, i.e. 2012, to facilitate a transfer and to help us formulate a plan to administer the financial affairs as a separate legal entity to the Manchester Trust. Thus maintaining our independence and allowing much more flexibility for future executive committees. One of Sara's key responsibilities is to work towards ERNDIM becoming an accredited organisation. Working alongside the EMQN scientific officers will make this task much easier.

Sara also has a significant role to facilitate and support training activities. Her post is part funded by the SSIEM to provide support to ETAC, The Education and Training Sub Committee. Sara.Gardner@cmft.nhs.uk

Pilot Schemes

A pilot scheme for urine mucopolysaccharides was started in February 2010. This has been organised by Dr George Ruijter, Rotterdam, contact George if you would like further details; metab.CL15@erasmusmc.nl.

Website for DPT results entry

The system for entry of the DPT results by the web site, which was developed together with the CSCQ (Geneva) has now been satisfactorily tested and is available for testing by participants of the DPT schemes. If your laboratory has failed to receive a login, please contact CSQC; xavier.albe@hcuge.ch. Active use of the website has been delayed but we are hoping to go live later this year. You will be given plenty of notice.

Update on resources available from our ERNDIM website

The laboratory directory: Participants that are already registered are requested to update their information. Other participants are strongly encouraged to apply to join the directory (go to <http://www.erndim.org/> → directory of laboratories → participants etc.).

Newly added documents in 2010:

- Travel grant reports (see Training and Education)
- Speakers Presentations from the ERNDIM meeting held in Istanbul, August 31st, 2010 (Meetings and Reports).

Urine Samples for DPT distributions

We would very much like to encourage urine donations from participating laboratories. We will pay transport costs and award a 20% discount for the participation fees in the DPT of the following year for laboratories that send acceptable samples. If are able to donate a sample(s) please contact Sara: Sara.Gardner@cmft.nhs.uk. We would also like to encourage the development of agreements between ERNDIM and parent organisations to encourage urine donations for EQA distribution. We now have agreements with CLIMB in the UK and VKS in the Netherlands. Examples of documentation that were used in the CLIMB agreement can be downloaded from the website.

Training Days and Scientific Meeting October 2010

ERNDIM collaborated with ETAC, to organise another two day training meeting. This was held in Manchester on October 4th and 5th. It was a very successful event that was over subscribed by 50% for the lab group. 40 participants were accepted for both the lab and clinical groups, making 80 participants in total. The teaching materials are available to download through the members area of the SSIEM website.

SSIEM Academy 2011

ERNDIM is collaborating again in the organisation of this year's training meeting. It will be a two day meeting held in Amsterdam on 23rd and 24th November. Further details will be made available through the SSIEM. This will be followed on the 25th by a Festschrift dedicated to the retirement of Prof Cornelis Jakobs.

ERNDIM participants meeting 2011

This will be a half day event held on the first day of the SSIEM conference as usual. This year that will be Tuesday 30th August in Geneva. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

National Representatives meeting 2011

There will be a final meeting of the National Representatives from all 27 expanded EU countries. These meetings have been funded from the EuroGENTEST project. This will take place in Manchester on Thursday 3rd November in the morning and will be followed in the afternoon by a Festschrift to mark the retirement of Prof Brian Fowler. Brian continues to be the ERNDIM representative on the second phase of the EuroGENTEST project. This has started now, but is on a much reduced budget. Brian has devoted much time over many years to ERNDIM. There will be an evening Dinner in Brian's honour.

Performance Assessment

It is now very easy to assess the performance of your laboratory in the schemes administered by SKML. Through the website you can now see your performance for each analyte against the group consensus for each distribution and you can display a graph showing the recovery in most cases too. If you have any queries or experience difficulty with using this site please contact Cas

Weykamp; C.W.Weykamp@skbwinterswijk.nl

Poor performance letters are now being issued by the Scheme Scientific Advisors following the policy described previously. This can be downloaded from the website.

Sponsored lab visits

ERNDIM continues to provide sponsorship to facilitate visits by staff to laboratories where they may gain specific experience or expertise. Funds are limited but have proved very useful for those given help in the past. Please see the website, or write to Sara Gardner, for further details.

Very Best wishes for 2011,

Mick Henderson
Chairman

On behalf of The ERNDIM Executive Committee