

Workshop report- Joint EUGT2 and CNAPS workshop

Madrid October 25th, 2011

A stimulating session, attended by around 100 delegates from around the world, was organised by EuroGentest2 (EUGT2) during the seventh international conference on Circulating Nucleic Acids and Proteins (CNAPS). The objective of the session was to inform the audience of the role of EUGT2 in developing standards for prenatal diagnostic testing across Europe.

EUGT2 coordinator Gert Matthijs opened with an overview of EUGT2. This was followed by a detailed description of how non-invasive determination of fetal sex using cell free fetal DNA in maternal blood has been implemented in the UK. This included a national audit, detailed health economic evaluation which showed that NIPD is no more expensive than invasive testing for serious X-linked disorders and congenital adrenal hyperplasia and development of health professional and patient information following evaluation of their views. Once new tests are implemented there is a need to audit service delivery. Rob Elles described the first EQA of NIPD for fetal sex determination which was performed in the UK, and discussed the plans to deliver this across Europe through the EMQN working with EuroGentest2. The session ended with a view from the US when Dan Bellissimo described the steps required to implement and deliver laboratory tests the other side of the Atlantic. He focussed on fetal RHD typing. The message was very similar to that delivered by earlier speakers as he highlighted the need for service delivery from accredited laboratory working to rigorous standards, with careful quality assurance at least twice a year.

