

C. GENERAL REPORT

2. INDIVIDUAL TRAINING REQUEST

Responsibility: Trainee

Destination: Participants and Co-ordination

Several EuroGentest participants offer the possibility for training on request.

This form is to be filled in by the requesting fellow

Please add a CV on separate page

FELLOW	Name	Heidi Carmen Howard
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Description of the requested training and motivation for such training: (max. 20 lines)		

Following the completion of my Ph.D in molecular genetics (McGill University, 2003) and further postdoctoral training, I recently completed a formal training in ethics through the Erasmus Mundus Master of Bioethics (KULeuven, Radboud and Padova universities) in June 2008. During this period I worked with Dr. Pascal Borry on the ethical and legal issues of direct-to-consumer (DTC) genetic testing. During autumn 2008, I will continue my ethical and legal training by working on a research project regarding legal issues related to pharmacogenomics at the Centre de Recherche en Droit Public de l'Université de Montréal.

I am applying for this training request in order to spend two weeks at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law at the K.U. Leuven. This opportunity will provide me with additional training and research experience in the field of ethical, legal and social aspects of genetics. During this period at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law I will have the opportunity to meet and discuss with various researchers (Dr. Kris Diericks, Prof. Herman Nys) working in this field. Moreover, I will be able to continue working on the topic of DTC genetic testing with Dr. Pascal Borry, who is pursuing research on this topic funded by the Fund for Research Flanders.

The advent of DTC genetic testing companies means that genetic testing is more accessible than ever to the public. Obtaining such tests without the intermediate of a health care professional may pose more harm than benefits for the average consumer. Presently there is a clear lack of adequate regulatory framework to regulate such services in both Europe and North America and until such policies are elaborated, we feel it will be especially beneficial to offer clear and concise information describing such services. Therefore, as a concrete outcome of this stay, together with Dr. Pascal Borry, we aim to elaborate two information pamphlets in English aimed at the general public and at healthcare professionals regarding personalized medicine and more specifically DTC genetic testing. After external review by EuroGentest members of unit 3 and 6, these information pamphlets will be provided to EuroGentest for dissemination on the EuroGentest website.

With this stay at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, I hope to strengthen my research training in the study of the ethical, legal and social aspects of genetics. This training will also strengthen the inter-centre relationship between the Université de Montréal and the K.U.Leuven.

Number of person-months (days) requested

One person for 14 days

Requested timing

10-24 December 2008

Educational level (predoc, postdoc, experienced, ...)
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Post-doctoral

Genetic Testing in Europe - FP6 Network of Excellence

Network for test development harmonization, validation
and standardization of services



www.eurogentest.org

Actual position and Qualifications of trainee (academic, nurses, technicians, industrial, ...)

Presently: Biology Professor, Marianopolis College, Montreal, Canada
From Sept 2008: Centre de Recherche en Droit Public, Université de Montréal

Facilities requested (equipment, housing, ...)

Estimated budget: 1300 Euro
Flight: 750 Euro
Housing: 550 Euro

Financial possibilities

Self-financing a portion of the housing fees and meals

Preferential EuroGentest hosts

Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, K.U.Leuven (Herman Nys, Pascal Borry)