

In October 2007 (08.10.2007-12.10.2007) I spent five days training period at Laboratory for Diagnostic Genome Analyses (LDGA), Center for Human and Clinical Genetics, Leiden University Medical Center headed by Prof. Dr. E. Bakker, PhD.

This training was supported in part by EuroGentest NoE coordinated by Prof. Jean-Jacques Cassiman at the Leuven Catholic University, Belgium.

Laboratory for Diagnostic Genome Analyses (LDGA) has a prestigious and very experienced molecular genetics laboratory in MLPA studies, along with many other technological applications/research for the molecular genetic diagnosis of genetic disorders.

My goal was to learn about MLPA techniques which offer the possibility to investigate deletions and duplications in dystrophin gene in patients and females at risk of being carriers of this disease and thus acquire the practical knowledge which will permit me to implement and use this technique in our own laboratory.

I work as a genetic specialist in the genetics Department in Duzen Laboratories, which has the most experienced molecular genetics department in Turkey. We have a large array of applications in diagnosis, carrier screening and prenatal diagnosis of genetic disorders. DMD is one of the most requested tests and we have been using conventional multiplex PCR technique for deletion screening and linkage analysis for carrier identification. Our aim was to upgrade our technical capability and in this sense help more families with more accurate results. To reach our goal, we have started our MLPA studies since last year but had some difficulties with the software systems and applications.

Within the period of my training in LDGA, I have gained an important and useful practical knowledge regarding MLPA and observe this technique.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. E. Bakker, MD, PhD for his support which made possible this training and for the excellent work conditions provided. I would like also to thank his collaborators for their full support and the knowledge they shared with me.

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