

# PRESS RELEASE

<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b>		<b>Ref</b>	06EGT03
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## EuroGentest opens call for fellowships

### Hands-on experience offered to wider European genetics community

**Leuven, June 30, 2006:** EuroGentest announced it is opening its fellowship scheme to all professionals involved in genetics within the EU and associated states. The fellowships offer short stays at EuroGentest participating centres to study various aspects of the EU-funded Network of Excellence's work. Now in its second of five years, the NOE aims to harmonise standards of genetic testing and counselling throughout the EU and associated states. The NOE is organised in 6 Units which cover all aspects of this important and growing healthcare sector – Quality Management, Information Databases, Public Health, Ethics and Legal, New Technologies and Education.

"We welcome applications from any suitably qualified people – scientists, information specialists, legal and ethics experts, healthcare professionals and counsellors, " says Professor Jean-Jacques Cassiman, EuroGentest Coordinator. "Previous internal recipients have all reported how useful they found the experience and we would now like to extend the invitation to those currently outside the project. The range of opportunities is wide – from devising new QA and accreditation schemes through testing new technologies to defining core competencies to mention just a few. Upon completion there is also the possibility of becoming more closely associated with EuroGentest." Applications can be made using the forms available on [www.EuroGentest.org](http://www.EuroGentest.org).

**-Ends-**

#### Notes to editors

**EuroGentest** is an EU-funded project (10 million Euro for 5 years) that aims to establish an NoE (Network of Excellence) in genetic testing. Started in January 2005 the project is coordinated by Professor Jean-Jacques

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Cassiman, an acknowledge world expert in CF testing who holds the Arthur Bax and Anna Vanluffelen chair of Human Genetics at the Center for Human Genetics in Leuven, Belgium. The project is divided into 6 units each with a number of working parties.

**More information is available at [www.eurogentest.org](http://www.eurogentest.org)**

## **Facts and figures**

No of testing centres in Europe – 1500

Number of conditions tested >1000

Annual growth in testing - 100-300%

Number of people in the EU suffering from genetic disease > 30 million

Cost to EU health sector – EUROS 500 million