

PGDIS Newsletter, December 1, 2015

15TH INTERNATIONAL PGD CONFERENCE, Bologna, MAY 8-11, 2016 SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Dear Colleague,

The 15th International PGD conference will be organized in Bologna, May 8 -11, 2016 (see PGDIS website www.pgdis.org).

The Scientific Program of the Conference (see Provisional Program on the PGDIS website) will concentrate on a few major areas to review the ongoing PGD progress and make recommendations on the evolving PGD standards and PGD application to ART and genetic practices in light of the recent technological developments. For the first time the impact of genetic diseases on the mankind will be addressed, based on the fact that PGD is a principally novel preventive approach, overcoming the society's growing concern over pregnancy terminations resulting from the current genetic disease prevention practices using prenatal diagnosis. The other major area, as usual, will involve the PGD novelties, with the application of the next generation technologies, further improving the accuracy and reliability of PGD and its impact on reproductive outcome, with the current extension of the nuclear genotype testing to the analysis of cytoplasm patterns, follicular environment and endometrial receptivity. The technological developments in PGD by the time of the Conference may allow exploring the approaches for a universal PGD test for monogenic and chromosomal disorders.

The other special topic in the program to be addressed for the first time will be the PGD impact on better understanding of human embryology, as PGD allows testing for the primary origin of genetic errors and the impact of epigenetic determinants and mosaicism on the embryo viability and reproductive outcome. The other exciting areas with major emphasis will be to the development of different non-invasive approaches to PGD, and its follow up by non-invasive prenatal diagnosis (NIPD), which might in future be applied not only to common chromosomal trisomies but also to monogenic disorders.

Due to continued updates in the next generation technologies applied to PGD for 24-chromosome aneuploidy testing, a Pre-Congress Workshop on this topic will be organized (May 7, 2016), in collaboration with Illumina. Also a Post-Congress Hands-On Workshop on PGD for Monogenic and Chromosomal Disorders by Blastocyst Biopsy will be held in Istanbul, May 12-15, 2016, at PGD Center of Istanbul Memorial Hospital to provide continued support to the shift from the cleavage stage to blastocyst biopsy, combined with novel methods for genetic testing (see www.pgdis.org).

The Congress will be organized in Bologna and hosted by SISMER, one of the leading PGD Centers in Europe, which is also among the pioneers of PGD for aneuploidy testing. Registration fees are kept at the lowest rates as in the previous Chicago Conference, and the early-bird registration will be open shortly.

The progress in the organization of the Conference may be followed in the PGDIS websites (www.pgdis.org).

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Bologna!

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