

PWG: MARKER CHROMOSOMES

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We would like to begin with thanking Prof. John Crolla, who co-chaired the PWG from 2006 to 2009, for his contribution. We welcome the new co-chair Prof. Isabel M. Carreira from Portugal, the country where the next E.C.A.-conference will be held.

Our PWG on Small Supernumerary Marker Chromosomes (sSMC) has been active during 2009.

First, in our sSMC-homepage (<http://www.med.uni-jena.de/fish/sSMC/00START.htm>) we have up till now described the critical cytogenetic bands near the centromere of chromosomes, which when included in a sSMC are associated with clinical symptoms. However, as an increasing number of sSMC are now being studied by the array-CGH methods, we have started giving in addition to the cytogenetic bands also information based on FISH data and wherever possible the array-CGH data to identify these critical regions. An example of chromosome 2 is given in the following: p-tel --- critical region 89.7Mb --- 91.01Mb uncritical region [90.0Mb centromere 94.6 Mb] uncritical region 101.58Mb --- 99.9Mb critical region --- q-tel.

Second, in November 2009 we organised three international courses within the framework of the PWG. These were held at the Institute of Human Genetics in Jena, Germany, and were partly sponsored by Abbott/ Vysis (Germany). Two of the courses (5-6 and 8-9 November) were on fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH + microdissection) of marker chromosomes. Between these two courses we held the first 'International course on small supernumerary marker chromosomes (sSMC)'. Figure 1 shows the participants of the three courses.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that our collection on the sSMC-homepage now includes >3,600 cases. New cases (including unpublished ones) may be submitted for inclusion using the appropriate form found under the link... 'submit your sSMC case'.

Thomas Liehr



Figure 1
Participants of the three international courses on sSMC organized in Jena, Germany by Dr. Thomas Liehr (first row, right) and Dr. Anja Weise (last row, left). The participants came from Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Greece, Iraq and Thailand.