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The '''International Society for Forensic Genetics''' - ISFG is an international non-profit scientific society founded in 1968. The main goal of the society is to advance the field of forensic genetics through dissemination of scientific results and opinions, communication amongst scientists and education. The bi-annual international ISFG congress, international workshops and seminars, the society’s highly acclaimed scientific journal Forensic Science International Genetics, and the scientific recommendations on current topics all work towards this goal (REF Butler 2012). The society’s website (<http://www.isfg.org>) contains up to date information on all activities.

== History ==

The International Society for Forensic Genetics - ISFG – was founded in 1968 in Mainz, Germany, under the name ‘Gesellschaft für forensiche Blutgruppenkunde’ (Society for Forensic Haemogenetics). The society was a non-profit society based in Germany. The original aim of the society was to promote the science of genetic markers in human blood for use in forensic science. In 1989, the Society was transformed to an international society (‘International Society for Forensic Haemogenetics’). In 1991, based on the shift from traditional serological markers in blood to universal DNA polymorphisms the name of the Society was changed into ‘International Society for Forensic Genetics’. Currently the society strives to support all research interests in forensic genetics, including non-human DNA studies, RNA based test systems, and large scale sequencing technologies. REF Morling 2013

== Membership and activities ==

=== Membership ===

In June 2013, the ISFG had more than 1,200 individual members from more than 50 countries. The members are typically working with forensic genetics in academic institutions, criminal justice and police organizations, as well as private companies and thus cover a wide range of activities from supervising or performing casework in crime and paternity testing laboratories, to being more research and teaching oriented, or being involved in standardization and oversight. The members’ fields of expertise include forensic biology, molecular and population genetics, blood group serology, forensic pathology, biostatistics, criminal law, medical ethics, etc. Information on membership application is found on <http://www.isfg.org/Membership>.

===The biannual ISFG congresses===

The ISFG organises international congresses biannually (<http://www.isfg.org>) and also offers workshops preceding the congress. This is achieved with the help of local forensic institutes or universities that will form a local organizing committee and host the congress under the joint leadership of the ISFG board and the local congress president. With hundreds of oral and poster presentations covering the latest topics in forensic genetics, the congress is a valuable forum for information exchange. In the period 1985-2005, conference volumes with short articles based on these presentations were originally published as books under the title ‘Advances in Forensic Haemogenetics’ and later as ‘Progress in Forensic Genetics’. All volumes after 2001 are available on-line via <http://www.isfg.org/Publications/Congress+Proceedings>.

Since 2007, the proceedings have been published electronically as part of the ‘Forensic Science International: Genetics Supplement Series’ and can be accessed either through a link on the ISFG website or directly through <http://www.fsigeneticssup.com>. Past ISFG meetings have been held throughout Europe but also in cities on other continents such as New Orleans and San Francisco in the US, Buenos Aires in Argentina, and coming up in 2013 Melbourne Australia (see <http://www.isfg2013.org/>) REF Butler 2012 .

===The DNA Commissions===

The DNA Commission of the ISFG functions as an international DNA advisory group and is formed based on emerging needs when dealing with new DNA technologies (REF Butler 2012, Butler 2013). For each topic the ISFG board will invite scientists with specific expertise and form a commission to discuss open issues and formulate recommendations that provide guidance to forensic geneticists. While not binding, these recommendations are a first step to establishing scientific standards for new forensic genetic typing methods. DNA commission topics also have included best practices for paternity and relationship testing. See below for a list of all recommendations after the year 2000; the full list and copies can be obtained on http://www.isfg.org/Publications/DNA+Commission and <http://www.isfg.org/Publications/Paternity+Testing+Commission>. ISFG recommendations are a valuable tool for forensic geneticists and as such are highly cited by other scientists (REF King 2011).

===The language-based working parties===

The ISFG has the following language-based working groups: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Korean and Spanish-Portuguese (http://www.isfg.org/Working%20Groups). The working groups meet regularly and typically work on topics of regional or national interest. The English Speaking Working Group (ESWG) offers an annual exercise for paternity testing laboratories. The Relationship Testing Workshop is open to all members of the ESWG and each year, blood samples, a questionnaire and a paper challenge are sent to the participating laboratories (http://www.isfg.org, http://www.rtw-eswg.forensic.ku.dk). The Spanish and Portuguese Speaking Working Group of the ISFG (GHEP-ISFG) also organises collaborative exercises on a variety of topics and has shared the results with the scientific community through many publications (<http://www.gep-isfg.org/ISFG/English/portada.php>).

===The European DNA Profiling Group===

The European DNA Profiling Group - EDNAP - was established in 1988 by forensic genetic scientists from European countries (REF Morling 2013). The initial purpose of EDNAP was to harmonize DNA technologies for crime case investigations so that DNA results could be exchanged across the borders in Europe. In 1991, EDNAP was included among the working groups of the ISFG. EDNAP consists of approximately 20 European laboratories and collaborates closely with the DNA Working Group of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes – ENFSI (http://www.enfsi.eu/). EDNAP organises collaborative exercises in order to explore the possibility of standardization of new forensic genetic methods. The results of the exercises are published and made available on the ISFG website (<http://www.isfg.org/EDNAP/Publications>).

== Executive commitee and honorary members ==

=== The 2013 executive board of the ISFG ===

The board of the ISFG has five members:

President: Mechthild Prinz, PhD, New York City;

Vice-president: Prof. Dr. Niels Morling, Copenhagen;

Secretary: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang R. Mayr, Vienna;

Treasurer: Leonor Gusmao, PhD, Porto;

Representative of all working groups: Prof. Walther Parsons, Innsbruck.

==== The ISFG presidents ====

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| 2012-now || Dr. Mechthild Prinz, New York City

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| 2008-2011 || Prof. Dr. N. Morling, Copenhagen

|-

| 2004-2007 || Prof. Dr. P.M. Schneider, Cologne

|-

| 2000-2003 || Prof. Dr. A. Carracedo, Santiago de Compostela

|-

| 1996-1999 || Prof. Dr. B. Olaisen, Oslo

|-

| 1992-1995 || Prof. Dr. W. Bär, Zürich

|-

| 1988-1991 || Prof. Dr. B. Brinkmann, Münster

|-

| 1986-1987 || Prof. Dr. R. Bütler, Bern

|-

| 1984-1985 || Prof. Dr. W. Spielmann, Frankfurt/Main

|-

| 1982-1983 || Prof. Dr. C. P. Engelfriet, Amsterdam

|-

| 1977-1981 || Prof. Dr. H. H. Hoppe, Hamburg

|-

| 1974-1976 || Dr. K. Heindl, Nürnberg

|-

| 1970-1973 || Prof. Dr. H. Leithoff, Mainz

|-

| 1968-1970 || Prof. Dr. Dr. W. Zimmermann, Homburg/Saar

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==== Honorary members ====

All activities of the ISFG are unpaid and non-profit. Many members have made very valuable contributions to the society. The general assemblies have appointed a number of honorary members (Prof. Dr. E. Essen-Möller, Alsbäck/Lysekil, Sweden; Prof. Dr. P. Dahr, Bensberg, Köln; Prof. Dr. E. Krah, Heidelberg; Prof. Dr. M. Krüpe, Fulda; Prof. Dr. Dr. W. Zimmermann, Homburg/Saar; Prof. Dr. J.-J. van Loghem, Amsterdam; Prof. Dr. F. Levine, Raritan, N. J., USA; Dr. R. R. Race, London; Dr. R. Sanger, London; Prof. Dr. O. Prokop, Berlin; Prof. Dr. H. Leithoff, Mainz; Prof. Dr. K. Hummel, Freiburg; Dr. B. Dodd, London; Dr. E. van Loghem, Amsterdam; Dr. M. Pereira, London; Prof. Dr. E. Schwarzfischer, München; Prof. Dr. C. P. Engelfriet, Amsterdam; Prof. Dr. K. Henningsen, Copenhagen; Dr. A. G. Gathof, Würzburg; Prof. Dr. H. H. Hoppe, Hamburg; Prof. Dr. W. Spielmann, Frankfurt/Main; Prof. Dr. D. A. Hopkinson, London; Prof. Dr. H. Matsumoto, Takatsuki/Osaka; Prof. Dr. A. Arndt-Hanser, Mainz; Prof. Dr. R. Bütler, Zollikofen; Prof. Dr. A. Jeffreys, Leicester; Prof. Dr. A. Fiori, Rome; Prof. Dr. E. Villanueva, Granada; Prof. Dr. P.J. Lincoln, London; Prof. Dr. Ch. Rittner, Mainz; Prof. Dr. B. Brinkmann, Münster; Prof. Dr. B. Olaisen, Oslo).

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<!--- See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Footnotes on how to create references using <ref></ref> tags which will then appear here automatically -->

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== External links ==

\* [http://www.isfg.org www.isfg.org]

\* [http://www.gep-isfg.org/ISFG/English/portada.php www.gep-isfg.org/ISFG/English/portada.php]

\* [http://www.rtw-eswg.forensic.ku.dk www.rtw-eswg.forensic.ku.dk]

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