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Editorial

The quality guidelines which are published in this issue of the *European Journal of Human Genetics* are, we hope, the first ones of a long series. The prodigious advances achieved in recent years in all genetic issues, the expectations of the public, the progressive diffusion of genetic services both in public and private settings and the economic constraints everywhere made it advisable to provide professionals with recommendations and protocols. The philosophy of these recommendations is to summarize the current possibilities and the state of the art, to unify concepts, definitions and attitudes, and establish the basis for practical applications in European countries. As recommendations have to be based on a consensus, the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) has decided to consider statements prepared by standing committees as endorsed by the membership and the scientific community at large after the draft has been open for discussion on the website of the society for three months (<http://www.infobiogenfr/agera/eshg/>). We welcome submissions of other recommendations and protocols. They will be reviewed by the ESHG Professional and Public Policy Committee, and published after an open discussion on the net.