Editorial

Announcing the newly established

International Cytogenetic and Genome Society

a CALL for MEMBERS

The Editors of *Cytogenetic and Genome Research* perceived a need for vertebrate, invertebrate and plant cytogeneticists from all parts of the world to have their own international society. They also felt that the time has come for scientists to take on a more active role in getting the people of the world to live together amicably for otherwise there may be no sphere left for science to operate. They conducted a survey of well-established and respected cytogeneticists in many parts of the world asking them if they also thought that such a society should be established and if they felt it should engage in political activities. Of those surveyed 73% were in favor of this plan, a number of them expressing a high level of enthusiasm for it and many agreed to become founding members of the Society*. Several offered their help in organizing the Society, and a number have already made very generous contributions to the Fellowship Endowment Fund (see below).

Consequently, the *International Cytogenetic and Genome Society (ICGS)* was established and it will have the following main functions:

- Foster the exchange of knowledge and collaboration between investigators of different disciplines of cytogenetics and from different parts of the world by organizing **international conferences** and by providing **Internet facilities** for such exchanges.
- Foster the **"ONE WORLD"** concept by attempting to **counteract the misinformation** that exists in some countries in respect to other nations by promoting interaction of investigators of different countries and by **fostering training fellowship opportunities** in two ways.
 - (1) Encouraging and providing the mechanism for Society members to enlist and support graduate students and postdoctoral trainees from developing nations.
 - (2) Establishing an endowed fund to provide stipends for such trainees from developing nations.
- Work together with other organizations such as the American Society of Human Genetics to convey the perspective of scientists to governments and try to influence legislators to pass laws that are humane.
- Provide its members with the very sizable discounts for subscriptions and for publication costs in *Cytogenetic and Genome Research* and for other S. Karger journals and books (see below). Obtain discounts from other publishers, from vendors of computers and computer programs, publications and services, airlines and other such companies.
- Provide Internet facilities where persons seeking a position or training opportunity can post their availability, and where institutions or companies who have open positions can advertise these positions. Also, provide facilities where members can set-up discussion groups on specific topics or set up collaborative research programs, to give but some examples.

For further information about the goals and functions of *ICGS* and the specifics of members benefits please visit: <http://cytserver.aecom.yu.edu/ccg/icgs/> and http://cytserver.aecom.yu.edu/ccg/icgs/icgs_info.htm

* For the list of founding members please visit:

http://cytserver.aecom.yu.edu/ccg/icgs/icgs_info.htm#members

Judging by the responses to date we are confident that **ICGS** will become an active Society, will provide intellectual stimulation and very useful services to its members and play a role in helping people of the world live together in peace. To achieve these ambitious goals effectively **ICGS** will need a large membership. We therefore urge our readers to join this Society, and to encourage their colleagues, and particularly their students, to become members. Students are our future and their early involvement in **ICGS** is therefore critical.

Please become a member by visiting: http://cytserver.aecom.yu.edu/ccg/icgs/icgs_form.asp

We look forward to interacting with you.

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