

# Review of: "[Perspective] Is There Any Reason to Stay in Human Genetic Societies as Cytogeneticists?"

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The article deals with a problem felt by many and commented on by few. This is not an original article, but a narrative about the personal reflections of a geneticist. It reflects his concern and criticism about the direction of classical and molecular cytogenetics based on the programming of scientific meetings organized by specific representative societies, in which he participates. He does not intend to present concrete data, but highlights a possible devaluation of this area of science, known to be fundamental in the training of geneticists and in patient care, with extrapolations that even include the removal of patient support groups. The author's concerns are certainly shared by everyone who has been following the schedule of national and international scientific meetings. The number of conferences and presentations involving Cytogenetics has significantly decreased, as has the participation of patient and family support societies, while Genomics has stood out. In genetic counseling, the situation is very similar. This highly complex and fundamental communication process has been routinely confused and reduced to communicating diagnoses. The lack of cytogeneticists in the job market and professionals responsible for their training, even within universities, is also a reality for those working in the field. Perhaps this is due, in part, to speculations made some time ago by many geneticists that with the advent of Molecular Biology techniques, Cytogenetics would become obsolete, which time has proven to be untrue. Even though the author's reflections are based on his experience in a developed country (Germany) and in the European context, the situation observed by those who live in Brazil is very similar. It must be considered that the programming of scientific meetings is mainly based on the presentation of original data, innovations and biotechnological advances, for obvious reasons. Even because these questions guide the offer of research support. The lobbying of companies that sell supplies and equipment and their interference in the programming of events is also undeniable, as these companies finance most of them. However, professionals who maintain personal relationships with companies and who, in some way, favor presentations based on their products seriously violate professional ethics. Going against biogenomic advances and their undeniable importance is not the way to go. This involves the union of forces of different professionals who work in Human Genetics, satellite meetings that promote discussions about the day-to-day diagnosis and the different laboratory strategies to achieve it, patient access to innovations, public sector or private funding, criteria from research funding agencies, and cooperative work, among others. Thus, the author invites a re-reading of the schedules of scientific meetings organized by Human Genetics societies, in order to privilege experienced and beginner geneticists, patients and families, considering basic and advanced laboratory methods and techniques, especially Cytogenetics, which make up the complex genetic diagnosis and its extrapolations. Representative societies are formed by their members, who are responsible for contributing criticisms and suggestions to their managers. Therefore, when Prof. Dr. Thomaz Liehr asks,

“Is there Any Reason to Stay in Human Genetic Societies as Cytogeneticists?” the answer is “yes”. Most conclusive pre-implantation and prenatal genetic diagnoses of multiple congenital defects, pregnancy losses, weight-height deficits, malignant neoplasms, among others, endorse this answer.

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