

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

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The paper by Thomas Liehr highlights a trend wherein Human Genetic societies prioritize genetic and genomic fields with the preferential use of Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) in select topics during congresses. This trend, however, neglects the significance of (molecular) cytogenetics, a discipline that has yielded valuable scientific and clinical data. , Finally, the author appends a letter format for requesting the societies to reconsider the importance of cytogenetics as a focal point.

The reviewer in Japan has also noted this discernible trend, confirming a similar pattern during the annual meeting of the Japan Society for Human Genetics in 2023. Remarkably, "Cytogenetics" was featured only in two poster presentations, absent from both society-planned sessions and those sponsored by companies (See reference). However, the title, "Is There Any Reason to Stay in Human Genetic Societies as Cytogeneticists?" may be potentially misleading to readers. Additionally, it does not accurately represent the author's intended assertion. The paper should call for action straightly, underscoring the scientific and clinical values of cytogenetics more convincingly.

While the paper enumerates three scientifically and/or clinically promising findings by cytogeneticists from these meetings, it falls short in providing relevant statistical information such as session participants and citations of pertinent papers. Including this data would provide readers with more evidence and strengthen the call to action. Furthermore, the roles of cytogeneticists in clinical laboratories are touched upon only in reproductive and tumor testing, but the paper lacks comprehensive details on their essential tasks, required personnel numbers, and successor training in the wider clinical settings, including stem cells or regenerative medicine.

In an ideal scenario, the author would present these statistics in the form of a table or figure, facilitating a comparison of historical data across European, American, Asian, and other societies. In conclusion, this call to action for cytogeneticists and the future of genetics would benefit from providing more substantial evidence to effectively petition Human Genetics societies.

Reference

The annual meeting 2023 program of the Japan Society for Human Genetics (access 19 Dec 2023).

https://www.congre.co.jp/hga2023/files/program/program_jp.pdf

