

Pharmacogenomics



NEWS



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



CONFERENCE SCENE



An update from The European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Theranostics

The European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Theranostics (ESPT) is a nonprofit organization, which aims to promote education and research in pharmacogenomics and theranostics to ensure high standards in their application to clinical practice and to facilitate contacts between all individuals who share these aims, particularly those working in Europe.

The Society was set up following the Fifth Santorini Conference Biologie Prospective Meeting 2010 in Greece, where attendees discussed the need to fill the gap between agencies, companies, researchers, clinicians and patients in order to accelerate and improve the clinical implementation of pharmacogenomics and theranostics in all health sectors for the benefit of the patient. The round table report was published in the May 2011 issue of *Pharmacogenomics*. Below, Gérard Siest speaks to *Pharmacogenomics* about the aims and goals, organization, management and ongoing activities of the society.

The main goals of the ESPT were established by six members (Gérard Siest, Adrian Henney, Ron Van Schaik, Vangelis Manolopoulos, George Patrinos and Adrian Llerena) who wanted to bring together people interested in all aspects of pharmacogenetics, pharmacogenomics and approaches for improving the delivery of medicines to provide a scientific basis for official recommendations and education material for patients, clinicians and all health workers. Its key aims are:

- To facilitate the prototyping, introduction and use of pharmacogenomics data in the clinic;
- To increase multidisciplinary collaborations between participating disciplines,

particularly between clinicians and scientists;

- To develop and propose guidelines and recommendations;
- To propose teaching programs and courses, and harmonization in the different medical and pharmaceutical schools;
- To encourage and participate in independent clinical trials and in collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry;
- To establish an Outreach Program for teaching and clinical trials to territories beyond the EU, building on established networks in Latin America, Africa and Asia;
- To lobby for European grants and support mechanism.

The statutes and the organization of the society were established in a founding board meeting held in Alexandroupolis, Greece on 9 April 2011 (summarized in FIGURE 1).

In 2011, the ESPT focused on developing its relationship and cooperation with other European and international organizations at various meetings, and organized three courses for master students in Nancy (France), Alexandroupolis (Greece) and Badajoz (Spain). The society also initiated discussions with multiple organizations including the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, the European Diagnostic Manufacturers Association, the European Personalized Medicine Association, the European Society of Bio Banking and Federation of European Pharmacological Societies, the EMA, the European Society of Human Genetics and the European Science Foundation.



It is hoped that these discussions will bring about joint activities and avoid overlapping in efforts between these agencies.

More recently, the ESPT had its first general assembly and founding scientific symposium in Bled (Slovenia), information from which can be found on the ESPT website. Going forward, the ESPT plans to develop all of its division activities and specific committee. The year 2012 will also see the second general assembly held in Santorini, Greece.

It is Siesť's hope that the society will ultimately facilitate networking and encourage teamwork in order to advance the field, particularly focusing on strategies for translating basic academic research into tangible clinical benefit.

Sources: Manolopoulos VG, Dechairo B, Huriez A et al. *Pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine in clinical practice*. *Pharmacogenomics* 12(5), 597–610 (2011); ESPT Website: www.esptnet.org

– Written by Natalie Harrison

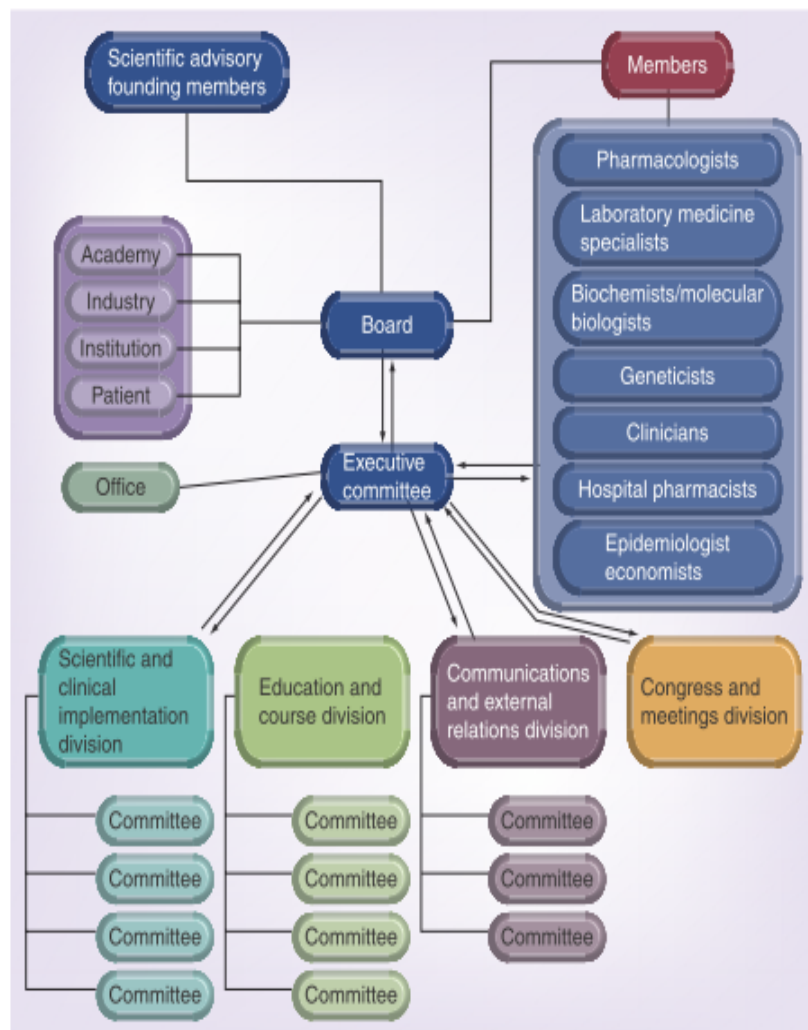


Figure 1. The statutes and organization of The European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Theranostics.

Figure courtesy of The European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Theranostics.