

Creation of The Swiss group of Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Therapy (SPT)

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On behalf of the Swiss group of Pharmacogenomics and personalised therapy

† *In memory of Prof. Gérard Siest (April 9th, 2016) and his contribution to the creation of the SPT*

With the development of modern drugs, it quickly became apparent that not all individuals respond equally to drug therapy. Outcomes can be multiple, ranging from a good response to non-efficacy, adverse drug reactions, or toxicity. Differences in response are attributed in part to environmental factors and to the individual's genetic predispositions¹⁾. The progress of molecular sciences enabled the understanding of drug mechanism, inevitably, exposing the underlying molecular differences between individuals and diseases that influence pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of the drugs. This, in turn, gives the opportunity to identify individuals and diseases that will react differently to the given drug based on their genetic composition. The study of how individuals respond to drugs because of their genetic background has been termed pharmacogenetics or pharmacogenomics¹⁾. Pharmacogenomics is thus a multidisciplinary science with the great potential to translate findings to benefit the patients by individualizing therapy and provide new targets for drug development¹⁾. Combining such a diverse array of approaches stipulates a need for a platform broad enough to be able to address the most challenging problems of individualized medicine. For this

reason The European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Therapy (ESPT) was established to offer the opportunity to exchange information, share ideas over a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines²⁾.

On the 3rd of February 2016 a constitutive assembly of the Swiss Group of Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Therapy (SPT) was held in Bern. The SPT was created as a section within the Swiss Society of Pharmacology and Toxicology Clinics (SSCPT, President: Dr. Hugo Kupferschmidt) by researchers active in the field of pharmacogenomics and will serve as a Swiss national point for the ESPT (Chairman: prof. Gerard Siest[†], Nancy).

The SPT group aims to build and promote the goals of the ESPT, which are «leadership and innovation in science and education to enhance the scientific basis and quality of diagnosis and therapy for patients throughout the world». For this reason both societies combine and welcome experts from various fields of basic molecular and biochemical sciences, to clinically oriented sciences and practitioners such as hospital clinicians, pharmacologists and pharmacists. The ESPT specifically offers opportunities for easy and flexible creation of subgroups and committees within the society such as scientific and clinical implementation committees for: Drug Transporters, Endobiotic and Drug interaction, Transcription factors and Pediatric individualized treatment in oncology and hematology committees. These committees aim to promote cooperation between individuals and institutions and to facilitate transfer and harmonization of pharmacogenetic testing, to bring together basic and translational research, to educate health professionals throughout Europe and to become a partner for industry and regulatory bodies²⁾. Along with scientific work, the ESPT strongly emphasizes education by implementing an annual school of Pharmacogenomics, annual ESPT congress and publica-

tion of its official journal Drug metabolism and personalized therapy (www.esptnet.eu). The ESPT emphasizes informal structure that allows for a greater personal initiative. The society encourages dynamic national activity, which is why the creation of the SPT was warmly welcomed.

References

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- 2) An update from The European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Theranostics. Pharmacogenomics, 2012. 13(2): p. 133-135.

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