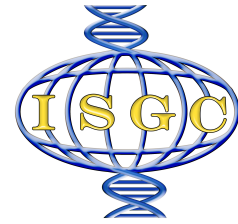


18 May 2014

Jane Maguire, RN, PhD
Chair of the International Stroke Genetics Consortium
Associate Professor
Faculty of Health and Medicine
Newcastle University
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Dear Colleague:

As the current Chair of the International Stroke Genetics Consortium (ISGC), I would like to invite you and your team to join our collaborative international stroke genetics research group.

The ISGC was founded in 2007 in Boston, USA. Its main purpose is to bring researchers together with a common interest in the genetics and associated fields of stroke. This endeavor has led us to explore and identify genetic influences on stroke risk, prognosis, early and later outcomes, and treatment response. The challenge for genetic studies is to ensure sufficient sample sizes in order to bring increased power and reliability to our studies. Thus the ISGC has brought together prominent researchers from around the world. ISGC members now include more than 50 scientists and their local collaborators and represent neurology, cardiovascular medicine, genetics, epidemiology, biostatistics, and basic sciences. Our members come from leading centers in Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. As of May 2014, the ISGC group has published more than 20 peer-review manuscripts, has had multiple successful grant applications, and organized 15 Consortium workshops. Detailed information on ISGC is available on www.strokegenetics.org.

Collaboration brings numerous benefits including access to larger sample sizes, cost efficiency in laboratory work, statistical analysis and sample and data storage. Similarly, harmonizing phenotypes, subtyping of stroke, definitions of risk factors and outcomes bring future potential for collaborative research. The power of genetics studies increases with the number of cases and controls that have detailed phenotypic information. Despite our great successes in a short few years, we recognize that our Consortium and the advancement of science using stroke genetics would benefit from greater participation representing broader geographic and ethnic diversity, and also from addressing new questions and using new methods in stroke genetics research. Thus we are looking for additional research scientists and centers from around the world to participate in the ISGC. This participation could include bringing samples (biosamples or genotypes) and phenotypes to joint projects or enriching the group with new ideas and energy. We are a highly open and collaborative organization with scientific and creative contributions recognized by our publications. Junior investigators are most welcome and are mentored by senior members.

If you are interested in joining the ISGC or have any questions, please contact me, the ISGC convener Thomas Battey (info@strokegenetics.org), or any member of the Outreach Committee, listed below. Be sure to ask about the various working groups within the ISGC. Participation in these groups is an excellent way to get integrated. Current working groups include the Analysis Working Group, Imaging Working Group, Outcomes Working Group, Intracerebral Hemorrhage Working Group, and the newly-formed Translational Science Working group and Acute Endophenotypes Working Group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Maguire". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Jane" and last name "Maguire" clearly legible.

Jane Maguire

Outreach Committee:

- Agnieszka Slowik, MD, Neurology, University of Krakow, Poland
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- Jennifer Majersik, MD, Neurology, University of Utah, USA
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- Juan José Martín, MD, Neurology, National University of Cordoba, Argentina
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