PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOP

Population Genetics and Forensic Genetics Frequency Databases: Ethical Challenges

Workshop organized by the Forensic Databases Advisory

Board Monday, September 9, 2024 – 14:00 – 18:15 h

Several population genetic studies and universally used genetic data repositories EMPOP and YHRD have come under scrutiny in recent years, due to concerns about unclear, inappropriate or inexistent consent documentation and absent or dubious ethics review board approvals. The reasons for these ethical challenges are complex and need an in-depth discussion.

This workshop aims at raising awareness for existing standards of ethical sampling procedures in population genetics. In addition, we will engage in a discussion with the workshop participants to carve out together potential solutions for prevailing challenges in the handling of legacy genetic data, data collected based on domestic legal grounds rather than international ethics guidelines, the definition of required elements of informed consent, risk-benefit analysis when handling genetic data or special requirements for studies with vulnerable population groups.

The workshop will be organized in two parts. In the first part, members of the Forensic Databases Advisory Board (FDAB) will give a brief overview on the topic and will present several aspects requiring reflection and debate. During the second part of the workshop, participants will work together on potential solutions for five different topics in a World Café format, circulating at five different topic tables, moderated by the members of the FDAB. The workshop will close with a summary of the different discussions and the presentation of the various perspectives and potential solutions that will have been developed together.

As a personal preparation for a well-informed start in the workshop discussions, it is recommended to read the report on *Ethical considerations for forensic genetic frequency databases,* written by the FDAB, available from the ISFG website. Laptops are not required.