

Manchester Dysmorphology Course 2018

Letter to the Editor

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Dear Editor,

This letter is about the Manchester Dysmorphology Course, which I attended this year, from April 17-19, in Manchester, United Kingdom. This course is conducted by Dr Dian Donnai, Dr Jill Clayton Smith, Dr Sofia Douzgou and Dr Siddharth Banka at the Manchester Centre for Genomic Medicine. It is meant for clinicians with special interest in Genetics, who are either trainees or in the early phase of their careers. Dr Dian Donnai, Emeritus Professor and Clinical Head at Manchester University Hospital, started this course in 1984, as a biennial event titled 'Manchester Dysmorphology Conference Series'. Currently, the course, which is usually held in April every year, is co-sponsored by the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) and ERN- ITHACA (European Reference Network on Rare Congenital Malformations and Rare Intellectual Disability) and scholarships are available for clinical geneticists with genuine interest in dysmorphology. The details regarding the course date and the deadline for application of scholarships will be available on the ESHG website

every year. The nominal course fee is inclusive of stay, meals and transport to and from the venue.

This year, a total of 52 delegates from 26 countries attended the meeting. There were lectures, workshops and case presentations spread over two and a half days, which enabled the participants to improve their understanding of the diagnosis, evaluation and management of dysmorphic syndromes. Some of the lectures, which I found interesting, were on dysmorphology of brain, chromatin remodeling disorders, autoinflammatory syndromes and clefting syndromes. There were exciting quiz programs on limb anomalies and nail and hair as diagnostic clues. One of the highlights of the course was, 'case presentation by participants', where the participants got an opportunity to present rare, undiagnosed, interesting case histories and seek the opinion of experts. Listening to the lectures and presentations by the stalwarts in the field of dysmorphology was a great learning experience. The meeting also helped in interacting with like-minded individuals and building networks with others in the field.