

Genetics of Autoimmune Diseases

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Knowledge in the genetics of autoimmune diseases has seen remarkable progress over the last few years. The availability of new genetic tools associated with the elucidation of the whole human genome sequence have led to considerable expectations. It is fair to recognize, however, that there is insufficient communication and interaction between scientists and clinicians in the different medical fields. Experts within a medical speciality do meet, but there is no or very little opportunity for physicians of different specialities to share results and related concepts. This is highly regrettable since the mechanisms and problems met in the approach to all autoimmune diseases are very similar. This meeting aimed at gathering specialists of the most important autoimmune diseases - rheumatoid arthritis, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, psoriasis, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis and Crohn's disease.

OBJECTIVES

After attending this conference, the participants had an updated knowledge on:

- Genome scanning
- Pathophysiology and genetics implications of the major autoimmune diseases
- Links between the most common autoimmune diseases
- Suggestions from the animal models
- How can an autoimmune disease be predicted

TARGET AUDIENCE

Attendants included geneticists, immunologists and clinicians with the goal of sharing the various approaches of diseases including the consideration of animal models.

ACCREDITATION

This program "Genetics of autoimmune diseases" (Cannes, France, March 17-20, 2005) has been submitted for accreditation by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME).

