Cytogenetics is a relevant field of research in Genetics and especially in Human Genetics. Over the past 57 years it has developed explosively and at the same time it was divided into different research and application areas, the most relevant of them were theoretical Cytogenetics as a basic science, Tumor Cytogenetics, investigations on Mutagenesis research on Evolution, and Population Cytogenetics. Parallel with the development of these special fields of research, cytogeneticists established a close cooperation to related fields of research such as Molecular Genetics, Clinical Genetics, Cell Biology, Biology of Reproduction, Oncology or Pathology.

Progresses in the subject have always been combined to progresses in investigation methods. The latter ones usually lead to new main topics of research and to improved possibilities of diagnoses when investigating patients being carriers of chromosome abnormalities. From the beginning, Cytogenetics was characterised by an intensive international cooperation, which lead among others to common decisions in questions of chromosome nomenclature (ISCN). Specific symposia, workshops, seminars, and continuing education organisations on national and international basis lead to close personal contact between scientists and research groups, to counseling of young scientists and as impetus for many future-oriented projects.

It is desirable that this inspiring atmosphere is accompanying cytogenetic scientists in future as in the past.

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