Minutes of the meeting of the SIG Fetal Ultrasound

5th of June, 2013. Lisbon, Portugal

Antoni Borrell opens the meeting.

News from the SIG reported:

- The SIG Fetal US organized 3 pre-congress courses this year, which went well:
  - First trimester screening
  - Ultrasound and heart abnormalities
  - Ultrasound and genetic syndromes

- As a response on the initiative of the SIG meeting last year, a small group of people was gathered to write a review paper on the role of array-CGH in cases with US abnormalities. This paper is written on behalf of the SIG and is now under review for Prenatal Diagnosis.

- It is suggested to change the name of the SIG into 'Fetal Imaging'. After some discussion the final proposal is ‘Imaging in pregnancy’.

- Tony Borrell asks for contributions for the ISPD new newsletter. The SIGs are asked to write a part for the ISPD-newsletter every three months.

The plans for the next year are discussed:

- Development of guidelines or statements?

Dr. Go suggests writing an statement to specifically define each of the fetal structural abnormalities and how to categorize them. Some discussion amongst the attendants followed pointing out that maybe this would more appropriate for ISUOG that has already issued a number of guidelines. It is suggested that what is more specific of our SIG is the link between fetal abnormalities and genetic conditions. Then the discussion focuses on soft-markers of aneuploidy, which are features of fetal aneuploidy. Lyn Chitty says that soft-markers are of no importance anymore with NIPT moving forward. Alessandro Ghidini points out that in the USA they are still a big issue.

Dr. Cohen suggests that she would support the idea of writing a guide on soft-markers after reaching a consensus, including what to tell to the patient, specified for each of the different markers, to reduce anxiety. Tony Borrell reminds that Nicolaides just wrote an update on soft-markers, and that it may be hard to oppose to this paper.

After a lively discussion, pointing out that a guideline is much dependent on where you practice, and that public paid systems are different than health care systems based on private insurance (Italy vs. USA). A small group (Ghidini,
Borrell, Cohen, Haak) is willing to contribute in writing a statement/guideline on soft-markers.

- Topics for future pre-congress courses:
  - Next year the course will be run by ISUOG and therefore US will be prominent. We expect to be asked on topics.
  - Subtle limb anomalies / skeletal anomalies (Cohen)
  - Shift towards first trimester (Go)
  - Multidisciplinary approach for any subject: from embryology to long term outcome (Chitty)
  - Face and sutures (Cohen)
  - Clinical cases presented by attendees (Borrell)

Lyn Chitty suggests furthermore to realize what the local needs are, given that those are the people attending the pre-congress courses, and what other congresses nearby are running. In addition, she suggests that courses should be structured from basics: ‘how to’

Other business:

Alessandro Ghidini announces that ISPD 2015 is most likely to be held in USA. The program outline has to be ready in August 2014. He asks for input.

Tony Borrell is finalizing the session, after reminding that contributions for the newsletter would be welcomed.

Monique Haak  
Deputy-Chair

Tony Borrell  
Chair