



Following the success of the previous Mutation Detection Training Courses, Human Genome Organisation (HUGO) and Erasmus Medical Centre are proud to announce the forthcoming [HUGO 6th Mutation Detection Training Course](#) is to be held from 24th-28th October 2008 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

This year, *Dr. George P. Patrinos* (Erasmus University Medical Centre, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, MGC-Department of Cell Biology and Genetics) will be the local course organiser, supported by *Course Coordinator* Dr. Graham Taylor (Leeds, UK), and *Course Advisors*: Prof. Mireille Claustres (Montpellier, France), Prof. Richard G. H. Cotton (Melbourne, Australia), Prof. Mario Tosi (Rouen, France), Dr Johan den Dunnen (Leiden, the Netherlands) and Dr. Mats Nilsson (Uppsala, Sweden).

The bi-annual HUGO Mutation Detection Training Courses aim to provide participants a broad and general overview of available and emerging technologies to detect changes in the DNA sequence (SNPs and mutations) and its applications. The courses are primarily aimed at post-graduate, medical and post-doctoral scientists whose research and diagnostic interests could benefit from increased awareness of mutation detection techniques. Apart from covering the basic knowledge and techniques in mutation detection, we had injected some innovative features in this year's course. For example, a number of lectures devoted to whole-genome high throughput mutation screening methodologies have been added in the course agenda, in line to the recent technological advances. Also, the textbook "*MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS*", published by Elsevier/Academic Press (ISBN 0125466617) will be provided as the course's textbook, in addition to the regular e-syllabus. Through the course "Q-box" that will be present during all sessions, the participants get the chance to drop questions on any aspects discussed or missing in the course. All questions will be collected and we will try to answer as many as possible towards the end of the course. The course will be a mixture of lectures and practical laboratory demonstrations. Lectures will be given in the morning and aim to provide an overview of the topics, describe their background and principles, show applications and place the different techniques in context. Lectures will be presented by top-level international speakers, experts in their field. To promote contacts with the participants, speakers will be encouraged to stay during the entire course. The lectures will be complemented by afternoon workshop sessions intended to give participants close and hands-on experience with a range of selected techniques. To promote interaction, participants follow these 4-session afternoon workshops in 4 alternating parallel subgroups. Workshops include computer sessions demonstrating software and internet possibilities for data analysis. Although the course focuses on methods to identify sequence variants in genomic DNA (see Program), it also covers related subjects like proteomics, molecular cytogenetics, laboratory automation, gene and mutation nomenclature, mutation databases, as well as quality control. While most applications might be demonstrated in relation to human and human diseases, they should be applicable to any field of interest (including viral, microbial, plant and animal).

In celebration of HUGO's 20th anniversary, all participants will be accepted as HUGO members with a one year waiver of membership fee worth £35. To ensure active participation and maximum interaction, the course could only accommodate around 60 participants. Register now to avoid disappointment!

For more information, please visit our <http://www.hugoworkshops.org/mdtc2008/index.php>.

