

Schlieren, June 2020

Dear colleague,

Appended please find some information about the fifteenth course on clinical cytogenetics, to be held at Goldrain Castle in South Tyrol, together with a program for the cancelled course in 2020 and a pre-registration form.

Time: August 28 – September 5, 2021 (arrival on August 28 afternoon, departure on September 5 after breakfast).

Venue: Goldrain Castle. This 16th century castle was transformed into a conferencecenter some years ago. It is situated in north-eastern Italy, in the German-speaking Region of South Tyrol (province Bolzano/Bozen). There are various ways of getting to Goldrain; you need to find out which one is best for you.

Access: Goldrain station is situated on a private railway line, Vinschgaubahn, (run by the province of Bolzano/Bozen), which runs between Mals in the west to Meran/Merano in the east. The castle, which is visible from the train, is about a 10 minute walk from the station; pick up and transportation of your luggage can be arranged.

The airport of Bolzano/Bozen is accessible by air only from Rome. There is a train every hour from Bozen railway station to Goldrain, with a change in Meran/Merano. The train takes 1½ hours.

There are trains to Bolzano from the small airports in Verona and Innsbruck.

Train from Verona to Bolzano takes 1½ hours, and from Innsbruck to Bozen 2 hours. The airports of Munich and Milan are larger. The trains from Munich go via Innsbruck and take about 4 hours to Bozen. Trains from Milan go via Verona and take about 3½ hours to Bolzano. Of course, one has to add the time needed to travel from the airport to the central railway station, München Hauptbahnhof (main station)/ Milano Stazione Centrale.

On the other side, Zurich also has a big airport. Although the journey from Zurich to Goldrain requires 5 changes, we recommend this route because of the spectacular landscape and the reliability of the connections. Train tickets from Zurich airport to Mals can be purchased at the airport but for the train between Mals to Goldrain you need to purchase the ticket at Mals station. From Zurich airport a train (about every 10 minutes) brings you to Zürich Hauptbahnhof (main station) in 8 minutes. Here you change to a train in direction Chur, next change is in Landquart for a train to Zernez (some trains go directly, others require a further change at Sangliains, train just opposite). From Zernez railway station you take a bus to Mals, which crosses the Switzerland-Italy border at Müstair/Taufers. In Mals you change to the train direction Meran and get out at Goldrain/Morter station. Tickets can be purchased from an machine at the waiting room of the station. All connections are prompt and are just on the opposite side of the platform, with the bus connection directly at the station.

The site: Goldrain castle (see www.schloss-goldrain.com) is equipped with an internet connection and has computer facilities in every room of the dormitory; there are a number of small and large auditoria and rooms for practical workshops. About 40 beds are available in the modern dormitory connected to the castle, and an equal number are available close by. All meals are taken in the restaurant at the conference site. Food is excellent: a combination of local (Tyrolean) and Italian cuisine. Requests for a special diet should be made in advance.

Focus of the course: The lectures are aimed at both clinicians and cytogeneticists, who have strong mutual interests in each other's field. To get the maximum benefit from the lectures and workshops, participants should have at least one year's practical experience in laboratory and/or in clinical cytogenetics. A (voluntary) multiple choice examination will be held at the end of the course. One afternoon will be reserved for an excursion.

Pre-registration, registration and fee: The course will be organized if there is a minimum of 30 students; the maximum number of participants is 40. The final decision whether the course will happen will be made 3 months before the course, that is, by the end of May, 2021. You will receive a written confirmation of receipt of your application (pre-registration form) to participate in the course. Registrations will be accepted in the order of arrival of the conference fee in our bank account. We recommend that you transfer the amount as soon as possible and well before the 1st of April to ensure your participation. A letter of confirmation will be sent out as soon as the fee is received. In case of cancellation by the student between 15.06. and 01.07.2021, 80% of the fee will be reimbursed. For cancellations between 01.07. and 15.07.2021, the reimbursement will be 50%. After 15.07.2021 there will be no reimbursement.

The registration fee is 1600.- Euro. It includes accommodation, meals (from the dinner on 22 August to the breakfast on 30 August) and conference documents, but not the travel. If you decide to share a room with another student, the fee will be reduced to 1450.- Euro, provided you or we can find a second person for the room. If, for any reason, the course is cancelled by the organizers, the entire registration fee will be reimbursed.

An accompanying partner who does not participate in the course needs to pay only for the second bed in the room and the meals that she/he consumes (e.g., only breakfast and dinner). Prices in 2020 were: Bed and breakfast € 47 per day, with dinner it was € 61 and with dinner and lunch € 72, but an increase is foreseen in 2021. This should be paid directly to the conference center at departure.

For any further questions please refer to me (Albert Schinzel)

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