Introductory remarks from the Board of Directors of the ISPD on the Position Statement on Aneuploidy Screening

Aneuploidy screening has become standard practice in many countries around the world. The ISPD issued a Position Statement on aneuploidy screening in January 2011, followed by a rapid response statement in October 2012. (Benn P et al.) The development of Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) brings exciting and complete new concepts and possibilities within this field and various opinions about its use exist. However, NIPT is now a reality and will have a major place within prenatal screening and diagnosis. Since NIPT is very rapidly evolving and technically complex, we hope that a Position Statement on this topic will provide the necessary background information upon which national or regional policy makers can rely when they are considering the local guidelines and policies they aim to establish. The decision on what these should be can be difficult when pressure from the public, media, industry, etc. is felt. Therefore, the ISPD decided to review and update the aforementioned Position Statement and to include NIPT. It provides us with what we consider best current practices from a global perspective. The ISPD fully realizes that opinions on NIPT may differ, however, and feels that the consensus reached by a writing group with expertise in this field provides us with a balanced view. The ISPD expects to frequently review and adapt this Position Statement. A rapid response procedure is in place that allows expediting this process.

The Board thanks the Working Group for their efforts and the membership for their support and input in this process.

References
