

## ECP Amsterdam 2017 withdrawal symptoms.

Some time has passed since the 29th Congress of the European Society of Pathology in Amsterdam. Imagine being a doctor having to write a letter of discharge for your congressee, after a short observational period. This doctor has to report on the tests and procedures applied, describe the condition of the pathologist subjected to it and give a prognosis. All took place in the temporary pathology sanatorium (RAI Amsterdam) surrounded by wild cyclists benevolent weather gods.



### *The Opening on Saturday*

Vinod Subramanian embedded pathology in a wide endeavour to understand the microscopic world while placing new developments (deep learning & liquid biopsy) as

Illusionist Jochem Nooyen showing the design sneaker



opportunities to modernize our specialty. Then an illusionist (Jochem Nooyen) amused probably all attendees by magically predicting the design sneaker of a Brisbaneite and identifying the name of the first love of our future president of the ESP (so not Pierre's first love but Dina's). No disclosures here but Jochem was right. After the magic, it was time for food.

The following day, the pathologist had his first administration out of the broad scientific arsenal of therapy, spiced and peppered with (on Sunday) a dual female keynote, a sort of an innovation in the ECP legacy. They explained vanishing white matter. Marjo van der Knaap and neuropathologist Marianna Bugiani brought it to light (if you like immunofluorescence you had to be there).

Keynote duet: Marjo van der Knaap



Keynote duet: Marianna Bugiani

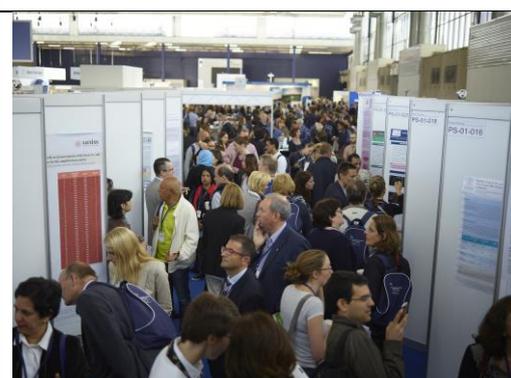


Prior to and after the keynote, our patient (pathologist) was given several choices for scientific or professional invigoration, with the famously complicated colour codes programme (being a 'stress test' to measure resilience in our pathologist). With more than 3000 colleagues from all over the world, the going was heavy at times, with predictably over crowded and under crowded venues (or spaces being too big, depending on your point of view). "The app our patient/pathologist was equipped with, was quite good", the doctor added, in the letter of discharge. The additional tools for restoring scientific health in Amsterdam varied from classic (big audience, one speaker, eg on polyps) to lively (small audience, one colourful papersheet), to the more advanced 'gadgetology, that of the electronic posters. The latter improved societal and communicative skills in our pathologist.

Congressional polymania (serrated..)



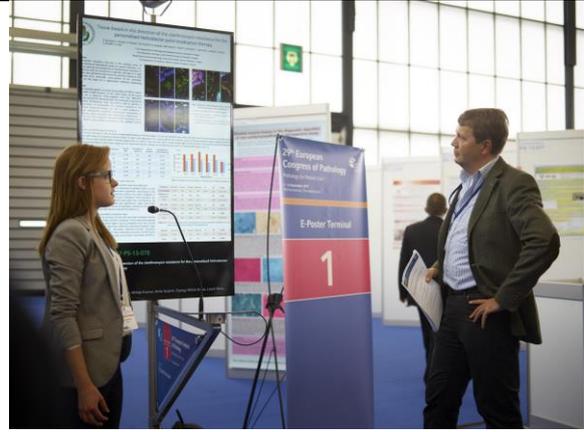
Poster rush hour



Electronic poster: keep an eye it on



You can have them e-mailed on the spot



There were more than 90 opportunities (sessions) to administrate a dose of science to our pathologist, threatening the therapeutic window by overdosing. Amsterdam (and the social programme) meanwhile sang her siren song to allure the pathologist away into canal rides or dappled spots of beery greenery. Clearly, some more targeted therapy was needed to keep our patient engaged.

Keynote Jolanda de Vries and Elisabeth Bloemena



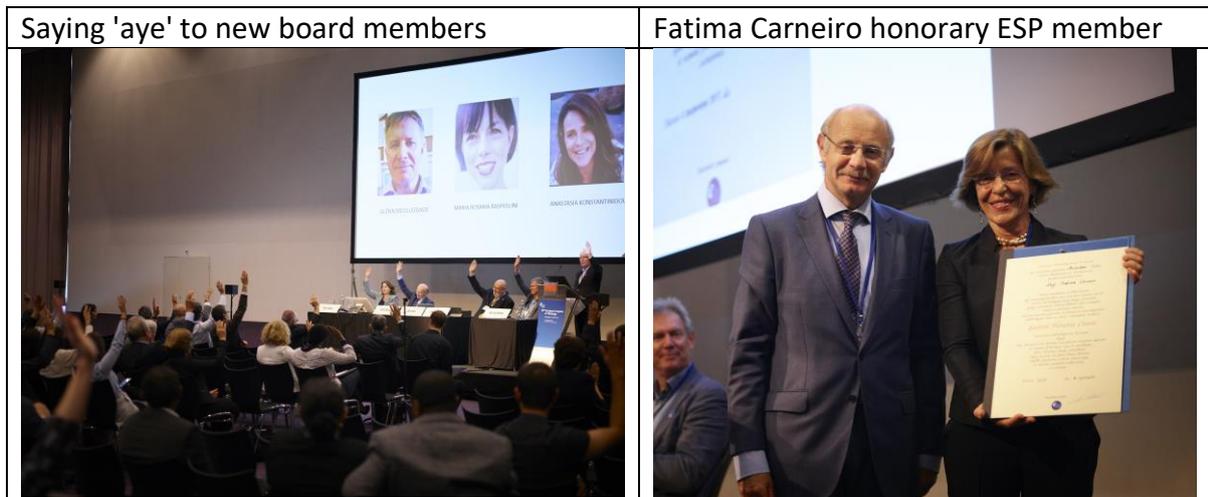
Jolanda the Vries gave an update on immunotherapy. Later that day, the real melodious also came on offer with the Cello Octet as musical intermezzo in the evening. They almost wrong-footed the organizers by starting with Bach, to quickly resume with Philip Glass and contemporaries. It was enjoyable, and the doctor hoped the patient liked it.

The next day, the ESP injected another keynote on open science. The coffee situation was arguably tenuous. A point of improvement in Bilbao.

Meanwhile, during the entire congress, all sessional chairs were instructed to rate the speakers. while dedicated ESP scientific committee spotters checked all the posters and grilled the poster chairs afterwards for the best posters.

On Tuesday, it was time for more remote perspective or metascience point of view to improve our pathologist. Tim Errington informed us on openness and reproducibility of scientific research (See [www.cos.org](http://www.cos.org)) By this day, the first signs of fatigue were beginning to show and the incidence of participants with suitcases increased. Our patient had some other business to do on Wednesday of an altogether different category: the general assembly. He or she showed solid unanimity on voting in new board members and welcomed a new

president to the society. Of more joyous note, of course, was election to honorary membership for Fatima Carneiro, well deserved for all things she has done for the ESP.



Some more highlights were to follow that day. An excellent Symeonidis lecture on the Hepatostat and liver regeneration was delivered by George Michalopolos. The Tinaokos Award was given to Joseph Mathew for his presentation on more than 20000 stomach biopsies (yes, you read that correctly) by computer assisted text processing. By this time our cure was improving the pathologist.



The last doses a pathologist could receive, before being dismissed and sent back to the lab at home, was the closing ceremony on Wednesday. We had to say goodbye to our secretary Ilmo Leivo and our president Pierre Bedossa. The shortlist for the best oral presentation was 6, but only 5 were able to make it. The presentations were a beautiful mix of good molecular science and esthetical morphology.

Best oral presentations in Amsterdam. ECP 2017



3rd price: Luisa Lorenzi    2nd price: Yuko Akazawa    1st price: Rute Pedrosa

By then, reader, we had to dismiss our patient (and everybody else) after the short internment in Amsterdam: "the prognosis on average, is fairly good, some withdrawal symptoms aside". The locals are deeply grateful to the Scientific Committee (Fatima Carneiro, Han van Krieken, Pierre Bedossa and Raed Al Dieri) who made all this possible. Of course, we now eye Bilbao and wish José Ignacio Lopéz and his team success for next year.

<p>The locals pretending all is under control</p>	<p>José Ignacio Lopéz : come to Bilbao in 2018!</p>