

## **2014 Annual Report of ESP Working Group of Digestive Diseases**

### **Status of the Working Group End of 2014**

Currently the Working Group has 119 members, and all are members of the ESP (according to the rules of the society).

However, for 2015 our society has decided on a general change in the management of working group membership. Thus, all ESP members are about to receive an email, in which they will be asked to register actively on the society's homepage for the working group(s) they intend to be members in. The system will be online-based only (no list of members to be taken care of by the chairman and the secretary any more), which will, however, most probably help to be in closer contact with the respective members. The following is of eminent importance:

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL EXISTING MEMBERS OF OUR WOKING GROUP HAVE TO ENTER INTO THIS ONLINE-BASED SYSTEM.**

**THAT IS, FOLLOWING THE INVITATION THEY WILL GET VIA EMAIL THEY HAVE TO REGISTER ACTIVELY ON THE ESP WEBSITE FOR THE WORKING GROUP OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES – NEITHER THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WOKING GROUP NOR THE SECRETARY CAN DO THAT FOR THE EXISTING MEMBERS.**

**IF THE CURRENTLY EXISTING MEMBERS DO NOT REGISTER ONLINE, THEY WILL NO LONGER BE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP.**

### **ECP London 2014**

The annual ESP congress in London, which was for the first time held as a joint meeting with the Pathological Society of Great Britain & Ireland was a huge success. In all, more than 3000 colleagues attended the meeting.

The Working Group of Digestive Diseases presented the following five sessions (additional sessions dealing with the pathology of the digestive system were organized by the colleagues from UK), which were all well attended and generally well received:

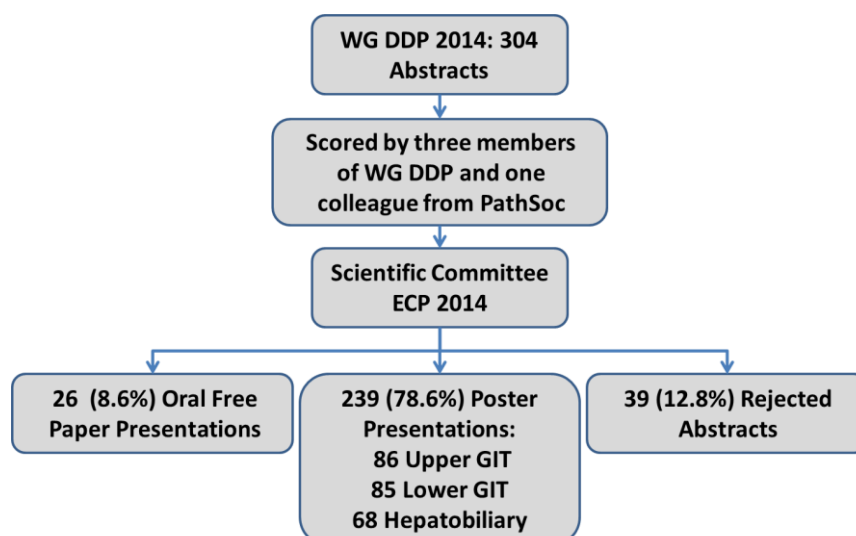
- Symposium:** Grading and Scoring in Digestive Disease (Joint Session with United European Gastroenterology)
- Symposium:** Basics of Invasion and Metastasis in Cancers of the Digestive System
- Short Course:** Obesity and Digestive Disease Pathology
- Slide Seminar:** Infectious Diseases of the Digestive System (Joint Session with the Working Group of Infectious Diseases)
- Business Meeting:** What's Hot in Digestive Disease Pathology?

I sincerely thank all chairs, co-chairs and presenters for their excellent work.

In all, 304 (!) abstracts (17% of all congress abstracts) had been submitted to the Working Group of Digestive Diseases for the London congress, illustrating the central role of our subspecialty, which should be taken into consideration for future congress planning.

Three independent members of the Working Group and one delegate of the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland scored the abstracts, which meant a huge amount of work. The names of the presenters and the institutions, in which the work had been performed was unknown to the reviewers (blinded review). Based upon the scores, the final decision (reject, accept poster, accept oral presentation) was made by the scientific committee of the congress. The rejection rate was 12.8%, which is slightly higher than in the whole congress (7.3%).

As in the years before, the posters were subdivided into three groups of comparable sizes with three poster chairs, respectively. By doing so, it was technically possible to visit all posters and discuss the findings with the presenters.



I am proud to present the following two young colleagues in this annual report:

**Dr. Pirjo Nummela, Helsinki, Finland**, received the prize for the best poster of the congress. Her work was entitled “Molecular landscape of pseudomyxoma peritonea”

**Dr. Viktor H. Koelzer, Bern, Switzerland**, received the George Tiniakos Award 2014 for the best free-paper presentation in Gastrointestinal, Liver and Pancreatobiliary Pathology. His presentation was entitled “EMT-like cancer cells over-express hyaluronan acid mediator motility (RHAMM, CD168) and promote colorectal cancer progression”.

### **Collaboration with the European Crohn’s and Colitis Organisation (ECCO) and the European Microscopic Colitis Group (EMCG)**

Members of the Working Group participated successfully in a joint effort with ECCO which aimed at standardizing the quality of care in the histopathology of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

The consensus document addressed the following topics: Procedures for the diagnosis of IBD, ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease with special reference to the histology of children and adolescents, infectious colitis related to IBD and the microscopic colitides.

Two papers were produced by the consensus members and published in 2013 and in 2014:

European consensus on the histopathology of inflammatory bowel disease. Magro F, Langner C, Driessen A, Ensari A, Geboes K, Mantzaris GJ, Villanacci V, Becheanu G, Borralho Nunes P, Cathomas G, Fries W, Jouret-Mourin A, Mescoli C, de Petris G, Rubio CA, Shepherd NA, Vieth M, Eliakim R; European Society of Pathology (ESP); European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation (ECCO). *J Crohns Colitis*. 2013; 7(10): 827-851.

The histopathological approach to inflammatory bowel disease: a practice guide. Langner C, Magro F, Driessen A, Ensari A, Mantzaris GJ, Villanacci V, Becheanu G, Borralho Nunes P, Cathomas G, Fries W, Jouret-Mourin A, Mescoli C, de Petris G, Rubio CA, Shepherd NA, Vieth M, Eliakim R, Geboes K. *Virchows Arch*. 2014; 464(5): 511-527.

A third paper on the microscopic colitides, including their minor and variant forms, was written together with colleagues from the European Microscopic Colitis Group (EMCG) and was published in late 2014:

Histology of microscopic colitis-review with a practical approach for pathologists. Langner C, Aust D, Ensari A, Villanacci V, Becheanu G, Miehlke S, Geboes K, Münch A; the Working Group of Digestive Diseases of the European Society of Pathology (ESP) and the European Microscopic Colitis Group (EMCG). *Histopathology*. 2014 Nov 8.[Epub ahead of print].

## **Collaboration with United European Gastroenterology (UEG)**

In 2013, the ESP was approved as Ordinary Member of the UEG which was a great success for the whole society but also for the Working Group of Digestive Diseases.

As indicated above, the London Congress hosted already the second ESP/UEG Joint Symposium. Both clinical colleagues and pathologists highlighted the different aspects of grading and scoring within the digestive system – which led to a lively discussion.

In October, several colleagues of the Working Group again participated in the program of the UEG week in Vienna.

The working group's pathology UEG program had been presented on the homepage of the European Network of Gastrointestinal Pathology (ENGIP, [www.medunigraz.at/ENGIP](http://www.medunigraz.at/ENGIP)) before the meeting.

## **Outlook**

The planning for the 27th European Congress of Pathology to be held in Belgrade September 2015 was finalized end of 2014. The Working Group is going to present six sessions. Early in 2015 we will start the planning for the 2016 congress in Cologne, which will be a joint congress with the International Academy of Pathology (IAP).

Once we have the final approval of the scientific committee for the Belgrade congress we will present the program of the Working Group on the ENGIP homepage ([www.medunigraz.at/ENGIP](http://www.medunigraz.at/ENGIP); Working Group of Digestive Diseases ESP).

I would like to emphasize again, ENGIP is not a society, but serves as a platform for the dissemination of relevant information (such as society information, particularly from ESP and from our Working Group, but also from other societies, such as UEG and ECCO, including guidelines, consensus documents, courses, grants etc.) in the field of gastrointestinal pathology.

Dr. Cord Langner

Chairman, Working Group of Digestive Diseases ESP