

## **2017 Annual Report of ESP Working Group of Digestive Diseases**

### **Status of the Working Group End of 2017**

Currently the Working Group has 225 members (*updated on July 01, 2018*), and all are members of the ESP (according to the rules of the society). This means a +32 increase since last year.

It is important that we have the highest number of members interested in digestive diseases pathology as possible. Therefore, every member of the ESP interested in the field should apply on the ESP website, and you may ask interested colleagues to do so. You can also contact your national group(s) specialized in GI and/or liver-pancreas pathology to ask them to inform their members on the interest to become a member of our working group.

### **European Congress of Pathology (ECP) Amsterdam 2017**

From a general point of view, and from the GI/liver point of view, the congress was a great success.

The Working Group presented 8 sessions in total. Very many international famous speakers participated.

The following sessions took place:

- Joint Symposium Digestive Diseases Pathology & Rodger Haggitt Gastrointestinal Pathology Society (for the first time at the ECP): Update in pathology of GI tumours.
- Symposium: Lifestyle liver disease under the microscope
- Slide Seminar: Evolving concepts in the diagnosis of colorectal polyps
- ESP / UEG Joint Short Course: Barrett's dysplasia management in 2017: optimising pathology-endoscopy crosstalk
- Short course with the Cytology WG: Cystic pancreatic neoplasms - new aspects in cytopathology and histopathology

- Business meeting: What's hot in digestive pathology?
- Short course: Update on mixed tumors of the GI tract, the pancreas and the liver
- Videomicroscopy with the European Association of Hematopathology: Lymphoid infiltrates of the GI tract

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

In all, 283 abstracts had been submitted to the Working Group of Digestive Diseases for the Amsterdam congress, representing 15,4% of all abstracts submitted, illustrating the major role of our subspecialty. There were 202 abstracts for the GI tract and 81 abstracts for the hepatobiliary system and pancreas.

Six independent reviewers representing our Working Group scored the abstracts, which meant a huge amount of work. We sincerely thank those reviewers for their commitment. 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 was made by the scientific committee of the congress. 28 (10%) abstracts were selected for oral free paper presentation and 232 (82%) for poster presentation. The rejection rate was 8%.

The posters were subdivided into groups of comparable sizes (GIT, hepatobiliary) with poster chairs. It was technically possible to visit all posters and discuss the findings with the presenters.

We are happy to present the following young colleague in this annual report:

Dr. Asghar Naqvi, Canada, received the George Tiniakos Award for the best free-paper presentation in gastrointestinal, liver and pancreatobiliary pathology. His presentation was entitled "The automatic extraction and categorization of 22,760 stomach biopsy specimen parts from 110,970 free text pathology reports to assess *Helicobacter pylori* diagnostic rates".

## **2018 ECP, Bilbao**

Early in 2017 we have started the planning for the 2018 congress in Bilbao.

Proposals were made in due course to the Scientific Committee during the Amsterdam congress, and most have been approved.

As a result, there will be 8 sessions of GI/liver/pancreas during the Bilbao congress, including a symposium on Pancreatic adenocarcinoma, a joint video-microscopy session with the Paediatric pathology WG on “Uncommon causes of Diarrhoea in children and adults”, a joint symposium with H-ECCO (European Crohn’s and Colitis Organization) on “Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and the liver” a joint symposium with the UEG (United European Gastroenterology) on “Early cancers of the lower GI tract”, a slide seminar “practical approach to appendiceal neoplasia and associated peritoneal disease”. For the second time at the ECP, a common session will be organized by the Rodger Haggitt Society and our working group, and for the first time a common session will be organized with the Hans Popper Liver Pathology Society; both sessions will have outstanding speakers from the USA and Europe. Our traditional Business meeting will be entitled “What’s hot in digestive pathology”, with 4 distinguished speakers from Europe, and our annual report.

#### **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.

The sixth Joint Symposium will be held in Bilbao ECP 2018, devoted to “Early cancers of the lower GI tract”.

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

ESP and ECCO have engaged a close relationship between both societies. In March 2016, a histological course on IBD pathology (H-ECCO masterclass) was included in the program of ECCO’s annual congress in Amsterdam. It was renewed in ECCO 2017 (Barcelona), and in ECCO 2018 (Vienna).

A joint symposium will be held in Bilbao, entitled “Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and the liver”. The WG specially thanks Cord Langner and Roger Feakins for the implementation and continuation of this fruitful collaboration.

## **ESP Advanced Training Centers & Giordano Fellowship**

This important initiative from the ESP gives the opportunity to fellows to have a stage in well-recognized centres.

24 centres are currently available on the ESP website, among these two focus on GI and two on liver:

- ESP Advanced Training Centre for Colorectal Cancer and Precursor Lesions. Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Head of training program: Iris Nagtegaal.
- ESP Advanced Training Centre for Gastrointestinal Pathology. Graz, Austria. Head of Training Program: Cord Langner.
- ESP Advanced Training Centre for Liver Pathology. Basel, Switzerland. Head of Training Program: Luigi Terraciano.
- ESP Advanced Training Center in the area of Liver Pathology. Heidelberg, Germany. Head of Trainig Program: Peter Schirmacher.

In 2017, amongst the 13 awardees, two were granted for a stage in GI Pathology: Dr Bence Kövəri, from Hungary, and Dr Marina Degtiareva, from Belarus, and two were granted for a stage in Liver Pathology: Dr Rui Cateano Oliveira, from Portugal, and Dr Samir Adullazade, from Turkey.

Jean-François Fléjou, Chairman

Christine Sempoux, Secretary

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