

Report of the IT Working Group (IT WG), 2016

Information Technology (IT) started to enter surgical pathology contemporary with the establishment of the Internet and advanced image acquisition technology at the beginning of the new century. Now - a - days IT plays an important role in our society and in the pathologist's daily work.

The members of the IT WG are increasing in numbers and activity in the last ten years. As every year, they organized two full time scientific sessions at the annual ESP conference held in Cologne, Germany in 2016. The audience included IT WG members, general and specialized pathologists, technicians, as well as exhibitors of different companies. The scientific program covered a broad spectrum of themes. They included hospital information systems, standardized reports, automated image acquisition and interpretation systems, cost / benefit issues as well as general perspectives of tissue – based diagnosis (liquid biopsies, biostatistics, communication, advanced scientific publication in pathology, etc.). Numerous auditors occupied the small presentation room. The intensive discussions of several presentations had to be terminated by the chairmen due to the short time allowance which was given by the ESP.

We tried to explain to the disappointed lecturers and audience that the ESP scientific office has to balance the time allowance for the different WGs, and we asked them to understand the situation.

The IT WG was intensively engaged in promoting new ideas and scientific issues of IT between its members as well as with colleagues of other WGs. As a result, a joint session with the 'Cytology WG' is organized for the ESP Amsterdam Conference in 2017. This session will focus on practical issues in cytology, try to motivate all WG members and to remind them of the successful efforts of cytologists to implement the first standardized stain measurements in daily routine diagnosis (Feulgen stain, 1988).

As usual, the IT WG tries to organize their scientific sessions as flexible as possible, and to include the latest available information which is often obtained from colleagues of other disciplines (technologists, engineers and physicists). This is the consequence of the fast progress in IT technology and the engagement of the IT WG members. The IT WG would appreciate very much if the ESP scientific office in Brussels would understand such a situation and change its habits in order to support flexibility, innovative actions, and interest.