

ACTIVITY REPORT 2015-2016

HEAD & NECK WORKING GROUP

Chairperson: Alessandro Franchi, Florence, Italy

Secretary: Nina Zidar, Ljubljana, Slovenia

ECP 2015 – Belgrade, Serbia

Three sessions were organized, the first being a **slide seminar with ten cases** covering different aspects of neoplastic and non-neoplastic diseases involving the Head & Neck region. The slide seminar was attended by 80-100 participants and each case was thoroughly discussed. The second session was a **Short Course** dedicated to a practical approach to mucosal lesions of the Head & Neck. A multidisciplinary approach was chosen, with Dr. Thavaraj dealing with the significance of HPV infection in the oral mucosa, Dr. Escudier discussing orofacial granulomatous conditions mainly from the clinical standpoint, and Dr. Odell presenting an exhaustive review of oral lichenoid processes. Approximately 90 participants attended this short course. A **Business Meeting** was also organized, in which Dr. Isabel Fonseca presented the European contribution to the advances in salivary gland pathology succeeding the Gerhard Seifert. During the Business Meeting, the new officers of the WG were also presented: Alessandro Franchi as the new Chairman, Nina Zidar as the new Secretary, and Tim Helliwell as new Chairman-elect. The last session organized by the WG was a **Symposium** on Neuroendocrine differentiation in Head and Neck Tumours. The first part of the symposium was dedicated to an overview on neuroendocrine differentiation in Head and neck neoplasms, by Gunter Kloppel, followed by a discussion on salivary gland neuroendocrine tumors by Douglas Gnepp and a presentation on neuroendocrine neoplasms of the head and neck mucosa by Tim Helliwell. These lectures and the following discussion focused also on the important issues of nomenclature and classification of neuroendocrine tumors of the head and neck. The last two lectures were dedicated to an update on olfactory neuroblastoma, by Alessandro Franchi, and to the pathological features of head and neck paragangliomas, by Xavier Mathias-Guiu.

ECP 2016 – Cologne, Germany

Five sessions were organized by our WG in cooperation with the IAP conveners. They were all well attended with rooms fully occupied by participants. In the **Symposium**, six speakers, including four pathologists and two oncologists, discussed the emerging biomarkers and targeted treatments of squamous cell carcinoma, soft tissue tumours of the head and neck, salivary gland tumours and odontogenic tumours. In the **Slide Seminar**, eight challenging cases of neoplastic and inflammatory conditions of the head and neck were presented. The **Long Course** was dedicated to the new edition of the WHO Classification of Head and Neck Tumours, focusing on new aspects of tumours of the salivary glands, ear, nasal cavity, paranasal sinuses and nasopharynx, as well as mucosal precancerosis, HPV-associated tumours and odontogenic tumours. A **Joint Short Course** was organized with Infectious Diseases Pathology WG, presenting some aspects of important infections in the head and neck region, e.g. HIV, deep mycoses, virus-associated carcinomas and features mimicking infectious diseases in the head and neck. We also had an **Oral Free Paper Joint Session** with Endocrine Pathology WG, with 12 excellent presentations.

Other activities

Besides organizing the scientific program at ECPs, WG members were also actively involved in other activities. Roderick Simpson, Nina Gale and Ann Sandison gave an Escop Course "Update in Head and Neck Pathology" in Craiova, Romania, 26th - 29th November, 2015. Antonio Cardesa, Alessandro Franchi, Nina Gale and Pieter Slootweg edited the 2nd Edition of the Book Pathology of the Head and Neck, published by Springer, with many other WG members who contributed book chapters. Pieter Slootweg is co-Editor of the new edition of the WHO Classification of Head & Neck Tumours, which is scheduled to be published January 2017. Several members of the WG also participated as Authors. WG members also attended the consensus and editorial meeting on the WHO Classification of Head and Neck Tumours, which was held in Lyon, France, 14-16 January, 2016. Finally, several members of the WG are currently involved in development of the ICCR (International Cooperation for Cancer Reporting) project for the reporting of resection and biopsy specimens of malignancies originating in the Head and Neck region. The publication of the Datasets is expected early in 2017.

This report summarizes the activities of the Head and Neck Working Group.
We remain ready to provide any further information that may be required.
Respectfully submitted.

Alessandro Franchi
Chairman of the Head & Neck WG

Nina Zidar
Secretary of the Head & Neck WG