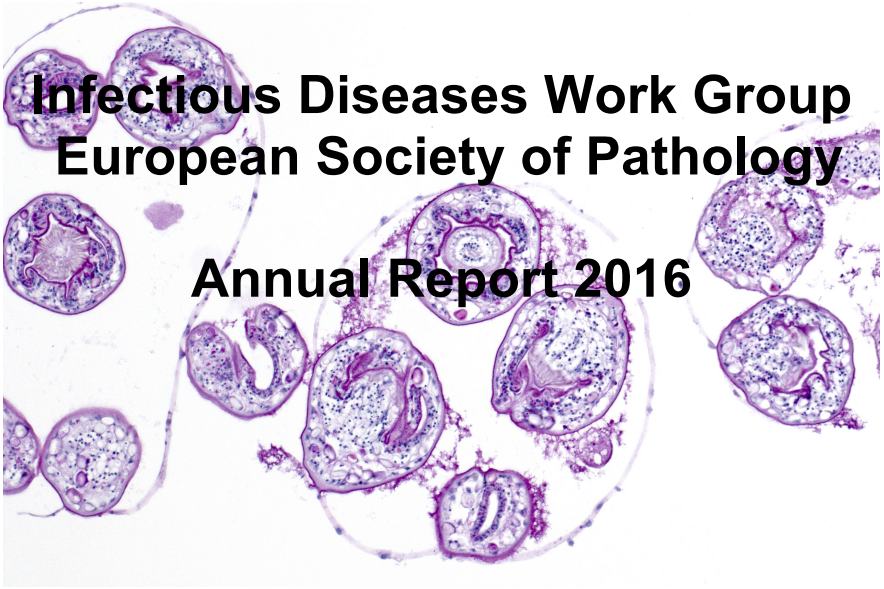

Infectious Diseases Work Group
European Society of Pathology

Annual Report 2016

Besides onco-genetics, next-generation sequencing (NGS) methods are also revolutionizing infectious disease diagnostics. Nevertheless, often H&E alone is sufficient to make a conclusive infectious disease diagnosis. Where are the limits of classical morphological approaches vs. molecular ones and what will the future bring for next-generation infectious disease pathology? Around these questions we were able to invite internationally renown speakers for the European Congress of Pathology 2016 in Cologne: Dr. Danny Milner (Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA) about “Do not forget the H&E: Power and limitation of histology in the diagnosis of ID”; Dr. Sherif Zaki (CDC, Atlanta, USA) about “Emerging infections in solid organ transplants”; Dr. Gieri Cathomas (Academic teaching hospital, Liestal, Switzerland) about “Conventional molecular methods in granulomatous lesions”; Dr. Stefan Niemann (Research Center Borstel, Germany) about “ From the acid fast stain to whole genome sequencing – changes in the strategy to diagnose tuberculosis” and Dr. Gregor Gorkiewicz (Medical University of Graz, Austria) about “NGS in the diagnosis of infectious diseases: the end or a new beginning of ID pathology?”. In summary the symposium stressed again the important role of pathology in ID diagnostics and gave already a hint towards the future developments of this highly dynamic field.

At the end of 2016 the work-group chair was handed over Prof. Dr. Gregor Gorkiewicz, full professor for medical microbiome research and associate professor of pathology at Medical University of Graz, Austria and Dr. Carlos Pontinha, Hospitalar de Lisboa Central, Lisbon, Portugal (secretary) who will now lead the work group for the upcoming four years.

Prof. Dr. Gieri Cathomas & Prof. Dr. Gregor Gorkiewicz