

ESP WORKING GROUP "PATHOLOGY IN FAVOUR OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES"
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2015

The most important news of the activities of our WG in 2015 has been the organization of a slide seminar with the main aim to involve extra-European pathologists (in particular the younger ones) in presenting their cases in a European congress. This initiative, managed also by AORTIC and APOF, the two NGOs that are permanent members of the WG, it is to be considered part of the mission of our WG, to allow colleagues living in non-European Countries to participate to the activities of ESP. Obviously, special consideration was given to those coming from underserved Countries, to whom this event was particularly aimed.

To reach the largest number of colleagues potentially interested in participating, a call containing all the information was disseminated through the websites of ESP, AORTIC and APOF. Through this call, we received a total of 28 cases, 11 from Europe, the remaining from Countries outside Europe (Nigeria, Botswana, India, Morocco, USA, Canada, Brazil and Turkey... a nation belonging to both these parts of the world!).

All the proponents were invited to send a paraffin block to the Department of Pathology of the Hospital of Perugia, Italy. The slides obtained were then digitized and sent through the Internet to a board composed of some members of AORTIC and APOF. The board also had the option to request for special stains which are then prepared and sent to them in the same way.

Of these cases, 11 were accepted for presentation at the slide seminar, that was chaired by Anita Borges (India) and Sebastian Lucas (United Kingdom).

All the cases for which a paraffin block was sent (the accepted ones and the unaccepted ones) were then compiled in a double DVD that was sent to all the participants. For those who are interested to view the cases, the content of the DVD is also available online (<http://www.apof.eu/DVD/index.htm>).

Beside the slide seminar, a regular symposium was also organized; this year, we have chosen to focus on the concept of "sustainability", a mandatory parameter in the evaluation of every health project destined for low-resource settings.

So, the idea of "sustainability" was examined through successive speeches during the symposium: Paolo Giovenali (Italy), the President of APOF, spoke about the role and the responsibilities of NGOs devoted to health project in underserved countries, while Adekunle Adesina presented on AORTIC and the role of pathologists in this important African organization.

These were then followed by speeches of Steffen Hauptmann, about the characteristics and the management of breast cancer in some African populations, while Sebastian Lucas (UK) and Alberto Garcia-Basteiro (Mozambique) proposed ideas respectively on sustainable immunohistochemistry and molecular pathology; examining these techniques in terms of costs and benefits in special circumstances, as those existing in developing countries.

Finally, Laura Viberti (Italy), examined the interesting role of low-cost, ultrasound-based cytology techniques, as a method to achieve a good diagnostic level even in situations with paucity of resources.

Stefano Guzzetti
Chair of ESP WG
"Pathology in Favour of Developing Countries"