

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022



TAKE A
LOOK
INSIDE

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Message from the President of the ESP

(By Prof. Aleš Ryška)



Dear ESP Members, dear Colleagues,

When I started my presidency in September 2021, the seemingly endless period of Covid-19 pandemics was slowly but inevitably approaching the end and the perspectives for the future looked rather optimistic.

However, the invasion of Russian army into Ukraine initiated one of the worst global crises in the modern history. It is already by far not only the suffering of people of Ukraine (although this is something, what is certainly beyond the wildest imagination for most of us). We are currently facing crumbling of most of traditional mechanisms of our modern society - disruption of global trade, complications in traveling, uncertainty regarding the energy resources etc. Of course, we are “just pathologists” and we have no control over political decisions, we can do only what is in our control and it means provid-

ing the best service we can for our patients. Outside of this, we can only hope that the common sense and rational decisions of political representations will stop the madness and help the world to return back on the track.

Still, even in this challenging period, the ESP is functioning and providing the best possible service to our members. The leadership of the ESP is trying to explore new opportunities how to increase visibility of pathology and how to strengthen the position of our discipline in European and global context. Let me highlight one of the activities, which deserves, in my opinion, a particular interest. In May, we organised in Florence a two-days meeting of ESP leadership with representations of multiple global industrial partners. We called this meeting “ESP Industry advisory forum”. Due to rapid development in biomedicine, staying up to date in this area means getting the information about emerging technologies (both diagnostic procedures and treatment approaches) even before they are introduced into routine life. This, of course, requires contact with different industrial partners. On the other hand, every commercial company needs honest feedback from their scientific partners and here pathology plays a crucial role. Thus, such collaboration brings mutual benefits for industry as well as for us. Therefore, we decided to start this kind of formalised collaboration enabling honest exchange of opinions, informing each other about our needs, ex-

pectations, potential bottlenecks and areas for future collaboration and improvements. We see a great potential in these activities – webinars, virtual preceptorships, bursaries for our members, support of various educational activities, more extensive involvement of pathologists in clinical trials, etc. We sincerely believe that this will result in great benefits for ESP and our members.

The ESP has successfully organised in June the second edition of the ESP Academy (ESPA) in Genval, Belgium. In line with ESP mission, ESPA has been a great platform to support early career pathologists by providing some guidance and assistance for their projects. The key objectives of this 4-day intensive workshop are to promote excellence in research and innovation among young pathologists and scientists working in the human pathology field, exchange experience among juniors and senior researchers and to engage fellows with mentors and peers to explore opportunities for collaboration and tackle jointly common challenges.

Many of you are now enjoying your summer holidays. The ESP office is working at 110% as the preparations of the Basel ECP are at their peak. As you well know, given the current international situation, the ECP will be organised as a hybrid. The registration numbers are very promising, reaching the values of the most successful congresses from the pre-Covid-19 era. Thus, we are very optimistic and look

forward to seeing many of you in Basel in early September.

At the end of my message, I would like to add a very personal note. John Lennon said: “Life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans”. Some of you may have already received information about the sudden and completely unexpected passing of one of the best European uro-pathologists, Prof. Ondřej Hes. Ondra, as we all called him, was not only an outstanding renal tumours expert, but also a very nice person and a great friend. Although, they say that everyone is replaceable, it is hard to imagine the world of pathology without his presence. He will stay in our minds and in our hearts.

Looking forward to welcoming you in Basel!

Aleš Ryška
ESP President

Editor's Message

(By Prof. Marina Kos)

Dear colleagues and friends,



It is with great sadness that I begin this usual word of the Editor at the beginning of our Newsletter. The whole pathological community is deeply shocked by a sudden death of one of its members, Prof. Dr Ondrej Hes at the age of 54. To all of us who knew him, he was simply Ondra, a great pathologist, educator and colleague. He was a very active and prominent member of the Genitourinary Pathological Society and helped to educate quite a number of younger pathologists by giving many invited lectures abroad, and also hosting them in his Plzen, in Czech Republic. A man is never truly gone until there is someone who remembers him, and he will never be forgotten by anyone who ever met him and will also live forever in all the papers he left behind.

However, life goes on, the ESP Academy was organised and both senior and junior participants have their impressions that they will share with us. The preparations for the 34th ESP Congress in Basel are peaking as the Congress approaches. This year, with all the experience gained

during lockdown due to COVID 19, it was possible to organise a hybrid type of congress. In this Newsletter you can also read a more detailed report about these activities by Local Organising Committee. You can find more detailed information about the Congress at the [ECP website](#).

Have a pleasant summer and looking forward to seeing you in Basel!

Prof. Marina Kos

Secretary's Message for ESPA, 2nd edition: 18-21 June 2022, Genvall, Belgium

(By Prof. Janina Kulka)

Dear Colleagues, dear Friends,



Similar to many other events, the pandemic also affected the 2nd edition of the European Society of Pathology Academy (ESPA): instead of being held in 2020, it was postponed to this year. More than 50 young pathologists applied for this year's ESPA. Following careful evaluation of the submitted projects and on-line interviews with the pre-selected applicants the best 21 projects were invited to Genvall, at the Chateau du Lac.

The venue - a romantic building in the style of Lorraine castles by the Lake Genval – was built in the early 1900s and was transformed into a charming conference hotel in 1985.



The programme consisted of presentations by the selected applicants from 18 different European and also non-European countries and lectures by invited speakers. The keynote lecture was presented by Prof. Karel Smetana, world-known from his research on tumour microenvironment. Lectures of invited speakers covered scientific and more general topics that may be useful to young pathologists, who expect outstanding success in their career. Morpho-molecular classification of tumours was presented by Prof. Fatima Carneiro, former president of ESP. The president-elect of ESMO, Prof. Andres Cervantes presented the oncologist's perspective in clinical trials. The subject of digital and computational pathology was covered by Prof. Arvydas Laurinavičius and advances in tissue-based imaging technology by Prof. Valérie Paradis – both world-known experts in these fields. A comprehensive lecture about bioinformatics in research was given by Prof. Balázs Györffy. Lectures about grant application assem-

bled, manuscript writing, research with limited resources, importance of mentoring, biobanking, ethical challenges in research were also presented. Each lecture was followed by an open and vivid discussion. The presentations by the awardees covered a wide spectrum of studies from pure pathology subjects through translational studies to basic research studies. Not surprisingly, a quarter of projects' titles encountered the words 'artificial intelligence', 'virtual', 'automation' or 'machine learning'. Very high scientific level of presentations and discussions characterised the whole meeting.



Discussions and change of views didn't stop in the meeting room: these continued during coffee breaks, lunches and dinners, too. Friendships were born and possible future collaborations were outlined. This year's ESPA began exactly 207 years after the Waterloo battle. Genval is close to the historic monument of Waterloo where Napoleon lost his empire on the 18th of June in 1815. On Monday afternoon, participants of the meeting visited the battlefield and the museum enjoying a guided tour and being presented with a 3D movie of the battle and even with a cannon shooting on the battlefield! However magnificent this lively experience of

European history was, many of us thought of the mindless war in Europe of our present time.



ESPA 2022 was an unforgettable event: without exaggeration it has been a lifelong experience not only for the awardees but also for the senior participants, thanks to the organisers in ESP Headquarters, but first and foremost to the “mother” - as the president, Prof. Aleš Ryška designated referring to the extreme circumspection and care in every aspect of organisation - of ESPA 2022, Dr Christos Poulios, himself an ESPA awardee in 2018.



My personal conclusion after ESPA is that we, the seniors may sit back because there comes the brilliant new generation of European pathologists. We all look forward to the next edition of ESPA in 2024!

Interview with ESPA 2022 Junior participants (By Dr Christos Poulios)

Following the completion of the ESP Academy (ESPA) 2022, three junior participants were interviewed by Dr Christos Poulios (CP) about their experience.

The 3 interviewees were: Dr Kristijan Skok from Austria (KS), Dr Ezgi Serbes from Turkey (ES) and Dr Ruo Yu Shi from Singapore (RS).



CP: How did you learn about ESPA and why did you decide to apply?

KS: I learned about ESPA through different channels: via the ESP mailing list, through my colleagues, and from my mentor. The opportunity was internally discussed at my department and was highly supported, which gave me an additional motivation to apply.

CP: What are your impressions from the interviews and the selection process?

ES: As a beginner and with no previous interview experience, just being accepted for the interview was a fascinating experience for me. I was quite anxious! There were questions for my scientific curiosity

and my research project. Upon acceptance, all the necessary information and guidance were provided.

CP: Could you briefly describe how you prepared for your ESPA 2022 participation?

RS: First of all, to block the calendar! During the interview, some points of my project were discussed, and comments were provided on how to make a presentation that will be beneficial for all involved. Moreover, I liaised with my supervisor during the drafting of my presentation.

CP: How was your experience during the presentation of your project?

KS: Presenting work that you have invested a lot of effort into is always a thrilling and unique experience. Furthermore, trying to convey the gist of your work in 8 minutes is challenging. Nevertheless, I enjoyed the valuable feedback and felt at ease among my colleagues.



CP: ESPA included many talks from invited speakers. What was your most vivid impression from these talks?

RS: They were all excellent talks. The most impressive part are the faculty's personal feelings and experiences in their career when they were at around the same

age as us now. They had similar difficulties and they shared how they looked for help and overcame them. These were in a variety of topics such as funding, mentors, career planning, protected time and teamwork.

CP: For almost 4 days, 21 Junior participants and an almost equal number of Seniors were engaged in an intensive programme. Despite the large number of talks, the discussions, both during the sessions and at the breaks were equally engaging. What would be your suggestion to further improve this interactive process?

ES: If ESPA had taken longer than 4 days, I would never complain! Jokes aside, I think all the talks and breaks were balanced in terms of both content and duration. My suggestion is to include hands-on practical sessions for digital and computational pathology related topics.



CP: Other than the educational part, ESPA included a social programme. Do you have a recommendation on how to maximise the networking benefit during this?

RS: Yes! All the speakers, those giants in Pathology, were very open and welcome to be engaged in discussions. So, my ad-

vice is to learn the background of the faculty as early as possible and do not be shy to talk to them!

CP: What was your best ESPA 2022 memory?

ES: The fondest memory was the moment during dinner at the third day, when I realised that I was no longer the shy and quiet person from the first day, and that I evolved through the days of discussions and laughter with my Senior and Junior colleagues.



CP: If you were to go back in time, having the knowledge of ESPA, what would you do differently so as to maximise your benefit from your participation?

KS: I believe that in my case, having a "time machine" would not have changed the outcome. Regarding my project and the professional part, I gave it my all, as I consistently strive to do. Of course, it can always be better. This event combines growth on a social and professional level. Growth by its intrinsic nature is a step-by-step process and cannot always be maximized.

CP: ESPA 2022 is complete. But is it really over? How do you plan to take advantage of the ESPA experience?

KS: ESPA may be over, but its impact is already showing on both professional and personal level. Be it by joint research projects, consultations, or simple amicable interaction. The ESPA experience has helped me gain new perspectives on my everyday work, colleagues, and myself. Furthermore, I found insight and solutions to specific problems by interacting with colleagues and friends.

ES: For my current research project, I will implement the received suggestions and potentially collaborate with some junior participants. We also plan to write a paper together! We may come up with new project ideas, as long as we stay in touch!

RS: No, the friendship will last forever! ESPA 2022 members established a communication platform, and I will join as many ESP activities as possible! My next career steps may also benefit from the connections established in ESPA.



Message from the ECP 2022 Basel Local Organising Committee

(By Professor Gieri Cathomas)

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,



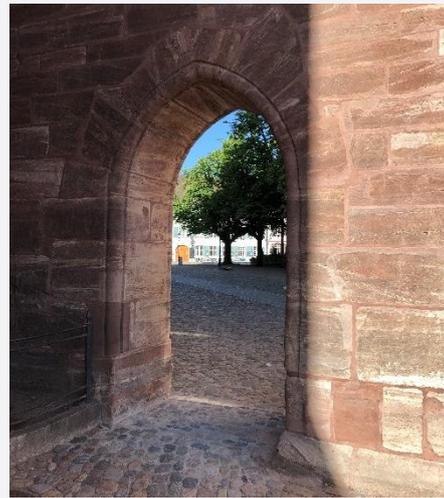
Following two years of online congresses, Basel is ready to welcome the Pathologist of Europe and from all over the world in person at the 34th European Congress of Pathology (ECP).

From the 3rd to the 7th of September 2022, we are looking forward meeting all the stakeholders of pathology, including pathologists, clinicians, molecular biologists, geneticists, bioinformaticians, IT-experts as well as our partners of the industry at the Congress Centre in the middle of the city.



Basel, in the Northwest of Switzerland on the border triangle of France and Germany unifies all ingredients of a modern city in a manageable area. The city on the Rhine with a close airport, two central stations as well as a dens public transport

and modern road network can be easily reached from everywhere in Europe (as well as from everywhere in the world). Also, within Basel, all important spots are easy to reach by tramway, bus or by foot.



Basel is the most dynamic economic region in Switzerland and one of the most productive and innovative worldwide. The city integrates history and modernity, harbouring the first University of Switzerland, founded in 1460, a charming old town, internationally known museums as the Fondation Beyeler or the Kunstmuseum as well as a florid hotspot of biomedical research and industry with breath-taking architecture. At the same time, the city offers mysterious and hidden places and squares, cosy restaurants and, of course, a large variety of shopping opportunities.



A few weeks before the start of the congress, the programme is about to be finalised. The opening ceremony will start on Sunday in the San Francisco Hall of the Congress Centre with the traditional addresses and an entertainment delighting eyes and ears, followed by the traditional networking reception in the exhibition area. On Monday, the ECP congress concert will take place in the Hans Huber Hall in the newly renovated Stadtcasino where the Swiss Piano Trio will present a classical chamber music bouquet full of virtuosity and poetry. Finally, the famous congress evening will take place on Wednesday in the Volkshaus Basel, a perfect place to enjoy the last evening of the congress with friends and colleagues, indulge in international brasserie cuisine and get on the dance floor!

The motto of the 34th ECP 2022 is **The Art of Next Generation Pathology**. This motto encompasses a wide range of developments in modern pathology, including next-generation technologies, but obviously also the next generation of pathologists, as well as highlighting the fact that despite sophisticated technologies, pathology remains part of the art of medicine needing intuition and passion to reach the maximal benefits for our patients.

The scientific board, together with the ESP working groups and the affiliated societies, have prepared an excellent state of the art programme in the various fields of pathology, including multiple joint and special sessions focusing on very recent research findings, including new routes in pathology as the patient-pathologist consultation. Several keynote lectures presented by internationally recognised ex-

perts, oral free papers and posters covering topics from cutting-edge scientific developments to everyday problems in modern pathology make the congress a comprehensive presentation of the challenges of today's pathology.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Basel joining and enjoying an exciting, interesting and instructive congress but also a nice time together meeting with old and new colleagues and friends at the 34th ECP 2022.

On behalf of the ECP 2022 Basel local organising committee:

Gieri Cathomas, Bettina Bisig, Rainer Grobholz, Zsuzsanna Varga



Obituary for Professor Ondřej Hes

(By Prof. Janina Kulka)

Silence, pain and disbelief.



Twenty days before his 54th birthday, Prof. Ondřej Hes suddenly passed away, leaving behind his family and the community of European pathologists. Just one week before his death he attended the IAP Hungarian Division Technology Transfer Central European Urothology meeting in Székesfehérvár, Hungary, as a faculty member, and gave two fantastic lectures on Thursday the 23rd of June, and presented an outstanding kidney tumour slide seminar together with two young Hungarian pathologists on Friday the 24th.

His tragic death on the 1st of July changed the dimensions of our small meeting: this was the last conference he gave lectures at, and participants of this meeting were among the last ones who could enjoy his radiant and magnetic personality full of energy and his crystal clear, entertaining and educational presentations. During the dinners he kept entertaining the company with his charming and unique sense of humour.

Ondra, as everybody called him, had become one of the greatest urothologists of all time yet he remained the same helping, caring, kind and friendly person who

practically never said no to anybody. If it happened very rarely by chance, he sincerely apologised...

He graduated in 1993 from the Faculty of Medicine in Plzeň, Charles University, became board certified pathologist in 1999, defended his Ph.D. in 2001. In 2009 he was nominated Professor of Pathology at Charles University, Prague. He had been appointed as head of Laboratory of Special Diagnostics, Department of Pathology, Charles University Hospital in Plzeň and he had worked also as consultant pathologist in Biopstická Laboratoř Plzeň. He published 389 papers with more than 5800 citations, was member of the working group Classification of Renal Tumours in the International Society of Urogenital Pathology (ISUP) and Genito-Urinary Pathology Society (GUPS) and that of Kidney Tumours in the 4th and 5th edition of the WHO Blue Book series.

His main passion and interest was to study renal tumours and to identify and characterize discrete entities belonging to the novel, emerging and provisional categories of renal tumours. Regular international informal meetings called „Kidney Tumour Friends” were organised by him and Prof. Michal Michal with great success – the last one was held only a few months ago. He was one of the first to provide availability for an ESP Advanced Training Centre for the Giordano Fellowship Programme.

He also loved nature and worked for its preservation and even its rehabilitation in areas where humans destroyed it. He devoted his free time for Eden Endowment Fund - We create islands of Biodiversity. His last note on the website fondeden.cz about that work was written on the 27th of June.

Running in the sense of his professional lifestyle and as a sport was his way of living and finally the way he left this world and all of us who were so fond of him.

The community of uropathologists from Japan to the United States, from Sweden to South Africa grieves this great man and the loss for his family is unimaginable. The world after the 1st of July 2022 is not the same as it was before.

Invitation for a survey

Are you interested to discuss the histology personally with the patient?

Pathologists are generally considered the “doctor of the doctor” with no direct contact with the patient. However, in modern, highly specialised medicine, you are the expert in an essential part of the diagnosis of the patient's disease, and a group of patients may be interested to discuss “their case” with the person behind the diagnosis: with you, the pathologist. Therefore, **Patient Pathologist Consultation (PPC)** may be (or is already in some part of the world) an important part of the future of pathology!

What's your opinion?

Please let us know by completing this [SURVEY](#).

Upcoming Conferences

ESP-organised events:

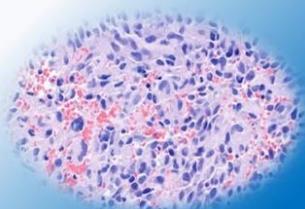
- 1) [European Congress of Pathology](#): 3 to 7 September 2022, Basel, Switzerland
- 2) European School of Pathology (ES-coP) course for soft tissue Pathology: 15-17 September 2022, Budapest Hungary. [INFO](#).

Other Conferences/Events:

12th International Thymic Malignancy Interest Group Annual Meeting (ITMIG 2022), virtual, 29 September to 2 October 2022: [INFO](#) Special offer for residents and Pathologists in training: [INFO](#)

Medical University of Graz: Postgraduate Course - Gastrointestinal Pathology, 29 September to 1 October 2022, Medical University Graz - Med Campus, Graz, Austria

More events are published via the [ESP website](#). The list is regularly updated!





AVAILABLE NOW!



ESP in collaboration with AstraZeneca and MSD, are pleased to announce that the **Ovarian and Prostate Cancer Virtual Education Series** are now available.

This educational curriculum is not supported by CME points Z4-36196. Date of preparation: August 2021
The content of the Virtual Education Series is intended for pathologists



Look out for these two Virtual Education Series in the education portal of the European Society of Pathology website!

COMING SOON:

Biomarkers in endometrial cancer virtual education series

Prof. Xavier Matias-Guiu
Prof. Koen Van de Vijver
Dr Ana Oaknin

This educational series is intended for healthcare professionals for medical educational purposes only.



COMING SOON

Cholangiocarcinoma Virtual Education Series

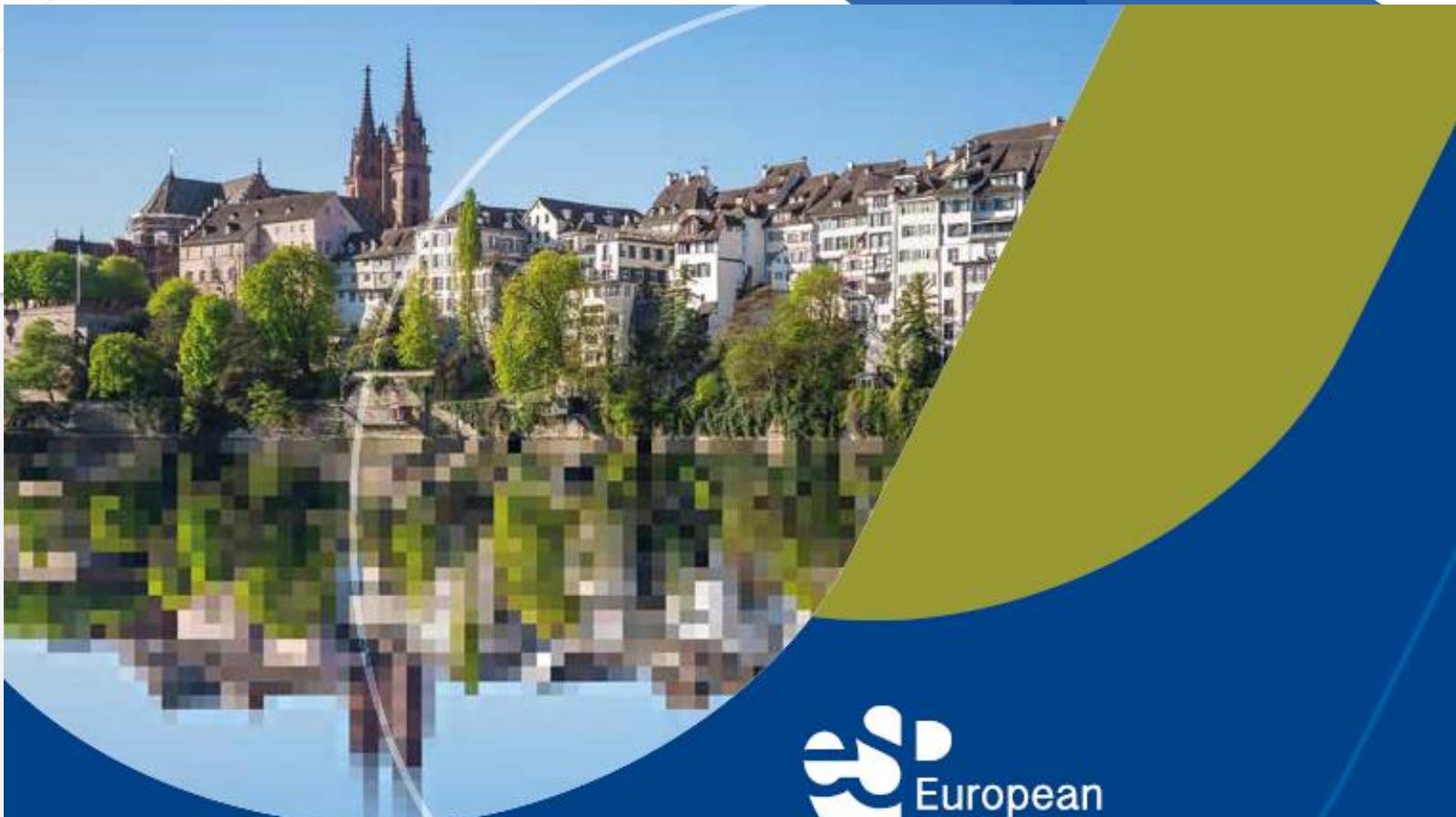


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ESP Corporate Partnership
Programme





34th European Congress of Pathology

The Art of Next Generation Pathology

3–7 September 2022
Congress Center Basel, Switzerland

www.esp-congress.org

hybrid