

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE ESP MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY WG IN 2014:

-28-29 March: workshop “Tissue Based Biomarkers for Advancement of Personalized Cancer Treatment”, held in Graz and organized by ESP, OECl, Medical University of Graz and BBMRI Austria.

Many of the major European organizations interested in cancer, like ECCO, EuroCanPlatform, EPAAC, Royal College of Pathologists, German Society of Pathology, EATRIS, BBMRI-ERIC and the BBMRI nodes from Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany and Italy, participated in the discussion on how to improve the quality of retrospective studies performed in archive tissues and how to accelerate the clinical application of new biomarkers.

A white paper has been drawn up to better define the characteristics of these types of studies. This white paper was approved by the boards of OECl and BBMRI-ERIC and a comprehensive summary was diffused by the ESP newsletter. The white paper is an official document that is going to be published shortly in a peer-review journal.

-31 March - 4 April: organization and implementation of “2nd Basic Molecular Biology for Pathologists Course” held in Graz by OECl, ESP and ESCoP (European School of Pathology).

This was a basic course on Molecular Pathology aimed to give all necessary information on Basic Molecular Biology and on Molecular Technology, to understand the analyses performed today in Pathology for prognostic and predictive biomarkers. The course was very successful and requests for participation were five times as high as the available places.

-25 April: participation as ESP Molecular Pathology WG in the Czech Molecular Pathology course in Olomouc.

-5-7 May: organization and implementation of “EACR-OECl-ESP 4th EACR-OECl Joint Training Course Molecular Pathology approach to Cancer”. The course was held in Amsterdam.

This course was an advanced course on Molecular Pathology of Cancer, with some of the most experienced scientists in the field. It was very successful and attracted participants not only from Europe, but from all over the world.

-17 May: Rome, participation in the “Day of Oncologic Patients” organized by several patients’ associations with a presentation of the European activities of ESP and OECl Molecular Pathology WGs in clinical research in archive tissues.

-2 June: BBMRI-ERIC board meeting in Vienna for the proposal to start a European network of archive tissue biobanks which was approved.

-12 June: Organization of the OECl Pathology Day in Cluj, Romania, with the participation of the MOPA WG of ESP, devoted to diagnostics and clinical research in archive tissues. Synergic work between pathologists and oncologists.

-30 August - 3 September: ESP Congress, London, MOPA sessions.

-16-17 September: Berlin, BBMRI-ERIC meeting for “clinical biobanks”. During the meeting the working group for European archive tissue biobanking was set up and Giorgio Stanta was appointed as the coordinator. Giorgio Stanta was also asked to participate in the European clinical biobanks WG, about liquid biopsies.

-27 September: ESMO meeting in Madrid. ESP Molecular Pathology WG lecture on the importance of the preanalytical phase for immunohistochemistry.

-October: Conclusion of the work of the CEN group (European Committee for Standardization) for the preparation of preanalytics and extraction conditions of DNA, RNA and proteins from fresh tissues, FFPE tissues and blood for ISO 15189). Giorgio Stanta and Karl Becker participated for the ESP Molecular Pathology WG, with the collaboration of other participants of the technical group of DNA and RNA extraction SOPs. The rules will be diffused in 2015.

This work was performed with many direct meetings and teleconferences and was associated to the ESP project on RNA and DNA SOPs approved by ESP in 2013. In 2015 the protocols will be assembled and presented at the different ESP levels.

-13 November: Mallorca, invitation of the Spanish Biobanking Group meeting for the presentation of European activities on archive tissue biobanking and clinical research.