

2012 Annual Report of ESP Working Group of Digestive Diseases

Status of the Working Group End of 2012

Currently the Working Group (WG) of Digestive Diseases has 107 members.

We kindly ask all members to keep their contact information up to date. For 2013 we are planning to check the contact information of every member and in order to update our members' list.

Please note, in 2012 ESP has renewed the criteria for WG membership

- The applicant should be a member of the ESP
- He or she should send a personal written/electronic application to the Working Group Chair or Secretary
- The applicant should demonstrate professional commitment to the subject of the Working Group
- The applications should be approved by the existing members of the Working Group

Following these guidelines, seven new members were approved by the existing members at the business meeting at ECP Prague.

ECP Prague 2012

The annual ESP congress in Prague was a great success. The sessions of the WG were well attended. Specifically, the WG-program comprised the following seven sessions:

Symposium: Role of Stem Cells in the Digestive System

Symposium: Fibrosis and stellate cells in Liver and Pancreas

Short Course: Effects of Immunosuppression on the GI Tract

Short Course: Challenges in Hepatocellular Tumour Diagnosis

Slide Seminar: Tumours and Tumour-Like Lesions of the Oesophagus

Videomicroscopy: Gastrointestinal Disorders in Paediatrics

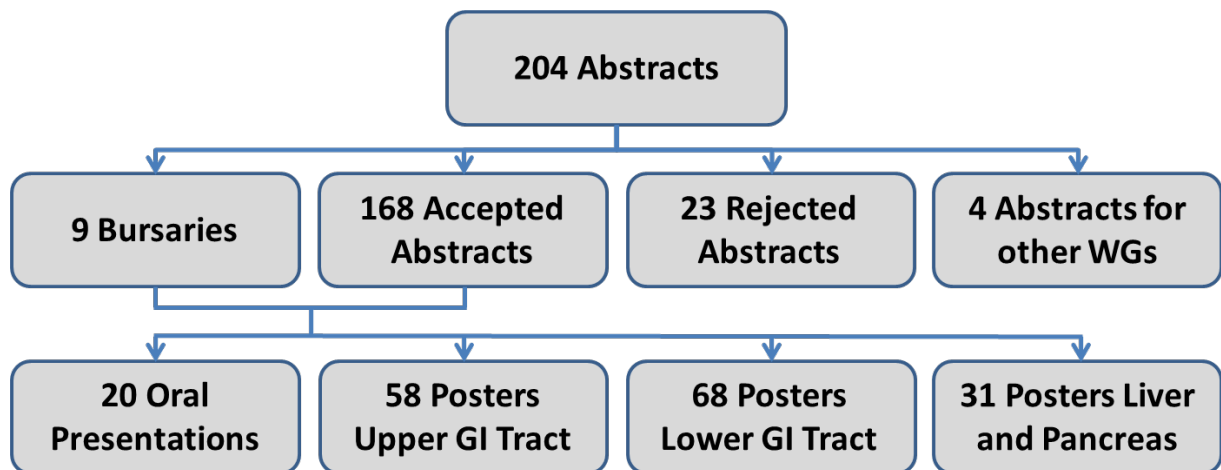
Business Meeting: Hot Topics in Pancreatitis

I thank all presenters for their good job!

In all, 204 abstracts had been submitted to the Working Group for the congress. Four independent members of the Working Group scored the abstracts.

For the first time, the posters were subdivided into three groups of comparable size with three poster chairs, respectively. By doing so, it was technically possible to visit all posters and discuss the findings with the presenters.

There were a lot of positive responses to this new design of poster presentation and I am grateful to the organizers that this was possible (as it caused a three-fold increase in poster chairs).



The Prize for the **Best Oral Presentation of the Congress** was given to a free oral presentation of the WG. The winner was Dr. Anna Melissa Schlitter, München, Germany for her contribution entitled “Intraductal Papillary Neoplasms of the bile duct (IPN): Stepwise progression to invasive carcinoma comprises alterations of KRAS, p53, p16, β -catenin, HER2, EGFR and smad4”.

Collaboration with the European Crohn’s and Colitis Organisation (ECCO)

Members of the Working Group currently participated in a collaboration with ECCO that aims at standardizing the quality of care in the histopathology of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

Four working groups have been formed each comprising three ESP delegates and one ECCO delegate

WG 1 on UC (chaired by Ann Driessen and Gerassimos Mantzaris)

WG 2 on CD (chaired by Cord Langner and Fernando Magro)

WG 3 on lymphocytic and collagenous colitis (chaired by Arzu Ensari and Vincenzo Villanacci)

WG 4 on indeterminate, unclassified and infectious colitis related to IBD (chaired by Karel Geboes and Rami Eliakim)

Collaboration with United European Gastroenterology (UEG)

Since several years there is a growing partnership between ESP and UEG. Every year UEG invites ESP pathologists as speakers to the annual UEG congresses.

This year, for the first time, our WG was invited to design a full session for the annual UEG week in Amsterdam. The session was well received, the program was as follows:

- Endoscopic mucosal resection and endoscopic submucosal dissection in the upper GI tract (Horst Neuhaus, Germany)
- The pathologist's role in the evaluation of upper GI tract EMR/ESD-specimens (Cord Langner, Austria)
- Molecular pathogenesis of upper GI carcinoma - what the clinician needs to know (Ari Ristimäki, Finland)
- EMR and ESD in the lower GI tract (Björn Rembaken, UK)
- The pathologist's role in the evaluation of lower GI tract EMR/ESD-specimens (Iris Nagtegaal, The Netherlands)
- Molecular pathogenesis of lower GI carcinoma - what the clinician needs to know (Inti Zlobec, Switzerland)

For 2013 ESP aims to become a full member of the UEG family.

“European Network of Gastrointestinal Pathology” (ENGIP)

The European Network of Gastrointestinal Pathology was established in 2012 by members of the WG as a compliment to ESP activities with the purpose to get a route for dissemination of relevant information (such as society information, particularly from ESP and from WG Digestive Diseases, but also from other societies, such as UEG and ECCO, including guidelines, consensus documents, courses, grants etc.) in the field of gastrointestinal pathology.

ENGIP is not a society, it clearly endorses ESP membership. With the help of ENGIP and its homepage (it can be accessed under the following address: www.medunigraz.at/ENGIP) it is possible to transport information of ESP and our WG to GI pathologists who are not members of the ESP.

In particular, we intend to spread information about the GI program of the annual ESP congresses, thereby attracting non-ESP GI pathologists to our meetings. Moreover, WG members can use the ENGIP homepage to post their research projects in order to find collaborators, inside and outside ESP, which enhances the probability to be successful.

Instructive “cases of the month” and guideline papers published on behalf of different societies which are free for download complete this service.

Outlook

The planning for the Annual Congress in Lisbon in 2013 is on a good way.

The WG will again present seven sessions. Once the program is finalized it will be available at the ENGIP homepage (WG Digestive Diseases ESP).

Dr. Cord Langner

Chairman, Working Group of Digestive Diseases ESP