

2016 Annual Report of ESP Working Group of Digestive Diseases

Status of the Working Group

The Working Group has 187 members (*updated on May 22, 2017*), and all are members of the ESP (according to the rules of the society).

We remind you that, in 2015, the ESP has decided on a general change in the management of working group membership. All ESP members have received an email, in which they have been asked to register actively on the website of the society for the working group(s) in which they wanted to stay or to become member. The system is online-based only. Some previous members did not apply at that time. In 2016, we sent personal e-mails to those “lost members”, and this resulted in renewal of membership by a quite significant number of previous members, including very active GI and liver pathologists.

It is important that the highest possible number of ESP members interested in GI and liver pathology register to the WG. Therefore, every member of the ESP interested in the field should apply on the ESP website, and you are invited to spread the word to your colleagues. We also recommend that you advise your own national group(s) specialized in GI and/or liver-pancreas pathology to inform their members on the possibility to be part of the WG.

IAP-ECP Congress of Pathology, Cologne 2016

For the first time, the congress was a joint meeting with IAP (German Division / GDIAP).

From a general point of view, the congress was a great success.

Gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary-pancreas went separate for the organization, with three conveners for GI pathology (GDIAP: Thomas Kirchner – International IAP: Priyanthi Kumarasinghe – ESP: Cord Langner) and three conveners for hepatobiliary (GDIAP: Hans-Peter Fischer – International IAP: Venancio Avancini Alves – ESP: Valérie Paradis).

The Working Group presented seven GI sessions and three liver-pancreas sessions, which is a very high number. Very many international famous speakers participated and all sessions

were widely attended. In addition, for the first time at an ESP event, a session was organized by the Rodger Haggitt Gastrointestinal Pathology Society, which was a great success.

The following sessions took place:

Symposium: Dynamic pathology of liver tissue due to vascular changes and pathologic liver perfusion

Joint Slide Seminar Liver/Pancreas: Pancreatic and liver neoplasms: Progress in diagnostics

Joint Symposium Digestive Diseases Pathology & ECCO: The interdisciplinary approach to inflammatory bowel disease

ESP / UEG Joint Short Course: Polyps and polyposis syndromes in the upper GI tract

Short course: Risk assessment and prognostication of cancer in GI pathology

Symposium: New aspects for the pathogenesis of gastrointestinal disease

Slide seminar: Tumour-like lesions: Pitfalls and mistakes (or almost!) in the GI tract

Short course: Therapy-related GI pathology

Symposium: The immune system and the GI tract

Symposium: Pancreatic neoplasms: Morphology meets genetics

We sincerely thank all chairs, co-chairs and speakers for their excellent work.

In total, 311 abstracts had been submitted to the Working Group of Digestive Diseases for the Cologne congress, illustrating the central role of our subspecialty. There were 236 abstracts for the GI tract and 75 abstracts for the hepatobiliary system and pancreas. This was a major increase compared to ECP Belgrade 2015 (+35%), also due to the fact that this was a joint meeting with the IAP/GDIAP.

Eight independent reviewers representing the international IAP, the GDIAP, and our Working Group scored the abstracts, which meant a huge amount of work. The names of the presenters and the institutions in which the work had been performed was unknown to the reviewers (blinded review). Based upon the scores, the final decision (reject, accept E-poster,

accept physical poster, accept oral presentation) was made by the scientific committee of the congress. 27 (9%) abstracts were selected for oral free paper presentation and 258 (83%) for poster presentation. The rejection rate was 8%.

The posters were subdivided into groups of comparable sizes. It was technically possible to visit all posters and discuss the findings with the presenters.

We are also proud to congratulate a promising young colleague in this annual report. Dr. Irene Gullo, Porto, Portugal, received the George Tiniakos Award for the best free-paper presentation in gastrointestinal, liver and pancreatobiliary pathology. Her presentation was entitled "Indications for a strategic role of the stromal cells in the tumour progression of pancreatic cancer".

2017 ECP, Amsterdam

Early in 2016, we started to plan the program for the 2017 ESP congress in Amsterdam.

Proposals were made in due time to the Scientific Committee and most have been approved.

As a result, there will be 7 sessions of GI/liver/pancreas during the next ECP in Amsterdam, including a joint video-microscopy session with the European Association for Hematopathology (EAHP) on lymphoid infiltrates of the GI tract and a joint symposium with the Cytopathology WG on pancreatic cystic tumours. For the first time at the ECP, a session will be organized together by the Rodger Haggitt Society and by our working group, with outstanding speakers from Europe, USA and Australia.

2018 ECP, Bilbao

The WG is now working on the program for the 30th congress, to be held in Bilbao, Spain, 8-12 September 2018. Suggestions from the members are welcome.

Collaboration with United European Gastroenterology (UEG)

In 2013, the ESP was approved as Ordinary Member of the UEG which was a great success for the whole society but also for the Working Group of Digestive Diseases.

As indicated above, the Cologne Congress in 2016 hosted the fourth ESP/UEG Joint Symposium. Both clinical colleagues and pathologists highlighted – Polyps and polyposis syndromes in the upper GI tract - which led to a lively discussion.

In October 2016, several colleagues of the Working Group participated again in the program of the UEG week in Vienna.

The fifth Joint Symposium will be held in Amsterdam ECP 2017, and it will be devoted to Barrett's oesophagus.

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

ESP and ECCO are working on a closer relationship between both societies. In March 2016, a histological course on IBD pathology (H-ECCO masterclass) was included in the program of ECCO's annual congress in Amsterdam. It was renewed in 2017 (Barcelona), and is already scheduled at ECCO 2018 (Vienna).

Collaboration with another "ECCO", the European Cancer Organization

The WG was asked by the ESP Executive Committee to represent our society in an initiative by the European Cancer Organization on "Essential Requirements for Quality Cancer Care: Colorectal Cancer »

This joint action by several European Organizations resulted in a publication, with the WG representing the ESP in the authors. Crit Rev Oncol Hematol. 2017 Feb;110:81-93. doi: 10.1016/j.critrevonc.2016.12.001. Epub 2016 Dec 8.

ESP Advanced Training Centers & Giordano Fellowship

This important initiative from the ESP gives the opportunity to fellows to benefit from a period of internship in well-recognized centers.

21 centers are currently available on the ESP website, among these two focus on GI and two on liver:

- ESP Advanced Training Centre for Colorectal Cancer and Precursor Lesions. Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Head of training program: Iris Nagtegaal.
- ESP Advanced Training Centre for Gastrointestinal Pathology. Graz, Austria. Head of Training Program: Cord Langner.
- ESP Advanced Training Centre for Liver Pathology. Basel, Switzerland. Head of Training Program: Luigi Terracciano.
- ESP Advanced Training Centre for Liver Pathology. Heidelberg, Germany. Head of Training Program: Peter Schirmacher.

In 2016, amongst the 7 awardees, one was granted for an internship in GI Pathology : Dr Parok Deepak Dabir, from Denmark, who will go to Nijmegen (Pr Iris Nagtegaal).

Jean-François Fléjou, Chairman

Christine Sempoux, Secretary

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