

Activity report 2017.

Autopsy pathology working group.

Chairperson (2016 - 2020): G. Cecilie Alfsen, Oslo, Norway.

Secretary: Lisa Mersson, Berlin Germany

Members and general activity

At the end of 2017, the WG counted 30 members, many of which joined after the ESP congress in Amsterdam. The members are from all over Europe (Russia, Macedonia, Romania, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Lithuania, Poland, The Netherlands, Slovenia, Ukraine, Czech Republik, Denmark, Finland, Norway), from USA and Argentina.

The chairperson attended both ESP WG joint meetings in February (in Brussel) and in September (in Amsterdam).

Amsterdam September 2017

For the first time, autopsy pathology was introduced as a separate subject for poster and oral free presentations. Several members of the group contributed with the reviewing of abstracts before the congress.

- An oral free paper (OFP) session (Autopsy Pathology / Cardiovascular Pathology / Pathology in Favour of Developing Countries / Electron Microscopy / Other Topics) was arranged jointly on September 4th, 08:30 - 12:00, with the WG-member Vsevolod Zinserling (Russia) co-chairing.
After the OFP, the new autopsy working group was presented and discussed. The WG was also presented after the short course in cardiovascular pathology the same day.
- The Autopsy Pathology Poster Session on September 6th, 09:30 - 10:30, was chaired by G. Cecilie Alfsen (Norway) and Juan Olano (Texas). 12 posters and 13 e-posters were presented. Vsevolod Zinserling was chairing the Best poster session in the afternoon the same day.

Bilbao 2018.

In addition to the OFPs and posters, the WG will highlight autopsy pathology through

- a symposium (The role of autopsy in modern medicine) with speakers from the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Switzerland and Norway, scheduled for Tuesday September 11th.
A business meeting will be arranged in connection to the symposium.
- a slide seminar (Diagnostic pathology in myocarditis and endocarditis) as a joint session with WG Infectious diseases and the affiliated Association for European Cardiovascular Pathology (AECVP), also on Tuesday September 11th, after lunch.

Survey

Throughout 2017, results from the different national societies about the situation for medical autopsies have been collected. Several colleagues have contributed with valuable information. Some

large countries are still missing, but we hope to receive the last reports before closure spring 2018. The preliminary results indicate that

- national and local statistics about autopsy-numbers are unreliable and often non-existent
- autopsy numbers keep falling (with exceptions from some eastern European countries), and
- the role of medical autopsies in specialization is reduced. Several countries have reduced or even removed the minimal requirements of numbers to be performed.

The results will be presented during 2018/19.