

Florence, September 12, 2009

Dear WG member:

Report on 22nd European Congress of Pathology (Florence, September 4-9, 2009)

The Florence meeting has raised a great interest, as best reflected by the evident growth in all areas of ESP Congress activities, attendance and requirements. More than 2500 participants attended the meeting, a total of 1229 abstracts were submitted, with more than 60 exhibiting companies. Dermatopathology sessions, all well attended, included a medley of diagnostic and research issues scattered with outstanding lectures on hot and disputed topics.

Business Meeting Activities (consensus activities and collaborative studies)

In contrast to previous meetings, I am glad to underline that the Florence Business Meeting was crowded and participation to collaborative studies/activities by members seems to take off. This should push everyone to actively contribute to the WG by proposing new studies or by collaborating to current multicenter studies.

Standardization of melanoma report - Where do we stand?

The WG has started the analysis of melanoma reporting in Europe emphasizing current discrepancies and focusing on the urgent need for a common language.

In the first part of the project, Anna Batistatou has coordinated a survey on how members of the WG report melanoma and sentinel lymph node biopsies and the results of the survey have published recently (Batistatou A, Cook MG, Massi D, on behalf of the ESP Dermatopathology Working Group. Histopathology report of cutaneous melanoma and sentinel lymph node in Europe: a web-based survey by the Dermatopathology Working Group of the European Society of Pathology. *Virchows Arch* 2009;454:505-11).

In the second part, Ozay Gököz has circulated among WG members a selection of melanoma cases with specific questions aimed to focus on parameters related to melanoma reporting and interpretative difficulties. Result analysis showed a very poor reproducibility further underlying the need for clear-cut, widely approved definitions for the single histopathological parameters of the melanoma report.

As a third and final step, we will soon circulate a proposal for a standardized melanoma report for which we expect to have your feed-back and, eventually, finalize a consensus document to be used throughout Europe.

Fibrosarcomatous transformation in DFSP

Although not enthusiastically received, I remind you that the collaborative study on "Transformed DFSP (DFSP/Fibrosarcomas)" **is still open** and has been extended to members of the Soft Tissue WG. The aim is confirming, in a larger series of cases, the original observation reported by Thomas Mentzel et al "Fibrosarcomatous ("high-grade") dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans: clinicopathologic and immunohistochemical study of a series of 41 cases with emphasis on prognostic significance. *Am J Surg Pathol* 1998;22:576-87. Please let me know whether you might be still interested to participate in this study.

Cutaneous LMS

Good news!!! Our collaborative study on primary cutaneous LMS has been accepted for publication in *Histopathology*.

Membership

The Working Group encompasses 113 members, from 24 European and 8 extraeuropean countries. I **kindly** remind you that you must be a member of the ESP to participate to the

WG activities. Application for Membership of the European Society of Pathology is now easy by the new ESP web site <http://esp-pathology.org>.

Exchange visits among Dermatopathology fellow members

This is a key issue. As the ESP encourage educational and research activities, Dermatopathology WG fellows should apply for 3-6 months research periods to other European laboratories. Upon application, the possibility of a financial support provided by the ESP will be inquired.

Focus on the next ESP meeting

Our next meeting is the Intercongress Meeting of the ESP, Kraków, Poland August 31 - September 4, 2010. The first deadline for early registration fee is March 1 2010 and April 15 2010 is the deadline for abstract submission.

Forthcoming Meetings

- 46th Annual meeting of The American Society of Dermatopathology. Chicago (IL), USA, October 1-4, 2009
- XXX ISDP Symposium "*Ode to Dermatopathology*". Santiago de Chile, October 28-31, 2009
- 3rd world meeting of interdisciplinary melanoma/skin cancer centers. Berlin (Germany). November 19-21, 2009
- Milano Melanoma 2009. Milan, November 20-21, 2009
- Dermatopathology. Technology transfer in Diagnostic Pathology. 5th Central European Regional Meeting. Siófok, Hungary. April 29-May 1, 2010
- **Intercongress Meeting of the ESP, Kraków, Poland August 31-September 4, 2010**
- XXXI Symposium of The International Society of Dermatopathology. Barcelona, Spain, October 21-23, 2010
- **23rd Congress of the ESP - Helsinki, Finland, August 28 - September 1, 2011**

With my best regards,



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