ESP Advanced Training (EAT) Centre for Endocrine Pathology with an emphasis on Thyroid and Parathyroid Tumours

a) Name of the Centre
ESP Advanced Training (EAT) Centre for Endocrine Pathology with an emphasis on Thyroid and Parathyroid Tumours
The Centre is based on Ipatimup (Institute of Molecular Pathology and Immunology of the University of Porto) “consortiated” with Service of Pathology of the Centro Hospitalar S. João/Medical Faculty of the University of Porto (CHSJoão-FMUP).
Address of Ipatimup: Rua Júlio Amaral de Carvalho, 45; 4200-135 Porto, Portugal

b) Chair of the Centre
Manuel Sobrinho-Simões, MD, PhD
Prof. and Director, Ipatimup
e-mail:ssimoes@ipatimup.pt

c) Head of the Training Programme
Prof. Manuel Sobrinho Simões in collaboration with Prof. Catarina Eloy (Head of the Pathology Unit of Ipatimup), Prof. José Manuel Lopes (Consultant on Neuroendocrine Tumours at Ipatimup and CHSJoão) and Prof. Paula Soares (Head of Cancer Biology Group at Ipatimup).

d) Details about specific areas in which training can be offered
Both Ipatimup and CHSJoão-FMUP are tertiary referral centres for endocrine pathology with very good labs for cytopathology (e.g. number of cytological specimens of thyroid per year in Ipatimup is about 2400, and in CHSJoão-FMUP about 1700), histopathology (e.g. number of histological specimens of thyroid per year in Ipatimup is about 100 and in CHSJoão-FMUP about 600) and molecular pathology (e.g. number of MEN2 molecular diagnosis is 30 per year and number of MEN1 molecular diagnosis is 5-10 per year in Ipatimup). The number of consultancy cases of endocrine pathology (mainly thyroid tumours) received from abroad is about 300 cases per year.
In both institutions (Ipatimup and CHSJoão/FMUP) the Endocrine Pathology Units consist of multidisciplinary teams including experienced endocrine cyto- and histopathologists, endocrinologists, endocrine surgeons, fellows and scientists centred on molecular pathology.
Manuel Sobrinho Simões and Catarina Eloy are consultant pathologists, specialized in thyroid and parathyroid tumours, as well as in paranganglioma and phaeochromocytoma; José Manuel Lopes is a consultant pathologist specialized in neuroendocrine tumours; Paula Soares is a scientist with biomedical background with a special interest in the biology and molecular pathology of endocrine tumours and consultant in the molecular diagnosis of MEN2 and MEN1 syndromes. They all are actively involved in national and international networks concerning endocrine tumours. They also publish regularly in this area of expertise and have co-authored some seminal papers, namely in the molecular pathology of thyroid tumours (A few references are included in the list at the end).

The specific areas in which training can be offered are the following:

Cytopathology with ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration
Macroscopy and histopathology
Immunohistochemistry
Molecular pathology for diagnosis, prognosis and therapy selection.
The training programme will be partially tailored to the needs of each applicant using as a frame the routine of the Labs of Cytopathology and Surgical pathology/Histopathology both in Ipatimup and in CHSJoão-FMUP. The workload on Thyroid Lesions of the Cytopathology Lab at Ipatimup is 2 hours of practical work of FNA per day plus 2 hours of microscopic observation per day. The workload on Endocrine Pathology of the Surgical Pathology/Histopathology Labs at both sites, plus Consultancy cases, is about 4 hours per day (3 hours +1 hour with tutor per day). The training at the Histopathology/Immunohistochemistry Lab will be modular: One or two weeks – 35 hours. The training at the Molecular Pathology Lab is also modular: 2 weeks, equivalent to 35 + 35 hours. In both instances (Immunohistochemistry and molecular pathology) the modules will include training in standardization of pre-analytic procedures and quality control.

Besides the daily sign out of Cytopathology and Histopathology, the fellow can (and should) study the cases filed in the Educational Case Files of Cytopathology and Histopathology (including consultancy cases that have been collected over the years). The fellow can participate in the Clinico-Pathologic Meetings of CHSJoão-FMUP (once or twice a week), as well as in the multidisciplinary team meetings (once a week) whenever felt appropriate. The fellow can also participate in the weekly meetings of the Cancer Biology Group – usually on Endocrine Pathology issues – and in the Seminars and Journal Club of Ipatimup whenever felt appropriate.

In the last 20 years many foreign pathologists and residents in pathology (average of 8 fellows per year) from more than 30 european, south american, asiatic and african countries have made fellowships in different fields of Endocrine Pathology in the Centre (“Consortium”) Ipatimup/CHSJoão-FMUP.

e) Number of positions offered for each year; expected duration of the training
Three fellows can be hosted per year, for a duration of 2 months (9 weeks) each. Exceptionally, the visit can be extended to 12 months in case the fellow is involved in a translational research project.

f) Specific periods of the year when the visit may be realized
In each of the 1st, 2nd and 4th trimesters of the year.

The exact dates will be defined by direct contact, using as a first approach the following periods: mid January to mid March, mid April to mid June and mid October to mid December.

g) Contact address for requesting details by the applicant
Fátima Magalhães (Secretariat of Prof. Sobrinho Simões at Ipatimup and Medical Faculty); e-mail: fmagalhaes@ipatimup.pt

We further declare that we meet the requirements for hosting fellows in our Centre:

- No charge for training
- Help in finding low cost accommodation
- Help in getting visa, insurance or other documents if required
- After completion of the training period the trainee will receive a detailed certificate describing the work
- If necessary a letter of invitation can be provided to the applicant

Short list of references
Thyroid and Parathyroid tumours


Sobrinho-Simões M - first author or co-author of many chapters on Thyroid Tumours of the WHO Book on Endocrine Pathology (3rd edition, 2004)


Trovisco V et al. Type and prevalence of BRAF mutations are closely associated with papillary thyroid carcinoma histotype and patients’ age but not with tumour aggressiveness. Virchows Arch 446:589-95, 2005.


**Paraganglioma and Phaeochromocytoma**


**Neuroendocrine Tumours** (Frascati Consensus Conference participants; European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society – ENETS)