

Digestive Disease Working group of the ESP: Annual report 2021

Working group membership

The WG remains active and continues to increase in size, with more than 300 members currently. Roger Feakins and Irene Esposito remain chair and co-chair.

ECP 2021 (August 2021, virtual):

There were nine Digestive Disease Working Group sessions. These included joint sessions with the European Crohn's and Colitis organisation (ECCO), the Gastrointestinal Pathology Society (GIPS), The Hans Popper Hepatopathology Society, and the ESP paediatric WG. There were scientific sessions, short courses, and slide seminars.

The sessions ran very well, and several had remarkably high attendance figures. The quality of speakers, who came from many parts of Europe and from further afield, was consistently high. All sessions generated many questions and useful discussions, which ran smoothly despite the online nature of the event.

Webinar:

A second webinar moderated by Roger Feakins and Irene Esposito for the ESP Digestive Disease Working Group took place in October 2021. The speakers were Fatima Carneiro (Portugal) and Valerie Paradis (France), talking about epithelial precursors of malignancy in the upper GI tract and the liver. As expected, both of these very experienced speakers delivered outstanding talks and answered important questions after the lectures.

Dr Michael Marsh:

Dr Arzu Ensari noted and commented on the unfortunate death of Dr Marsh, a physician with an interest in pathology whose scheme for describing and scoring the histological severity of coeliac disease is known universally. The September 2021 ESP newsletter included an obituary.

Surveys:

Several European and North American groups asked the WG and the ESP to publicise surveys. The subjects included grossing of distal pancreatectomy specimens (ISGPP) and digestive system neuroendocrine neoplasms.

ECP 2022:

Overall, there are ten sessions involving the Digestive disease WG at ECP 2022, including several joint sessions with ESP WGs and with outside organisations.

With ESP WGs:

- Artificial intelligence in GI pathology with IT/computational pathology WG
- Session with the Transplant pathology WG that includes a few digestive disease talks.

With outside groups:

- Challenges in ileocolic pathology with the GIPS.
- Differential diagnosis of liver masses on biopsy with the Hans Popper Hepatopathology Society
- Complications of IBD with ECCO
- Prognostic and predictive factors in pancreatic cancer with UEG

There are several other very useful and often practical sessions on upper GI, lower GI, liver, and pancreatic pathology.

Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with other societies

In the past year the Digestive Disease Working Group / ESP concluded two new MoUs with the US Gastrointestinal pathology society (GIPS) and with the Hans Popper Hepatopathology society. These agreements formalise our co-operation and draw up rules for interactions between the societies, in particular ensuring a degree of reciprocity as regards speakers at each society's meetings. GIPS plans to invite an ESP speaker to one of the North American meetings in 2022.

Co-operation with UEGW and other societies:

Several organisations initiated discussion with the ESP Digestive Disease WG regarding speakers and topics for their meetings, including the European Association for the Study of the Liver (international Liver Congress) and UEG (UEGW).

A formal agreement remains in place with UEG, including a representative to the UEG from ESP (Irene Esposito).

Liaison expert for Educational Subcommittee

Dr Magali Svrcek was appointed as liaison expert from the WG for the ESP Educational subcommittee.

Business meeting:

A business meeting was not possible at the ECP 2021.

The Chair and Co-Chair held a Zoom business meeting in December 2021 and discussed most of the issues in this report.

Roger Feakins
Irene Esposito
25 January 2022