



European
Society of
Pathology

Working Group
"Pathologists, Cytologists and Technicians in
Favour of Developing Countries"

Annual Report 2014 of the WG 'Pathologists/Cytologists and Technicians in Favour of Developing Countries' and an overview on ECP 2015 meeting (Belgrad)

The 27th ECP meeting, which will be held in early September 2015 in Belgrad is quickly approaching, and the preliminary programme has been organised. The session of this year will be focusing on 'Suitable Technologies For Surgical Pathology in Low-Resource Settings', and will host international pathologist and non-pathologist speakers. The idea is to provide information and ideas on how to improve diagnosis in low-resources countries based on modern technologies, and how to render them affordable and feasible in such settings. After the session, for the first time the WG will host a slide seminar, which will allow pathologists from all over the world to present challenging cases. We are really proud to hold both events in collaboration with AORTIC (African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer), as we feel that we may join our reciprocal efforts to a common goal. We feel that the interest in the activities of our WG is gradually rising, as demonstrated by the increasing engagements of the past sessions, of which a brief summary is given.

The 26th ECP has recently taken place in London and it welcomed the fourth meeting of the Working Group (WG) "Pathologists in favour of developing countries". Like in the past editions, it has seen the participation of pathologists from all over the world. The programme of this year included outstanding contributions of Dr. Paola Castillo from Spain, who gave an overview of the results of an ongoing project about minimally invasive autopsies, which is engaging Spanish and African institutions. The second presenter, Dr. Danny Milner from USA, gave an exhaustive picture on malaria research based on results from cerebral malaria autopsies. Dr. Shaheen Sayed from Kenya illustrated the differences between public and private healthcare in Africa, highlighting the importance of creating synergies between the two realities. A nice epidemiological overview of geographical distribution of viral carcinogenesis in Africa was presented by Dr. Cornelia van den Bosch, who provided interesting results on the arbovirus contribution to malignant transformation. The last speaker, Dr. Roberto Monaco from Italy, provided novel data about the ongoing screening programme on cervical cancer, mainly sponsored by the Italian NGO "Pathologists beyond borders" (Patologi oltre frontiera).

The interesting data provided during the session engaged a vibrant discussion during which most of the audience felt free to share opinions and suggestions. The session ended with the election of the new Chairman of the WG, Dr. Stefano Guzzetti, after a three-year chair of Dr. Davide Soldini. An interesting



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result achieved during this meeting was the establishment of a formal collaboration between this WG and the AORTIC organization, an African based non-governmental organization that is dedicated to the promotion of cancer control and palliation in Africa. This collaboration will certainly create a further link between ESP and Africa and will certainly result in fruitful promotion of cancer control, prevention and treatment in Africa.

*Giulia De Falco,
Secretary of the WG*