

# **DIGESIVE DISEASES WORKING GROUP**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

### **2022 Annual Business Meeting of the Digestive Diseases Working Group of the ESP.**

Venue: Zoom online meeting

Date: Wednesday 26 October, 1:00 pm CET.

Chair: Roger Feakins

Co-Chair: Irene Esposito

#### Attendees:

ESP HQ

Irene Esposito

Roger Feakins

Jera Jeruc

Radmila Jankovic

Filip Slavchev

Jaroslav Wejman

Gieri Cathomas

Irene Gullo

Caroline Verbeke

Miriam Cuatrecasas

Ann Driessen

Zvezdana Dolenc Strazar

Rajendra

Fatima Carneiro

Nina Zidar

Amedeo Sciarra

Funda Yilmaz Barbet)

#### Apologies:

Eva Karamitopoulou-Diamantis

#### Status of Working Group

Roger Feakins was the only nominee for Chair, for another two-year term. There was a unanimous vote of attendees in favour of continuation.

Irene Esposito continues as co-chair for two more years by default.

The membership of the working group remains high at 246, despite a recent comprehensive revision of all Working Group membership lists by the ESP administration that ensured the removal of inactive members.

The diversity of representation of countries also remains high, with a strong emphasis on Western European countries.

Suggestion: Encourage more members from other countries, especially outside Western Europe.

### European Congress of Pathology (ECP)

#### ECP 2022:

The attendance at all Digestive Disease sessions was good, approaching 1000 for some. The various options of onsite, livestream and on-demand attendance for the sessions appeared to work very well and will, we understand, continue in 2023.

#### ECP 2023:

The working group requested 10 sessions, several of which are with other ESP working groups or with other societies. The outcome is awaited.

The Digestive Disease Working Group collaborates every year at the ECP with other ESP Working Groups.

### Education

The Digestive Disease Working Group is active in several educational activities offered by the ESP or linked with the ESP.

There was discussion of the European School of Pathology (ESCoP). The Working Group will have representation at the School every year, either as liver/pancreatobiliary or as GI. The first ESCoP will include pancreatobiliary / liver pathology, the session will take place in the Rhine valley and North Sea Coast region.

Irene Esposito outlined the Advanced Training Centers for GI- and HPB pathology and the Giordano fellowships. These are for 3 months and provide financial support. Applicants are under 40 years old, and selection is competitive with particular attention to academic profile.

Irene spoke about the virtual educational series. Roger was keen that we publicise these, and particularly that we highlight the upcoming cholangiocarcinoma series led by Irene Esposito and Valerie Paradis so that the Digestive Disease Working Group membership is fully aware of it.

The Digestive Disease Working Group contributes questions regularly to the ESP pathology progress test.

Irene highlighted the multi-specialty online Encyclopaedia of Pathology with contribution of numerous ESP members and the developments in other wider ESP educational activities.

### Journal

The importance of Virchows Archiv journal as official journal of the ESP was another topic for discussion. The journal remains successful, and from 2023 will have a new editor (Abbas Agaimy). Irene Esposito is an associate editor and mainly responsible for contributions dealing with for digestive diseases.

### Other societies:

The Digestive Disease Working Group consistently supports and encourages collaboration with other societies in Europe and North America.

#### ECCO:

There are regular collaborative sessions at the Congress with the European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation (ECCO), focusing on inflammatory bowel disease.

#### UEG:

There remains a strong link with the United European Gastroenterology (UEG) group, of which ESP is a member organisation. The important role of the UEG link was discussed. At times, pathologists have difficulty persuading gastroenterologists of the importance of pathology sessions at gastroenterology meetings but Irene and Fatima and others worked hard to ensure that this happened in recent years at UEGW. Roger Feakins, following on from Irene Esposito as ESP representative to the UEG scientific committee from 2023, will attempt to continue this success. Irene Esposito highlighted the numerous educational activities as well as grants and bursaries available from UEG and encouraged GI-pathologists to consider them.

#### US/Canada:

The Gastrointestinal Pathology Society and the Hans Popper Hepatobiliary Society, both based in North America, have longstanding links with the Digestive Disease Working Group of the ESP. The Digestive Disease Working Group recently developed memoranda of understanding (MoU) with these societies that formalised the links. An important objective of an MoU is to ensure reciprocity of representation at respective congresses and meetings in Europe and North America.

The first joint GIPS / ESP Digestive Disease Working Group session in North America took place in September 2023 in Chicago, US, as a result of the agreement with the GIPS, and there is already a proposal for further joint sessions.

#### Others:

Formalisation of links with the European Association for the Study of the Liver and with the Pancreatobiliary Pathology Society are in progress.

### Other comments from the Business Meeting:

Dr Fatima Carneiro offered the opinion that the online version of the Digestive Disease Working Group business meeting is very useful. A possibility is to have a meeting at the ECP congress and another meeting online between congresses to allow an update.

## **FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Bursaries financed by the WG Digestive Diseases yearly budget have been awarded to eight young ESP members presenting their work as oral presentation or poster at ECP 2022 and who did not receive any other kind of support, such as travel bursaries, previously. The budget also supported ECP 2022 registration fees for the Working group Chair and co-Chair and part of the Chair's expenditure delivering a joint GIPS/Working Group session at the ASCP 2022 meeting in Chicago, USA.

Dr Magali Svrcek is the Working Group liaison expert for the ESP Education subcommittee. Dr Svrcek will support contributions to the Progress Test - among other tasks.

There was a request from a group within UEG for ESP support for their development of eosinophilic oesophagitis guidelines. Some subsequent discussion has taken place.

Roger Feakins and Irene Esposito  
November 30 2022