



Report 2023

Membership in the PPWG has increased to currently 151 members (from 123 members in 2022) (+ 17%!). Currently, PPWG has members from 38 different countries.

The budget of the PPWG is in good standing. We awarded 500 euros for the best pulmonary pathology poster at the European Conference of Pathology (ECP) 2023 in Dublin. The following poster was awarded:

PS-20-003: Anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) status in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), a prospective study/review of 2445 cases

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The last ECP in Dublin was very well attended, featuring an excellent scientific program. An undisputable add on value was the availability of recorded sessions that could be attended for a limited period of time after the congress. Several industry satellite symposia focused on lung cancer predictive biomarker testing. Most of the invited speakers were well known pulmonary pathologist.

The PPWG has (co-)organized 6 sessions:

- Joint Symposium Digestive Diseases Pathology (GI) / Pulmonary Pathology / Thymic and Mediastinal Pathology: Thoracic and digestive system neuroendocrine neoplasms: similarities and differences.
- Joint Long Course Pulmonary Pathology / Digital and Computational Pathology: Digital pathology solutions in pulmonary pathology

- Joint Short Course Pulmonary Pathology / Molecular Pathology: When the liquid biopsy meets the pathologists
- Pulmonary Pathology: Intriguing cases of interstitial lung diseases
- Joint Short Course Cardiovascular Pathology / Pulmonary Pathology: Diagnostic challenges in pulmonary vascular pathology
- Pulmonary Pathology: Mesothelial proliferations and differential diagnostic challenges

The European School of Pathology (EScoP) course for Lung and Thymic Pathology took place in June 2023 in Bucharest. The three-day course program comprised neoplastic and non-neoplastic diseases of lung, pleura, thymus, and mediastinum, and was presented in short lectures, slide seminars and using videomicroscopy. The target audience were young pathologists, residents and colleagues starting to work in this field. It is planned to repeat the course 4x in different places across Europe within the next 8 years period.

The virtual preceptorship initiative integrating novel NSCLC biomarkers in routine pathology practice started, which is aimed at optimal diagnostic approaches, predictive biomarker testing, guidelines, and liquid biopsy. The different videos are now available since 2023.

A high-quality program was prepared for the annual ESP congress 2024 in Florence. The proposal for seven sessions was accepted:

We will start with a short course on the “Treatment effects on the lung in immunocompetent and immunocompromised patients” and continue with a joint short course organised together with the Molecular Pathology Working Group on “Small cell lung cancer – the present and the future”. Another session that should attract a wide audience beyond the lung pathology universe will surely be the long course “Update on current and upcoming ancillary methodology in lung pathology diagnostics” covering multiplexing, molecular pathology, methylation, MALDI-imaging and 3D-pathology.

“Too much blue in lung and pleura – malignant and benign lymphoid lesions” will be a joint symposium together with the Haematopathology affiliated society. Together with the Cytology working group, we are organizing the joint symposium “Lung pathology meets cytology – updates on the state of the art”. The videomicroscopy session organized together with the WG Pathology in Favor of Developing Countries will cover “Diagnosing lung pathology on conventional histology and cytological smears – how far can you get, and where are the limits?”, and converses the question on where to really apply sophisticated methodology, and where basic techniques applicable worldwide are sufficient. Finally, we are also very keen to attract our future colleagues to our beautiful and exciting pulmonary pathology sub-specialty. We will organise a joint slide seminar together with the Trainees Sub-committee on “Lung pathology – from beginner to expert in 120 minutes. The most important stuff you need to know and some pearl”.

The virtual business meeting was held on December 5th 2023. During the virtual business meeting, the chair of the PPWG, Paul Hofman, gave a summary of the PPWG activity during the 2023. The membership list is regularly updated.

We strongly encouraged members to participate in external quality assurance schemes (PD-L1 and lung cancer molecular testing). Plans for the scientific and educational activities in the upcoming year were briefly presented. Any initiatives by members and other colleagues interested in pulmonary pathology are welcome.

Nine young pathologists, members of the ESP, were awarded the Giordano Fellowship in 2024. They will receive an advanced training in pathology labs of excellence in different field of interest (Soft tissue, liver, molecular pathology, gynaecopathology, dermatopathology, neuropathology, and pulmonary pathology).

We mentioned the conflict of agenda between the World Conference on Lung Cancer (IASLC) and the European Congress of Pathology, which took place at the same time in 2023 and which will take place at the same time again in 2024 and 2025.

Finally, we mentioned some very interesting meetings related to pulmonary pathology that took place in 2023 [among others the Winter School at the University of Padova; Occupational diseases: focus on pulmonary thoracic pathology; Post Graduate course in lung and pleural disease in Graz; a Pulmonary Pathology Workshop in Vipolze (Golnik Symposium 2023), The 4th Joint Meeting on Lung Cancer between the OncoAge consortium and the MD Anderson Cancer Center (Nice 2023)]

Finally, we discussed the organization up a webinar in lung pathology and agreed that the topic will be proposed in 2024.

Thank you for reading this report and for your support of the PPWG. Please feel free to contact us for any questions or suggestions.

Paul Hofman, Chair of PPWG

Sabina Berezowska, Co-chair of PPWG