

**PULMONARY PATHOLOGY WORKING GROUP
OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGY
ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

During 2016, we prepared a high-quality program for the **28th European Congress of Pathology** in Cologne joined with **XXXI International Congress of International Academy of Pathology**. Responsible conveners for pulmonary pathology program were Lina Carvalho, past president of our working group, Reinhard Büttner, German Division of IAP, and William Travis, IAP.

The program consisted of 1) long course, 2) short course, 3) slide seminar, 4) two symposia, 5) oral free paper session and poster session.

All the scientific and educational sessions have encountered success with many participants and lively discussions. Business meeting was scheduled during lunch break time as a separate event.

- 1) The **long course** was entitled "*Lung cancer classification: Molecular basis and clinical impact*" and was chaired by Noriko Motoi (Japan) and Ming Tsao (Canada).

The speakers focused on the challenges of the current WHO classification: neuroendocrine tumors and proliferation index, squamous cell carcinoma grading system, biomarker testing in small biopsies and cytological specimens, diagnostic value of molecular pathology in multiple lung tumor nodules, prognostic impact of tumor spread through alveolar spaces, and molecular pathology of small cell lung carcinoma. The topics were important for routine practice and showed our expectations beyond 2015 WHO classification which was reflected by a well-attended session. The speakers showed the excellences of their research and the competence in the subject they dealt with.

- 2) The **short course**, entitled "*Molecular advances in lung pathology*", was chaired by Giuseppe Pelosi (Italy) and Haodong Xu (USA).

Recent advances in molecular assessment of lung cancer to search for resistance mechanisms of targeted therapy, importance of rebiopsies and building of molecular testing network were largely discussed. Major focus of session was PD-L1 biomarker testing and other potential biomarkers for immunotherapy. Cytological specimens can be utilized with high reliability for lung cancer molecular diagnostic testing. The last talk presented insights in lung cancer heterogeneity underlying the importance of molecular testing in this issue.

- 3) The **slide seminar** session, chaired by Eric Thunninsen (The Netherlands), challenged the audience with interesting *non-neoplastic pulmonary cases*. The cases were didactic and raised interesting comments and discussion.
- 4) The first **symposium** dealt with *technological advances in non-neoplastic lung disease* was chaired by Thomas Colby (USA) and Alberto Cavazza (Italy).

Molecular testing is an ancillary technique in the diagnosis of pulmonary infections even if not so important as special stains and immunohistochemistry, that are more widely available in pathology labs. BRAF gene alterations are common events in the pathogenesis of histiocytic proliferations. Transbronchial cryobiopsy is a new diagnostic approach of fibrotic interstitial lung diseases. Spiral array technology enables more efficient lab processing technology in case of tissue heterogeneity. Molecular characterization knowledge of pulmonary fibrosis and acute lung injury directs potential therapeutic approach for diseases with high fatality rate.

The second **symposium** on “*New concepts in tumors of the pleura and pleural cytology*” was chaired by Marianne Engels (Germany) and Lucien Chirieac (USA). Several lectures on diagnostic guidelines, classification and molecular pathology of mesothelioma, reliable methods to differentiate mesothelioma from reactive processes, pleural fluid cytology with ancillary techniques were clearly presented and discussed with the attendees.

- 5) The **Oral Free Paper Session** on thoracic pathology was chaired by Rainer M. Bohle (Germany) and Alexander Marx (Germany). There were 15 short presentations on pulmonary, pleural and mediastinal interesting topics. Evolving technologies like circulating tumor cells, molecular genetics and liquid biopsy were presented and largely discussed.

The **Poster session** was visited by a lot of attendees. The presenters were active and qualified. Besides 46 conventional poster presentations, there was separate electronic poster session with 25 posters. Based on a scientific content and poster presentation a committee (poster session chairs and PPWG board members) selected to award as best PPWG poster Dr. Y. Nakatani with his work entitled “*Histopathological study of pulmonary cysts in Birt-Hogg-Dube Syndrome*”.

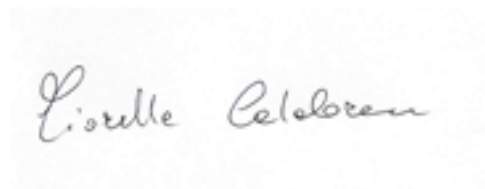
The business meeting was not well attended since it was not part of the official program of the congress and thus organized during lunch break. The president of the PPWG Fiorella Calabrese, elected last year and appointed by ESP Executive Council for a period of four years, after a short summary of the PPWG activity, emphasized the importance to attract active pulmonary pathologists and young colleagues to join our group. Registration to our WG is possible after becoming an ESP member. Currently our group has 79 members. Award certificates for the best posters presented at the Belgrade ESP Congress last year were given to Francesca Lunardi (MDM2 and HIF1 alpha expression levels in different histologic subtypes of malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM): correlation with pathological and clinical data) and Marc Rassy (Histologic repartition of pulmonary tumours in Lebanon: a 5-year single institution experience). Ulrike Gruber Mösenbacher will take over tasks over website of our group.

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

A special educational event organized by our working group endorsed by ESP, ESCoP course on Interstitial lung diseases, held in Padova, 9-10 February 2017 was announced. Preliminary program proposal for the PPWG sessions during the next Congress of ESP to be held in Amsterdam was presented: two joint sessions with endocrine and pediatric pathology WG, a slide seminar, a videomicroscopy session and a symposium.

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

Fiorella Calabrese, chair of PPWG

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fiorella Calabrese". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Izidor Kern, secretary of PPWG

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Izidor Kern". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.