

ESP WORKING GROUP "PATHOLOGY IN FAVOUR OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES"
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2017

The year 2017 has been particularly intense for the activities of our WG, which has reached a certain popularity among pathologists interested in our topics; at present (April 2018) we have 73 members, half of them coming from extra-European countries; we consider this results as positive, given that the WG is dedicated to a very particular and innovative field of pathology; the almost prevalence of non-European members in our WG means that ESP is assuming an always more deep role in involvement of non-European pathologists.

Again in 2017 we have tried a diversification in the offer of scientific content in the European Congress of Pathology (ECP) held in Amsterdam last September.

Besides the usual session entirely dedicated to the topics treated in the WG, we have received by the Breast WG the proposal to organize a joined session; this was particularly important for us, not only because the Breast WG is one of the largest and followed in ESP, but also because we have considered this proposal as a proof of trust in our job and an important occasion to begin to discuss relevant topics such as breast diseases considering the point of view of the Underserved Countries.

The joined session, chaired by Tibor Tot (Sweden), which also presented the "The EBC Council Manifesto on Optimal Pathology", has been a good chance to discuss about the status of breast cancer in Africa (Eva Kantelhardt, Germany) and to examine the African contribution to the scientific literature about breast cancer thanks to a deep PubMed searching presented by Anna Sapino (Italy).

The session has also hosted a speech in teleconference by Olufunmilayo Olopade, a Nigerian pathologist working in University of Chicago, about the breast cancer management in African countries.

Concerning the session entirely dedicated to our WG, in this occasion we have decided to discuss about the various aspects of the health cooperation in pathology. The session was chaired by Paolo Giovenali (Italy, President of APOF) and by Steffen Hauptmann, from Germany, as representative of AORTIC.

During the session, Adesina Adekunle, the pathology lead/chair of AORTIC, made the point on the progress in the activities related to the ESP-AORTIC-APOF agreement signed in 2016, while Edwin Wiredu, from Ghana, discussed about a potential involvement of the African branches of the International Academy of Pathology in such agreement.

The other speeches were about a web-based platform for the teaching of cytology which would be particularly useful in Underserved Countries (The Cy-TEST project presented by Caterina Marchiò, Italy), an innovative technique to improve telepathology in poorly connected areas (WaidX, presented by Matteo Botteghi from Republic of San Marino) and a speech about the importance to communicate the role of our profession to the public, also and mainly in poor Countries, held by Sanja Milenkovic, from Serbia.

The third initiative organized by our WG was a slide seminar opened to non-European pathologists to allow them to present particularly relevant cases from Pathology Departments outside of Europe, like that organized in ECP 2015 in Belgrade, Serbia. As well this year, the cases were selected from a call disseminated through the communication channels of ESP, AORTIC and APOF; we eventually selected eight cases coming from Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda.

Finally, not less important for us, for the first time the "Pathology in Favour of Developing Countries" has appeared as a specific topic in the call for abstracts; the Scientific Committee has thus forwarded for our evaluation 11 among the all received abstract (all in all, a decent start...), 7 of which have been selected for the poster session and one as a free oral presentation.

Apart from all the initiatives related to ECP 2017, another important event was the participation of ESP and APOF delegates to the 11th International Conference on Cancer in Africa organized by AORTIC last November in Kigali, Rwanda.

This participation has allowed to continue the discussion about the agreement and to establish the definitive roles of the involved partners in the development of a program for the training in Europe of African pathologists.

After a successive meeting held in the ESP office in Brussel last February with the participation also of the ESP President, Dina Tiniakos and of the ESP Director-General, Raed Al Dieri, has been taken the final decision to open the Giordano Fellowship Training Program to a group of African young pathologists selected by AORTIC.

For its part, APOF has become available to organize a parallel training program dedicated to senior pathologists and focused on organizational aspects to be held in two Pathology Departments: one in Perugia, Italy, the other one in Maastricht, the Netherland.

Stefano Guzzetti
Chair of ESP WG
"Pathology in Favour of Developing Countries"