

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2024



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Message from the President of the ESP By Prof. Peter Schirmacher



Dear members and partners of the ESP,

We are looking back on a highly successful European Congress of

Pathology (ECP) 2024 in Florence. Almost 6000 participants made it the biggest Pathology congress worldwide and an event not to miss. 30% increase in participation and highly positive, encouraging feedback show, that our ECP concept - high quality research and training at affordable conditions in presence on site - points to the right direction. The sessions were well attended, and the programme went smoothly; Florence and our Italian friends were fantastic hosts and the Fortezza da Basso was an ideally located, spacious and highly functional congress venue. That we could welcome our 5000th ESP member during the congress was truly an 'icing on the cake'. This deserves a huge 'thank you' to all who have contributed!

There were several positive developments that we could recognise around the congress: It was fantastic to see so many junior Pathologists attending the sessions, presenting their research and getting together. The ESP is proud of its high junior membership rate, and we are strongly committed to becoming even more attractive to young pathologists with low fees (juniors actually enjoy free membership), specifically designated programme topics, our alumni programme and many support measures, but also with the many junior and educational activities beyond ECP over the whole year.

Along our key innovative topics – molecular pathology and digital pathology - the programme and sessions addressing e.g. clinical trials, tumour classification, ASCO for pathologists showed a rising interdisciplinarity of ECP and our Society. This is mirrored by our growing interaction with clinical societies, which will help to position pathology and Pathologist better in the medical field, just to mention clinical guidelines and joint health care activities.

We were happy to welcome again a rising number of colleagues from abroad, especially Eastern Asia and America – another sign of the increasing attractiveness of ECP. Many of their feedback emphasized the high quality of the presentations, excellent organisation and the very good 'value for time and money' ratio. This is accompanied by



new and promising partnerships with Eastern Asian societies, which reflects the growing global visibility and impact of ESP.

Pathology is a technically primed and innovative discipline and needs a prime interaction with industry to reach its goals, to provide the best possible service to our partners and patients and to perform innovative research. Beyond our well-established contacts to diagnostic industry, there is a dramatically rising interest from the pharmaceutical industry due to our impact in predictive molecular tumour analyses as well as from companies in the IT and bioinformatics field due to the rise of Computational Pathology addressing the rising methodical and diagnostic spectrum of Pathology.

As presented in our General Assembly, ESP is not only a solid Society in good standing; we have set the sails to the future – the strategic concept 'ESP2030' has been completed and will help to guide us in our different activities to allocate the necessary resources and to provide the best service to our members. With our new head office in Brussels, the significant increase of staff strengthening our Society and now our own highly skilled event management team we are ready to further increase our educational and meeting activities and interactions with our partner societies. This success is an incentive and a responsibility for the years to come. Stay tuned for many more new activities and high-class educational programmes and of course our next ECP 2025 in Vienna. Best wishes from your President.

Sincerely yours

Peter Schirmacher ESP President

Message from the Editor By Prof. Marta Cohen



Dear members of the ESP, dear colleagues and friends

It is less than two months since the 36th Congress of

Pathology took place in Florence, Italy, on 7-11 September 2024. The ESP Secretary, Prof. Janina Kulka, presents a very good update on the ECP 2024, and the success of the congress still resonates around those of us who were fortunate to attend it. The Scientific and Organising Committee did a fantastic job, and we are grateful to all of them.



Prof. Janina Kulka announces forthcoming elections for two new members of the Council and invites nominations for new members of the Council for a period of four years (2025-2029).

On **13 November 2024** we will celebrate the **International Pathology Day**. This date recognises the contributions of pathology and laboratory medicine to global health and wellbeing. I take this opportunity to send my best wishes and congratulation to all ESP members for their valuable contribution to this key specialty, which is at the crossroad between diagnosis, patient care, and personalised treatment.

Prof. Falko Fend always does a great contribution with book reviews and upcoming events. We would like to ask all Working Group Chairs to consider submitting *relevant* book reviews, consensus papers and guidelines of international importance, which impact the daily practice of pathology. Those willing to contribute, please send the review/consensus papers/guidelines to Ms Malgorzata Short <u>m.short@esp-</u> <u>pathology.org</u>

This edition I had the honour to interview Prof. Catarina Eloy on her views on the arrival of Artificial Intelligence to Pathology. Prof. Eloy is the Chair of the Educational Subcommittee of the ESP and has a special interest in computational pathology.

I invite you to read this issue, hoping that you enjoy it.

Prof. Marta Cohen OBE Editor of the ESP Newsletter

Message from the Secretary By Prof. Janina Kulka



A few weeks passed quickly since the very successful Florence ECP. Indeed, if we look at the numbers, the Florence con-

gress was the biggest

ECP ever with almost 6000 registered participants and 146 exhibitor companies.



ECP2024Florence - Fortezza da Basso



We can confidently declare that ECP has become the largest pathology congress on the Globe. Participants came from 100 countries and over 2000 abstracts were accepted. This year the number of abstractbased bursaries provided by ESP was over 300. Furthermore, the number of ESP members reached 5000 the evening before the General Assembly held on the 11th of September.



I'm sure participants of the congress enjoyed the compact and highly functional venue of Fortezza da Basso, the high-quality scientific programme as well as the entertaining social programmes, and in the remaining time the beauty of Florence and the warm Italian hospitality.



Congress Concert - Salone dei Cinquecento

The Scientific and Organising Committee of the 2025 Vienna Congress are already very busy assembling the scientific and the social programme for next year. We all look forward to another very successful ECP in Vienna! Prof. Dina Tiniakos, Chair of the Advisory Board, initiated a session named "green pathology", which will take place first time in Vienna. Another innovation in the programme will be addition of a precongress session together with patients' organisations on Saturday.

The Educational Subcommittee lead by Prof. Catarina Eloy keeps organising various educational events for ESP members: please visit <u>the ESP website</u> for upcoming EScoP courses, webinars, ESP Preceptorship programmes and not last, the monthly series of Kansas Histopathology Group's exciting cases to diagnose.

Keep in mind the 13th of November, the date of the **INTERNATIONAL PATHOL-OGY DAY**!

To the special attention of trainee members: **PATHOLOGY PROGRESS TEST** is also coming in November - please be prepared and participate!

The Trainee Subcommittee has a new Chair and Co-Chair, since Dr Alexandra Vilaia became board certified pathologist and will continue supporting the subcommittee as



Advisor. The new Chair is Dr Zineb Belcaid from The Netherlands, and the Co-Chair is Dr Özgür Can Eren from Turkey.

The Journal of ESP, the prestigious Virchows Archiv, this year reached Q1 status among pathology journals. This great achievement was possible due to the devotion and the very hard work of the Chief Editor, Prof. Abbas Agaimy.

There is a major change in the life of ESP: the Florence congress was the last one organised by a PCO. Officers of ESP extend their thanks to CPO Hanser for their collaborations, but time has come for ESP to become independent: the 2025 Vienna congress will be organised by ESP's own Event Management Team, a group of highly professional, experienced people. The important decision of insourcing event management has consequences to the legal status of the Society as well. As of this year, ESP's legal status changed from "nonprofit organization without VAT activities" to "nonprofit organization with VAT activities". It is important to emphasise that the membership fee will not increase due to this change of legal status for the current and next year. It is also an important fact that all educational activities of the Society will remain VAT exempt, as far the regulations permit.

Professor Janina Kulka, Secretary of ESP

Announcement from the Secretary By Prof. Janina Kulka

Elections are coming!

It is my duty to call ESP membership at large to nominate two new members to the Council. Two members of the present Council will demit office in September 2025, therefore election of two new Council members is necessary.

ESP is grateful for the support and contribution of Prof. Marta Cohen and Prof. Jean-Christophe Sabourin during their 4 years term as Council members.

Prof. Marta Cohen and Prof. Jean-Christophe Sabourin

will demit office at the Vienna General Assembly of ESP in 2025 September.

The membership of the ESP at large is now invited to make nominations for new members of the Council for a period of four years (2025-2029).

Nominations are expected from various sources, including the ESP President, the members of the Council and the Advisory Board, and from individual Members.



A nomination by a Society Member must be seconded by at least one other Member. Any nomination must be approved by the individuals themselves and accompanied by a short CV of no more than one page.

Nominations are to be sent to the **Secre**tary of the ESP (Prof. Janina Kulka) to the following e-mail address: janinakulka@gmail.com

The deadline for nominations is 8 weeks from the publication of the Newsletter.

Wishing you all the best, see you at the latest in Vienna next year!

Professor Janina Kulka, Secretary of ESP

Message from the ESP Trainee Subcommittee

By Dr Zineb Belcaid and Dr Özgür Can Eren

Dear colleagues,

We are happy to announce that the Trainee Subcommittee has a new Chair and Co-Chair: **Dr Zineb Belcaid** (Netherlands) and **Dr Özgür Can Eren** (Turkey). As we will be working for the Society for the next 3 years, we wanted to use this issue of the Newsletter to briefly introduce ourselves and talk about our plans for the Committee.

The Trainee Subcommittee has been an integral part of the Society since its establishment in 2015. Similar to the previous chairs and co-chairs of the trainee subcommittee, we will continue to strive to reach the Society's vision and missions through supporting fellow Trainees across Europe. We will work closely with Trainee members, junior and senior colleagues, National Societies across Europe, and with our Trainee Subcommittee advisor, Dr Alexandra Vilaia.

Our personal introductions:



My name is **Zineb Belcaid**. I am a 3rd year resident from Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. I completed a PhD in neuro-oncology, and I am dedicated to research in Molecular Pathology. I joined the ESP early in my residency to learn about new developments in our field but also to connect with international colleagues. One



of the highlights was my participation at the ESP Academy in Malta this year, where I had the pleasure to meet wonderful and brilliant colleagues from all over the world. Together with **Özgür**, I am looking forward to continuing to provide high-quality content and engage with fellow trainees through sessions at the yearly ESP conference and ongoing projects.



My name is Özgür Can Eren, I am a 4th year trainee from Turkey. I joined ESP during my first years of residency and since the first encounter ESP has been an integral part of my journey in pathology. Interested in combining research and clinical practice of pathology, I have made great advancements in this regard thanks to ESP meetings. Besides, I believe the Society is a valuable resource for residents to meet other colleagues, learn and discuss crucial points in pathology and collect unforgettable memories. With better and larger participation every single year, we plan to reach a wide network of pathologists across Europe and hopefully even beyond.

As the new chair and co-chair of the Trainees Subcommittee, our goal is to **increase active participation of trainees** to all ESP events including EScoP courses, ESP Academy, and the annual congress. For the ECP2025 in Vienna, we are actively working on the trainee session, the joint session and of course the trainee social event! **Mark your calendar and stay tuned for future updates!**

Everything is better when working with a great team! We are excited to announce that Živa Ledinek (Slovenia), Szintia Almási (Hungary), Tristan Lerbs (Germany), Lisa Vermij (Netherlands), Elisabetta Maffei (Italy), Sofia Neves (Portugal) and Sandrine Nugteren (UK) are part of the team. We are looking for enthusiastic and motivated trainees to embark on exciting journeys to organise new projects for ESP. We encourage you to join us! Also, please keep an eye on our social media account (Twitter: @EspTrainee) to be the first to find out about our future projects. For further information or inquiries, please contact us at esp.traineesubcommittee@esppathology.org.

Kind regards Dr Zineb Belcaid & Dr Özgür Can Eren



Report from Virchows Archiv Editor-in-Chief By Prof. Abbas Agaimy



Dear ESP members, Dear colleagues and friends,

The WHO Classification of Tumours (WCT) has emerged over decades as the gold standard for maintaining terminological uniformity for naming neoplastic diseases, representing an essential basis for unequivocal communication of results and reproducibility of studies through the globe. In doing this, the WCT guides cancer diagnosis, treatment, and research. However, this role of the WCT is increasingly challenged by the dynamic of the ever-emerging changes in the research evidence in pathology, as more data is being generated and new evidence emerges.

The current lead team of the WCT has initiated a huge task in looking at the level of evidence (LOE) in recently published WCT books (WCT-5). This is of paramount importance to guide improvement of future editions of WCT publications. In an original article just published online in Virchows Archiv, the WCT team aimed at producing exploratory evidence maps for WCT-5 Thoracic Tumours (lung and thymus) to ass and identify the level of evidence (LOE) via extracting citations from WCT-5 and importing and coding them in a EPPI-Reviewer. The maps were then plotted using EPPI-Mapper. The overall results disclosed a significant proportion of low LOE for lung (87.7%; n = 1257 studies) and thymus (80.8%; n = 547 studies), while the fraction with high LOE comprised only 4.1% (n = 59) and 2.2% (n = 15) respectively.

This important study represents an initial step in the WCT Evidence Gap Map (WCT-EVI-MAP) project for mapping references in WCT-5 for all tumour types to inform future WCT editions. The full article can be accessed via the link below.

file:///C:/Users/al_ij/Downloads/s00428-024-03886-6.pdf

Prof. Abbas Agaimy Editor-in-Chief Virchows Archiv



ESP Interview Series

Interviewee: Prof. Catarina Eloy Head of Pathology Laboratory of Ipatimup, Porto Interviewer: Prof. Marta C Cohen



Professor Catarina Eloy is an Affiliated Professor of the Medical Faculty of Porto University (Portugal) since 2015. She is an interventional pathologist, researcher, and teacher devoted to the diagnosis and study of thyroid cancer. She has published more than 100 manuscripts in indexed scientific journals and is the Head of the fully digital Pathology Laboratory of Ipatimup, Porto, since 2013. Prof. Eloy developed a special interest in the modernisation of the diagnostic processes, including digital and computational pathology. She is the Chair of the Educational Subcommittee as well as Council Member of the ESP since 2023, Prof. Eloy is also member of the ESP Advisory Board, of the Editorial Board of Virchows Archiv and coordinator of the ESP Advanced Training Centre for Digital Pathology at IPATIMUP.

How do you believe digital pathology and AI will fundamentally change the way pathologists work in the near future?

The digital transformation of pathology is anextension of the digital transformation

observed in other services, namely in those related with health care, and will lead to an inevitable automation and robotization of our departments, ultimately transferring the diagnostic exercise to an in-silico environment. This process requires new competences and financial challenges and aims to achieve better sample management through standardisation of the way we work. It is also an opportunity to address the necessary change in the concept of pathology as a more technological discipline, and reinforce the added value that pathology may carry to patient care. The observation of the sample in a computer screen, instead of using a microscope, is the step that allows us to have access to the computational pathology applications, namely those called AI tools.

□ What are the most significant benefits you have seen or foresee with the integration of AI into routine pathology practice?

As for today, AI does not work alone, allowing us to go for a coffee while it reports on our behalf. Instead, AI tools are already contributing to making our work more efficient, less error prone (because these tools may highlight dispersed morphological events), and more precise in quantifying features, such as those related with biomarker's evaluation. It has a lot to do with



an increment in the comfort of our daily routine, but also brings new horizons in terms of better understanding and classifying diseases.

In your opinion, what governance measures should be in place to ensure the responsible and ethical use of AI in pathology?

I gladly recognise that we are seeing a progressive interest from regulatory institutions to assure the responsible use of AI in health care and in particular, in pathology. It is now clear that the use of AI in pathology should be carried out by trained pathologists, using verifiable tools, under a tight quality control program. The synergic model of operating, meaning to work together with AI as a tool and not as a substitute for our work, is the one that has demonstrated the greatest advantages and safety (since the pathologist has the final responsibility for the diagnosis).

What do you think are the main barriers preventing the widespread adoption of AI in pathology today?

As in the case of other new technologies, the financial investment and reimbursement policies are at the top of the list of main barriers. Besides that, and probably more difficult to achieve dedicated funds, is the need for a solid and universal digital transformation of pathology departments that is far from happening. To start working with AI tools without a properly settled digital transformation able to generate standardised, high-quality, whole slide images for clinical use is a mistake that will inevitably lead to a decrease in our performance as diagnosticians.

□ What further developments in AI technology do you believe are necessary to fully realize its potential in pathology?

Provided that we operate with AI tools on top of standardized, high-quality, whole slide images, we should only make sure that the selected software is adequate and safe. There are numerous proofs of concepts in the literature that state on the good performance of AI tools in controlled settings. Nevertheless, for most of the AI tools available and approved for clinical use, there are no clinical validation trails or prospective evaluations. In addition, taking into consideration all the variability in tissue processing happening in each institution, we also miss, for each AI product, the list of specifications for use as well as indications for proper control measures. In our experience, after using AI tools in the clinical setting for almost 2 years, all AI tools require internal validation.



What kind of training or educational programs do you think pathologists need to effectively work with AI-based tools?

This is a topic that is underestimated. If fact, the majority of the education initiatives on AI dedicated to pathology drive inevitably to basics on image analysis and training algorithms. It is true that pathologists need to have some basic instruction on this to choose wisely the best AI tool but what we need to know is how to use it without running into bias/deskilling and how to control it. The human-machine interaction in pathology has many risks and only those who live it are those who feel the need to build barriers to protect themselves from a progressively poor performance. There is definitely the need for education programs dedicated to this subject.

Recently Published Books By Prof. Renate Kain

Pediatric Nephropathology & Childhood Kidney Tumors Editor: Helen Liapis Publisher: Cambridge University Press Online ISBN: 9781108907224 DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108907224

This book offers on 380 pages organised in 18 chapters a comprehensive resource for nephro- and paediatric pathologists on the pathology of paediatric neoplastic and non-neoplastic renal diseases. The individual chapters, written by experts in their field, provide a practical guide for the diagnosis and treatment of a broad range of conditions and diseases, as well as the underlying disease mechanisms including clinical, morphological and molecular aspects.

Upcoming Events By Prof. Falko Fend



ESP Courses and other events

EScoP course for Gastrointestinal Pathology 14-16 November 2024 Sofia, Bulgaria Programme and registration via this <u>LINK</u>

EScoP Course for Infectious Diseases 12-14 December 2024 Antwerp, Belgium Programme and registration via this <u>LINK</u>

EScoP course for Dermatopathology 8-10 January 2025 Bordeaux, France Programme and registration via this <u>LINK</u>

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ESP webinar on "Liquid biopsy in neoplastic and non-neoplastic thoracic pathology" 15 January 2025 Online (registrations will be announced soon)

EScoP course for Nephropathology 25-27 January 2025 Basel, Switzerland (registrations will be announced soon)

EScoP course for Head, Neck and Ophthalmic Pathology 22-24 February 2025 Nuremberg, Germany (registrations will be announced soon)

ESP Masterclass on Gynaecopathology 14-15 April 2025 ESP HQ, Brussels, Belgium (registrations will be announced soon)

Selected Upcoming Pathology Conferences

KSP 2024 76th Annual Fall Meeting of the Korean Society of Pathologists 1st International Congress of KSP 31 October – 1 November 2024 Seoul, Korea *kspcongress.org*

XIII Molecular Cytopathology Congress 9-10 December 2024 Naples, Italy

XVII International Bone Marrow Course and Workshop 10-12 April 2025 Salzburg, Austria <u>https://www.ebmwg2025.com/</u>

57th Meeting of the European Pancreatic Club 2 July 2025 Düsseldorf, Germany



Celebrating the International Pathology Day 2024

Like every year, The Royal College of Pathologists has prepared a number of activities to celebrate the International Pathology Day:

- A virtual conference themed 'The rise of global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)' Wednesday, 6 November 2024
- A free global undergraduate quiz Wednesday, 13 November 2024
- Free IPD branded virtual resources and ideas for how you can get involved in IPD - no matter where you are in the world
- Poster competition 'Conquering Superbugs: Innovations in combating Antimicrobial Resistance' - was open to entries until Wednesday, 23 October 2024



International Pathology Day 2024



We have put out a podcast aimed at undergraduates and junior doctors that explores pathology specialities and the day-to-day jobs of a pathologist.



Our mentorship program aims to connect medical students interested in pathology with trainee pathologists so that they may learn more about what a career in pathology entails. Following a successful pilot, we expanded the scheme nationally this year and recruited 44 mentees and 32 mentors.

We hosted an excellent

undergraduate day in

Sheffield focused on

applications, ways to

get involved and big,

current research areas!









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What we Did From Last International Pathology Day?

Sven Seiwerth¹, Sunčana Sikirić¹, Marko Kolić¹ ¹University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, Department of Pathology; Zagreb, Croatia

The 1st Joint Meeting of Croatian Societies for Pathology and Clinical Cytology 1st PACIT

The 1st Joint Meeting of Croatian Societies for Pathology and Clinical Cytology took place from November 23 to 26, 2023. This inaugural joint congress of professional societies in pathology and cytology, also joined by histotechnologist societies, was held in Dubrovnik, With over 240 participants from pathology, cytology, and histotechnology societies, it was the largest meeting of its kind ever held in Croatia. Guest lecturers, including Ales Ryska and Andrzej Marszalek, provided an inspiring overview of current situations and perspectives in pathology, as well as state-of-the-art developments. Several joint sessions for pathologists and cytologists led to productive conclusions, including the establishment of national guidelines. The social program highlighted some of Dubrovnik's rich cultural heritage



The first student generation in novated building of the Institute of Pathology (on the photo with students . from left to right are Sven Seiwerth, Sunčana Sikirić, Danica Galešić Ljubanović and Ana Šepac).

5th International Renal Pathology The Conference

The University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Croatia, hosted the 5th International Renal Pathology Conference in May 2023. The conference was organized by the Renal Pathology Society (RPS) in collaboration with the European Society of Pathology's Nephropathology Working Group, the University of Zagreb School of Medicine, and the Nephropathology Working Group of the Croatian Society for Pathology and Forensic Medicine. It was held in a hybrid format, with both in-person and virtual participation via Zoom, and was attended by 370 participants from 62 countries worldwide. The program featured 27 invited speakers, all renowned international experts in kidney disease. covering areas such as renal pathology, pediatric and adult nephrology, rheumatology, and clinical genetics. Each day included a Clinicopathologic Conference, during which 17 interesting case reports were presented and discussed. There were also 61 poster presentations, with awards for the top three posters, as well as 19 bursaries for participants from low- and middle-income countries. We are honored that the conference went smoothly and exceeded expectations. Participants expressed great satisfaction with the program, organization, and hospitality, which is a source of pride for us.



The group photo of participations of the 5th IRPC



1st PACIT Joining efforts

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The UZSM Earthquake Reconstruction

On July 12, 2024, after 16 months of intensive work and two weeks ahead of the contracted deadline, the reconstruction of the Institute of Pathology University of Zagreb School of Medicine was completed. During the renovation, all laboratories (Histology, EM, and Molecular with tissue culture), administration, teaching staff, and teaching facilities were temporarily relocated to either the campus or nearby locations. Remarkably, the staff quickly adapted to the improvised setup and even managed to expand their activities, achieving better results than before the disruption. The Institute of Pathology, dating back to 1922, covers around 6,000 m² and includes a lecture hall (amphitheatre), two seminar rooms, a library, a macroscopy museum, and several laboratories, with its molecular pathology lab being the largest of its kind in Croatia



Amphitheatre in renovated building of the Institute of Pathology. The 22nd Meeting of the European Association for Haematopathology

The 22nd Meeting of the European Association for Haematopathology, organized biennially in association with the Society for Hematopathology (USA), took place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from September 21-26, 2024, marking its first occurrence in Central and Eastern Europe. The event gathered 864 participants from 62 countries. The meeting began with the Thymus Symposium, which provided updates on the WHO classification, molecular features, and therapeutic opportunities in thymomas, and was followed by an Educational Session on the practical application of molecular genetics in haematopathology. Subsequent sessions included the EBMWG (EU Bone Marrow Working Group) symposium and workshop, a two-day Lymphoma Symposium, and a two-day Lymphoma Workshop. Additionally, a special session was organized by young EA4HP members



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