

# ESTP Newsletter 2013 (1)



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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### **The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the “Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology” at Hannover: The reasons of the success of this course and the benefit for our society**

#### *ESTP President's speech at the Ceremony*

Dear Colleagues, Professors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am personally very much honored to be invited to this Ceremony for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology”. It's a pleasure for me to spend this event with you. It's also a necessity, even a duty for the newly elected President to celebrate together this fruitful initiative because this yearly event is an important contribution to the annual activities of the European Society of Toxicologic Pathology (ESTP).

I will concentrate my short talk on **the main reasons of the success and on the benefit of these annual courses**. The success of the “Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology” is based on 3 pillars: an innovative vision, a strong pedagogic investment and a fruitful association between industry and academia.

The innovative vision was to organize a meeting for students having experienced toxicologic pathologists presenting pathology cases related to specific activities of compounds (pharmaceuticals but also chemicals). The concept was to illustrate the toxicity of different families of compounds characterized by specific and well defined morphological changes. In doing so, a more mechanistic and interpretative approach was preferred to a purely descriptive one. That was modern and it is still valid.

The pedagogic investment I mentioned as the second pillar of the success story concerns the use of microscopes and equipments at the University of Veterinary Medicine at Hannover. It allows to more than 100 pathologists to observe the same slide and receive a well prepared summary of the mechanism of action. Such an investment is quite unique and very efficient from the pedagogical point of view. I owe to congratulate our German colleagues Professor Karbe and Professor Drommer who had this great vision. They have initiated the seminar of “Classical Examples in Toxicologic Pathology” and joined their effort. Professor Karbe has a foot in Industry and a lot of energy and enthusiasm for having things done. Professor Drommer has a recognized academic background and a real interest for toxicologic pathology.

Today with Professor Baumgartner and Professor Deschl we have again this association between industry and academia I mentioned as the third pillar. I want to address a special thanks to Professor Baumgartner and Doctor Greif, the President of the University of veterinary medicine of Hannover.

Hannover can be proud. Hannover has been progressively recognized as one of the leading places for European veterinary pathology! Hannover is the yearly location for our Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology we celebrate this evening! It was last week the location of the exam of the European College of Veterinary Pathology! The town is also the location of the RITA group hosted by the Fraunhofer Institute and the meeting will start tomorrow. That's a great success.

The goal and the benefit of the “Classical Examples in Toxicologic Pathology” is unique and well defined: sharing knowledge and building robust competencies in toxicologic pathology. Maintaining strong relationships and contacts makes not only our Society stronger. but also our industries in Europe We have seen how quickly ESTP has reacted in September against the publication of

Séralini, a French professor of biochemistry, known as an anti-GMO activist. I want to thank again our members who volunteered to explain why this work was incorrectly done and presented serious inadequacies especially in toxicologic pathology. Our quick and well received reaction was only possible because we know each other, as we meet regularly. Hannover is a good place to be.

*Zwanzig Jahre für die "Klassischen Beispiele in Toxikologischer Pathologie", bedeuten einen wirklichen Erfolg. ! Es lebe unsere Gesellschaft und es lebe dieses jährliche Treffen..*

**Frédéric SCHORSCH**  
**Your Chairman**

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## **RITA (Registry of Industrial Toxicology Animal-data)**



RITA is an industry sponsored project for generation and maintenance of an historical database for control animals from rodent carcinogenicity studies.

### **Panel meetings in 2013**

The 'microscope panel' meetings of the RITA group are open to guests from regulatory agencies, non-RITA companies, contract laboratories and universities. The number of guests is limited to three, for organizational reasons. Guests will be charged €50 covering lunches and beverages and must contact the organizer 4 weeks in advance of a meeting:

Dr. Rupert Kellner  
Tel.: +49 511 5350 106  
e-mail: [rita.panel@item.fraunhofer.de](mailto:rita.panel@item.fraunhofer.de)

Six panel meetings are scheduled for 2013. The first has taken place already in February. Additional meetings are planned for:

April 14-16  
June 9 - 11  
September 29 – October 01  
November 3 - 5  
December 8 - 10

## **The current status of the database**

The RITA project is currently running in its 9<sup>th</sup> 3-year contract period. Companies participating in the RITA project are:

Abbvie  
Amgen  
AstraZeneca  
BASF SE  
Bayer AG  
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co. KG  
F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.  
Merck-Serono  
Novartis Pharma AG  
Novo Nordisk A/S  
Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Ltd  
Pfizer  
Sanofi-Aventis  
Syngenta

Currently, the database contains 168 rat studies with more than 26,000 primary tumours and 29,000 preneoplastic lesions. The 82 mouse studies in the database include about 7,000 primary tumours and almost 4,000 preneoplastic lesions.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://reni.item.fraunhofer.de/reni/public/rita/index.php>

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