

ESTP Newsletter 2015 (2)



Editor Zuhal Dincer (zuhal.dincer@novartis.com)

President's column



Dear ESTP members,

Welcome to our Spring edition. It is good to see some increasing daylight and a real feel of Spring in the air which of course always makes the work we do that much easier! Since the last edition there has been a lot of activity, mainly due to our educational remit. We had a very successful Classic Examples Meeting in February in Hannover which you can read more about in the newsletter. The attendance was 111 and there was also the presentation of some cases using digital technology. The goal was to test this platform and its suitability for forthcoming workshops. This, surely, is the way of the future. February also saw our first of four webinar presentations on Advanced Technologies in Toxicologic Pathology organized by our Pathology 2.0 committee. This was attended by approximately 100 attendees. We are always open to feedback on any ESTP initiatives and one request we have had is to produce CPD certificates for future webinar series lectures and this is certainly an aspect we are looking into. The second webinar is taking place on the 28th April and is entitled "Digital Image

Analysis and Multiplexing of Biomarkers". We have also had lively discussion within the board on how to participate more in educational initiatives for the next generation of toxicologic pathologists, and the Classic Examples series, together with webinars, our Adversity Workshops, and good communication with our fellow colleagues in other societies is certainly the goal. Again, on the educational front, you should all have received your personal hard copies of the INHAND supplement on Non-proliferative and Proliferative Lesions of the Rat and Mouse Female Reproductive System and there is no need for me to point out the amount of work and effort put in by everyone on these publications.

We are very excited about the early stages in the planning of our ESTP Conference 2016 in Barcelona. The Scientific and Local Organising Committees (SOC and LOC) are in formation, together with our administrative conference organizer, Pia Schröder, at Solution Office. It is clear to me that there are a number of pathologists who want to contribute more to the society and I was particularly pleased to see a large response (much greater than I anticipated- maybe it is the location!) upon requesting membership of these committees. We now have two co-chairs of the SOC, Thierry Flandre and Anna-Lena Frisk, together with local organizational support from Neus Prats and Klaus Weber and a number of others. Thanks to all volunteers for your willingness and time, and I am sure you will gain much in the organization of a world class conference working with friends and new colleagues. Looking even further ahead to 2017, this will be a "Cutting Edge" meeting in Lyon. Thank you to Erio Barale who has been highly involved in the first preparatory steps for this meeting. At this point we are now also ready to build the LOC and SOCs for this meeting. I would therefore request again if anyone is interested in participating to contact myself by email as below for further details. It is always useful to have participants who have previous experience on organization committees and to capitalise on this

experience. However, enthusiasm and commitment to the cause are as valuable too!

Finally, thanks again to the committee and you as members who make our society the internationally recognised forum that it is.

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XXIInd Classical Examples in Toxicologic Pathology: 20-21st February 2015, Hannover, Germany

In February 20th and 21st, the already XXIInd edition of the Classic Examples seminar took place in Hannover, Germany. This year, this well-received get together of toxicological pathologists came up with an important innovation in that slides were scanned by Rupert Kellner from the Fraunhofer Institute, Hannover, and every participant received access to these digital slides some weeks before the seminar and could come well prepared to Hannover. Ultimately, a well-balanced mixture of presentations by digital histopathology cases and provision of glass slides for hands-on microscopy or even both, were provided to the audience in Hannover.

The Friday afternoon session started off with two international speakers: First, Jeffery Engelhardt from Isis Pharmaceuticals, USA, gave a very interesting presentation about the toxic effects induced by antisense oligonucleotides, comparing their effects in the different toxicology species, with all having, in common, basophilic granules in the kidney and liver, the organs with the highest oligonucleotide concentration. Next we listened to Ryo Fukuda, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Japan, who nicely detailed the histopathological lesions of vitamin A deficiency in rats in the male reproductive system, eyes, salivary glands, and liver. Preethne Böser from AbbVie, Germany, gave a nice overview of the pathophysiology of iron homeostasis, with the example of liver histopathology induced by administration of a monoclonal antibody against the Repulsive Guidance Molecule a/c, also called hemojuvelin. Marjolein Van Heerden from Janssen Pharmaceutica, Belgium, stood in for her colleague Erio Barale, who was unable to travel to Hannover, but had brilliantly summarized his experience of BACE1 and BACE2 inhibition, with special emphasis on eye and skin pigmentation. The first day was closed by Ursula Junker from Novartis, Switzerland, giving an excellent example how potential target liabilities can be addressed early in research, with the lessons learnt from the phenotyping of sphingosine 1-phosphate-lyase knockout mice.

Saturday morning started with a comprehensive overview of the toxicity of PDK1 inhibitors, given by Florian Colbatzky from Boehringer Ingelheim, Germany. Xavier Palazzi, Sanofi, France, presented the toxicologic profile of taxoids, focusing on the neurotoxicity. A lively discussion then arose around the difficult question of how to differentiate real vacuolation in the CNS from artefacts. Matthias Rinke and Sabrina Schroeder from Bayer Pharma, Germany, talked about vehicle-induced lesions in rats and dogs, presenting examples of histopathological changes in kidneys and lungs after using cyclodextrin as a vehicle. The next presentation was shared by Thomas Nolte and Susanne Müller, Boehringer Ingelheim, Germany. After an excellent overview about the principles of phototoxicity assessment, the audience could assess the ocular lesions induced by 8-Methoxypsoralen. The seminar was closed by a fascinating talk given by Klaus Weber from AnaPath, Switzerland, discussing advantages and limitations of liver spheroids and how these 3-dimensional cultures may help in safety assessment.

Despite lean travel budgets, over 100 participants from not only Europe, but also several other non-European countries attended. We owe a big thank you for this successful edition of the Classic Examples to the hard work of the organizing team led by Thomas Nolte and Florian Colbatzky, Matthias Rinke and Charlotte Lempp for the logistics around attendants' registration and Wolfgang Baumgärtner's crew from the Hannover Veterinary Pathology Department for the perfect local organization of this popular event.

Please mark already in your calendars February 19 and 20 in 2016 for the next edition of the Classic Examples.

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Update: ESTP International Expert Workshop on the general definition and use of "adversity"

Dear ESTP members,

Our ESTP International Expert Workshop on the general definition and use of "adversity" has now entered its preparatory phase and we already held two teleconferences. Compared to the initially envisaged group size of 15 members, and based on the wish to have all major regulatory agencies and STP working groups represented, we now have 24 members, among which five from Japan and five from the USA.

The group has agreed on subtopics (e.g. "adversity and reversibility", "adversity and adaptation") which have been distributed among the members, and which shall

enable us to examine the adequate use of term "adverse" from various angles and to develop one expert opinion. Cases appropriate to illustrate these subtopics will be anonymous and shared among the group. Knowing that time will be too short to have all presentations and expert discussions during the face-to-face meeting in Paris, some subtopics were prioritized to be presented already at one of the remaining preparatory teleconferences. Nonetheless, these subtopics will also be summarized in Paris.

As announced previously, a limited audience may be accepted for the face-to-face workshop in Paris (reminder of date: 8th/9th June 2015). Places are limited to 25, and registration will be possible through the ESTP website starting in early April. The registration process and further details of the workshop will be announced by e-mail to the membership.

Furthermore, in order to offer continuing education on this important topic to a larger number of interested scientists, a webinar will be arranged after the meeting in Paris, comprising the most important extracts of the presentations. The date for this webinar will be determined later.

Please feel invited to contact us any time in case you have suggestions or wish to receive further information.

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