President’s Column

Dear ESTP members,

We are all having a strange anniversary this spring. Last year most of us were facing quite a strict lockdown that led us to rethink our ways of working. Now, and although the pandemic is not over yet, we have reasons to be hopeful and to see a brighter future.

Having said that we are not ready yet to go back to face-to-face meetings. But the success of the XXVIII Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology proves that we can have great and interactive presentations, even behind a computer screen. We will also continue to offer webinars throughout the year and are hoping to continue this initiative even when we’ll be allowed to travel. This is a great addition to what the ESTP can offer to its membership.

On the same note, the 2021 Cutting Edge Pathology Congress will also be an online one. I believe that it will be a great success nonetheless and the main ESTP topic "Biomarkers and Organ Toxicity" is surely appealing.

I’m looking forward to seeing you all face-to-face though. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy the first warm and sunny days!

Franck

Franck Chanut
ESTP Chairperson
(franck.chanut@sanofi.com)

7th ESTP International Workshop

The paper "The Application, Challenges, and Advancement Toward Regulatory Acceptance of Digital Toxicologic Pathology: Results of the 7th ESTP International Expert Workshop (September 20-21, 2019)" was selected for the SOT Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section (RSESS) best paper of the year award. This award recognizes talented researchers who have recently published exceptional papers that contribute to the field of regulatory and safety evaluation in toxicology.

Vanessa Schumacher
Member of organizing committee
(vanessa.schumacher@roche.com)

Launch of 9th ESTP International Expert Workshop
“Assessment of the Biological/Toxicological Relevance of Clinical Pathology Changes”

Dear ESTP members,

As a further member in the chain of well-established and successful ESTP International Expert Workshops, we have now launched a workshop on a clinical pathology topic. During discussions among clinical and anatomic toxicologic pathologists it came out that more guidance is necessary with respect to the biological/toxicological importance of clinical pathology findings in nonclinical toxicity studies, beyond determination of the test item relationship.
The goal of this new ESTP workshop is, therefore, to provide toxicologic clinical and anatomic pathologists with criteria and appropriate nomenclature in order to classify test item-related effects on clinical pathology analytes according to their biological and/or toxicological importance, as defined in the workshop. Such criteria might be statistical (comparison with historical control data, magnitude of difference from concurrent controls…) and/or a biological weight-of-evidence approach based on expected functional consequences of such changes and might be specific for analyte types.

The workshop will not only discuss the relevance of classical clinical pathology parameters, but also of blood and urine biomarkers, immunophenotyping of cells and cytokine data.

We have pulled together a panel of 24 experts in the field, from Europe, Canada and the USA, and had our kick-off videoconference on 29th March, 2021. We plan for monthly virtual meetings thereafter, as well as for a virtual final workshop, allowing for a registered audience, in spring 2022.

There is still time to join the expert panel. If you feel that you can and wish to contribute to this endeavour, please contact one of the organizers below as soon as possible.

Best regards,
The workshop organizers
Monika Keresztes monika.keresztes@boehringer-ingelheim.com
Gabriele Pohlmeyer-Esch gabriele.pohlmeyer-esch@boehringer-ingelheim.com
Lindsay Tomlinson lindsay.tomlinson@pfizer.com

3rd Joint Webinar ESTP/SFPT/BSTP and ECVP/ESVP
May 7th, 2021 – Immune System*

The webinar committee likes to invite you all to attend this year’s webinars. The first two joint webinars were well attended with over 200 participants. The first webinar this year will be on May 7th. Other webinars are being discussed for June and October.

We look forward to your participation.
Hans Harleman (johannes.harleman@gmail.com)

On behalf of the webinar committee
Anna-lena Frisk (ESTP)
Flavia Pasello dos Santos (SFTP)
Jerome Abadie (ESVP)
Matthias Rinke (ESTP)
Pierluigi Fant (ESTP organisation Torino)
Pierre Maliver (ECVP)
Rita Deuchande (BSTP)
Friday 7th May 2021 12.00 – 13.45 CET

12.00-12.35
Dr. Frieke Kuper – Independent Consultant - MALT, SALC and TLS

12.35-13.10
Prof. Dr. Johannes Harleman – (Retired) Enhanced Pathology of the Immune System

13.10- 13.45
Dr. Danuta Herzyk – Merck & Co Inc (MSD) – Interpretation and Impact of Immunogenicity Findings in NHP Studies with Biologics

*Sponsored by the ESTP, SFTP, BSTP and NVT

Registration link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1849540599619148300

Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology 2021 – a virtual debut

As almost everything in the last 12 months, the 28th Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology, which took place on March 11-12, were extraordinary. For the very first time, speakers, organizers and participants did not meet at the TiHo in Hannover, but on the GoTo-Webinar platform.

For us personally, the perspective changed on an additional level. Being previously involved in the local organization of the event for several years in Hannover, we recently switched to the audience position entirely and had the opportunity to fully focus on the scientific content.

The great benefit of a virtual event is certainly that participants from different time zones all over the world were able to join comfortably. In the survey held at the end of the meeting, almost half (42%) of the participants stated, that they attended the Classic Examples because of the online format and a significant number of attendees participated for the first time, leading to an all-time record in the number of participants (211 registrations!). This underlines the great attraction of this event to the scientific community and shows the additional value of a virtual seminar format.

Certainly, this year’s Classic Examples comprised an extraordinary and unprecedented spectrum of contributions. Besides presentations on in depth investigations of common lesions in toxicologic pathology such as phospholipidosis, this year’s schedule included rather uncommon topics such as a human pathologist’s perspective on cancer immune checkpoint therapy and a keynote lecture about animal models of the omnipresent COVID-19.

Not only the range of topics, but also the means and styles of presentations were highly diverse and the use of digital slides added a big value to the common way of presenting, as impressively demonstrated on the example of intranasal Trimethyl Tin application. Overall, and as already shown in the recent years, the availability of slide scans before and after the seminar is a great tool for creating an even more interactive seminar.

Without a doubt, the Classic Examples virtual debut was a big success. We highly appreciate the big effort of the organizing team in these challenging times! Hopefully, we can benefit from the advantages of a virtual meeting also in the future—although both of us are very much looking forward to meeting everyone again in Hannover in 2022 as even great virtual workshops cannot fully replace meeting our colleagues and friends in person.

Ann-Kathrin Haverkamp,
Charlotte Lempp,

2021 ESTP Publication Award – Call for Papers or Thesis

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to ask you to submit papers and/or thesis on toxicologic pathology for this year’s ESTP publication award. The European Society of Toxicologic Pathology was founded in 2002 to promote the importance of toxicologic pathology as an independent, specialized area in Europe. To honor advancements in this field, impactful publications (either theses or papers) are annually awarded by the ESTP. We ask for nominations of impactful Theses or Publications in the field of toxicological pathology that were published throughout 2018 - 2021. Applications for the award will be evaluated by the ESTP award committee, and the best thesis/paper will be
honoured with 1.500 Euro. Due to the Covid pandemic last year’s congress had to be postponed including the award announcement. The award will be presented at the 2021 Cutting Edge/ESTP annual meeting in Torino, Italy, September 15-18, 2021. It is mandatory that the recipient attends the awards ceremony. The admission fee for this meeting will be waived. The recipient will be notified in July. The dead line for submission will be June 1st, 2021.

Please send your proposals to the head of the ESTP awards committee: Prof Dr. Johannes (Hans) Harleman (johannes.harleman@gmail.com)

Best regards,
Hans Harleman

On behalf of the award committee
Anna-Lena Frisk
Heike Marxfeld
Lars Mecklenburg
Matthias Rinke
Thomas Nolte
Régis Masson

**Fighting Cancer with Immuno-Oncology: from Research to Clinic**

(May 27th & 28th)

The French Society of Toxicologic Pathology is delighted to invite the members of the ESTP to join its virtual annual scientific meeting. All presentations will be held in English. Please visit our website (https://toxpathfrance.org/) to discover the wonderful program prepared by our scientific organizing committee!

Béatrice Gauthier
(Beatrice.Gauthier@sanofi.com)