

ESTP Newsletter 2021 (3)



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Our three new ESTP Honorary Members 2021

President's Column

Dear ESTP members,

After another challenging year, it is time to reflect on the achievements and the future of our society.

The virtual Cutting-Edge Meeting has been a great success (you can read Matthias Rinke's article on it below) and I'm very pleased that we've three new honorary members, Chirukandath Gopinath, Wolfgang Kaufmann and Matthias Rinke. The Webinars are a continuous success, and we are planning to continue offering them throughout 2022. Unfortunately, it is not the time yet to organise face-to-face meeting and the next Classic Examples meeting will be held online. But the

program is very exciting, and the 2021 seminar was another fruitful meeting, and very well organized.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Maastricht anyway!

New or renewed working groups are seeking active members. The Clinical Pathology committee first, led by Monika Keresztes (please read her column below) and the Mission and Vision group (Silvia Guinaud wrote an engaging article below). I personally believe that we need to increase our visibility as presented during the AGA, and we will clearly make sure that our society is future-proof. Please, do not hesitate to interact directly with any board member should you have any idea that we could reflect on.

In the meantime, the holiday period will be starting soon, and as this is the last newsletter for 2021, let me wish you all a peaceful break with your loved ones, and I'm looking forward to another exciting and productive year.

Cheers,
Franck franck.chanut@sanofi.com

ESTP Chairman

Revival of ESTP Committee for Clinical Pathology and Biomarkers

It can be clearly seen from the topic of this year's Cutting Edge Pathology Congress that the ESTP seeks to give more weight to the professional field of Toxicologic Clinical Pathology. This ambition is also reflected in the ongoing 9th ESTP International Expert Workshop on a clinical pathology topic. It was therefore logical that the ESTP Executive Committee discussed how to revive the Committee for Clinical Pathology and Biomarkers which somehow had fallen into a dormant state a couple of years ago. It is thanks to the diligence of this year's SOC and Congress Organizer that a separate short virtual get-together meeting could be arranged during the last day of the CEP congress, where interested ESTP members (and non-members!) exchanged about the interest of such a Committee. Approximately 25 persons assisted this informal get-together, kindly facilitated by Gabi Pohlmeier-Esch, and a little less than 15 volunteered to become members of this revived Committee.

From my every-day work as laboratory head of a clinical pathology laboratory in pharma, and being exposed to a large spectrum of in-house and external tox studies, including the ever-growing request to establish and include biomarkers in our studies, I have a very strong interest in the field and scientific progression of

it. It was therefore with pleasure that I accepted to co-chair this Committee together with Olivier Blanck.

Since the CEP congress and the get-together, we have set up a dedicated Microsoft TEAMS workspace under the license of ESTP and have established a first contact with our members. Whoever did not have the possibility to participate in the get-together, but is interested in becoming a member and/or wishes to contribute to shaping its scope, is very kindly invited to contact us as soon as possible under monika.keresztes@boehringer-ingenelheim.com and/or olivier.blanck@bayer.com.

Both of us are very much looking forward to this new endeavor!

Monika Keresztes

ESTP Mission and Vision- getting ready for the next decade

Since its foundation in 2002, the ESTP has had an amazing journey of building international connections, fostering excellence in science and delivering continuing education. Already the first congresses it organised were full of enthusiasm, and over the years the ESTP annual conference has become one of the outstanding scientific meetings in our profession, delivering cutting edge scientific information.

So why would the ESTP council worry about its vision and mission now?

In these intervening 20 years, the scope of our profession has changed hugely. While the recognition of histologic changes, their interpretation and impact assessment are still at the core of our daily work, toxicologic pathologists are increasingly drawn into other areas of science, no doubt to the rich layers of information and insight they can typically add to the discussion. Among these new areas of expertise are the development of genetically modified or humanised animal models, the molecular analysis of tissue sections, and

artificial intelligence-driven image analysis. We are working more and more closely with scientists from other backgrounds and need their input to develop our own science further.

At the same time, the era of globalisation has boosted pharmaceutical companies, research institutions, and contract research laboratories abroad, resulting in the foundation of new STPs in countries around the world. In Europe and North America, two decades of consolidation and specialisation in biopharmaceutical companies and contract research labs and remote working practices developed during the pandemic have changed our working environment.

The ESTP council recognises the need to create a comprehensive and cohesive strategy that ensures the relevance and utility of our society, enables us to meet emerging challenges, and defines our position in a rapidly changing professional context.

In order to achieve this, we need motivated people who represent the diversity of our society. Do you want to be part of the mission and vision task force that shapes the ESTP of the future? We are calling on all interested colleagues who want to help charting the path for the next 20 years!

Please contact me at silvia.guionaud@servier.com to hear more and become part of the team!

Our 18th European Congress of Toxicologic Pathology at the 4th Cutting Edge Pathology Congress - A personal view by Matthias Rinke

Another big event is over which was (and hopefully remains) unique in its format as a complete virtual congress. After the need due to the Covid pandemic to cancel the meeting which was planned for Torino already in 2020, months of uncertainty filled with numerous preparatory

activities and teleconferences finally resulted in another great success. The scientific organizing team under the excellent leadership of Raffaella Capobianco, Pierluigi Fant and Anna Lena Frisk has done a wonderful job. A big Thank You also goes to Erika Taravella and her team of EV as the congress organizers who have worked for us the first time. Access to the IATP Satellite Symposium and the live events prepared by sponsoring companies was easy. Everything worked out fine, regardless whether the presentations were given as live sessions or pre-recordings.

I do not want to comment on the presentations given during our 18th ToxPath meeting which covered the various aspects of biomarker use in our scientific field, since all of them were excellent, as usual. As in the previous CEP congresses, having keynote lectures as a joint session together with ESVP/ECVP provided a real add-on and updated our knowledge on coronavirus-related diseases.

Actually, I would like to emphasize the challenge for the moderators that they experienced during this unusual format. They not only had to keep attendance to the respective presentation itself but had to follow also the questions that came in written form in a second application window, sort them accordingly and address them to the speakers. And this, without seeing anybody. Well done, colleagues!

Probably since nobody really knew and had experience with the virtual format, the number of posters provided was rather limited this year. Finally, only nine posters were submitted, all of which were of high quality. Methods and applications of artificial intelligence and topics covering digital pathology were in the majority. However, also posters from colleagues from universities in Italy, Portugal and Spain e.g. dealing with alternatives in the sense of the 3Rs, had found their way into the virtual poster room. All of you know how much effort is needed to prepare a poster, often more than for an oral presentation. However, due to the low number of

submissions all poster authors were asked on very short notice to present their work additionally in a separate poster session. For that they had to prepare extra slides and were offered a time slot for a 6-minute explanatory talk. Imagine: All of them had volunteered to do so! Thank you.

Highlights of each of our congresses are the interactive case presentations. Two cases of dogs, and each one of a monkey and a goat were shared together between the toxicologic and anatomic pathologists, followed by a deep-learning based example of the use of artificial intelligence. While all talks in the general sessions were prerecorded, these presentations which - as usual - include interactive voting were given live and resulted in a large number of questions. Special thanks to Bhanu Singh and Dan Rudman who gave their presentation in the middle of their American night.

Of course, topic and content of the scientific sessions should always be the main reason to participate at our annual conventions. Nevertheless, under normal circumstances, welcome reception and the personal interaction during the breaks are essential parts of our meetings to keep the relationship among colleagues and friends alive. Touring the congress venue after (sometimes even during) the sessions, perhaps with common dining in small groups and return to the accommodation for a final drink in the hotel bar, are opportunities that live on as your personal memories. The congress dinner at very exciting and special locations finally is the social highlight for many of the attendees, even if following next morning's lectures is somewhat hard. All that was impossible this time.

To at least try to offer a common opportunity for a personal exchange, a virtual get-together-room was offered thanks to the initiative of Annabelle Heier. Sadly, only a few colleagues used this chance to talk to another and to get to know people they have never talked to before. The reason for the low attendance remains open. I

personally don't think it was a lack of interest, but most likely people were just tired after sitting in front of a screen for hours and hours. Nevertheless, thank you, Annabelle.

Overall, the 4th Cutting Edge Pathology Congress was a successful meeting. It had a high scientific value. It saved travel time and released the travel budget of your companies. Sure, one can also carry out other things during the time in which a topic does not fall into your direct field of interest. And there may be many other advantages to perform virtual congresses. Nevertheless, I personally am looking forward to seeing you all in person at our next 19th European Congress of Toxicologic Pathology in Maastricht.

Keep healthy!

Matthias Rinke

ESTP Publication Award Committee

The Thesis of Lykke Boysen "Formation and vascular deposition of immune complexes in mice administered with species-foreign proteins" was the recipient of this year's ESTP Publication Award. The Thesis was unanimously selected by the committee. It resulted in four publications, one of which was published in Toxicologic Pathology.

It was selected from 13 submitted publications. The PhD thesis was submitted and published in 2019 at the University of Copenhagen. The work was conducted at Novo Nordisk A/S.

In her Thesis, Lykke developed a mouse model of drug induced immune complex mediated vascular disease. She also examined the role of complement bound in circulating immune complexes and developed a method for their detection. She examined the potential role of these complexes as a biomarker of disease with induced by different antigens (anti. TNF alpha,

humanized anti-trinitrophenol or Bovine Serum Albumin).

The award was presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting by Franck Chanut.

The committee welcomes new members and proposals for the award next year. Members review nominated publications/theses.

Award Committee: Anna-Lena Frisk, Hans Harleman (chair), Heike Marxfeld, Lars Mecklenburg, Matthias Rinke, Regis Masson, Thomas Nolte

Response on the ESTP Honorary membership - At least a few words

If we would have met face-to-face this year, we would have been able to respond spontaneously, at least a few words, on the special attention we received from the ESTP by granting us with the honorary membership.

It is and was always fun to serve our Society in the one or other role and activity, to encourage colleagues and friends to join initiatives and activities and reaching successful outcomes. Fun, to be in collaboration with other professional societies and with respect to publications and seminars for the practical science we perform day by day.

A big “Thank You” for giving us the ESTP honorary membership, it is indeed a great and special honor! But more than this, it bears for us also a distinct responsibility: It was and still is fantastic to be part of our scientific toxicologic pathology community and we feel obliged to further support or give advice whenever we can and where you want us to do so.

With this in mind, we are looking forward to a year 2022 where we hopefully meet again personally. Stay in good health and have a great Christmas Season.

Wolfgang Kaufmann and Matthias Rinke

ESTP Meeting 2022 in Maastricht “Think Female”

Call for Mystery Case presentations.

Dear colleagues,

At next year ESTP meeting, we will have again an interactive section with “mystery case” presentations.

Please do come forward with interesting cases you can share with your colleagues. These cases are open to all topics and not restricted to the female reproductive tract, only, although such cases are also quite welcome.

The case presentations will be interactive using voting devices. Please send your suggestions and a short description to sibylle.groeters@basf.com. Do be aware that the title of the presentation should not give away the “mystery”.

We are planning this meeting as a f2f meeting and are looking forward to seeing many of you there again. “Mystery cases” are always great fun and challenging to the audience.

We are looking forward to your contribution to this meeting.

For the scientific organizing committee

Sibylle Groeters and Hans Harleman