ESTP Newsletter 2023 (3)

Editor Amy Narewski

(ESTP contact link: https://www.eurotoxpath.org/contact.php)

Administrative Assistant to the ESTP EC

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The ESTP council

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President’s Column

Dear ESTP members,

As 2023 is drawing to a close, we can look back at another successful annual conference, engagement with our early career pathologist community and consolidation of a number of operational issues e.g. regarding (but not limited to) the relationship with the Toxicologic Pathology journal.

I have literally never heard so many positive comments about a conference as in Basel. The meeting once again drew a big number of participants from all over the world, and the scientific program conveyed up to date, impactful insights that made this a thoroughly enjoyable and useful meeting. Another positive point for me was the strong participation by members at our AGA. This is important because it legitimises the work of the council, and ensures you support our activities, which in turn needs to deliver what you expect from us.

As mentioned at the AGA, our core remit consists in delivering continuing education, reaching out to trainee pathologists and interesting them in our career path, in addition to influencing the scientific and regulatory environment. Thanks to your support, all of these activities have received a renewed impetus following the AGA. Besides our work in these areas, we are also intensifying our preparations
for the next conference in 2024, and my special thanks goes to Pierre Maliver and Sameh Youssef who are jointly leading the SOC. The next event in our calendar however is another instalment of the “Classic Examples”, and I would like to ask you to support this event through case presentations and participation.

Before we get to this event however, I would like to wish you a happy, restful and enjoyable holiday season, and all the best for your health, success and happiness in the next year, 2024. Switch off, relax and don’t think of toxicological pathology for a while. I certainly won’t 🤭.

Silvia Guionaud
ESTP Chairwoman
silvia.guionaud@guionaudconsulting.com

Annual ESTP Congress 2023: Basel, Switzerland – A Recap

Greetings, ESTP community!

The annual congress of the European Society of Toxicologic Pathology (ESTP) took place from September 26th to 29th, 2023, in the picturesque city of Basel, Switzerland. This year's event was a resounding success, bringing together over 200 delegates from around the world to explore cutting-edge developments in toxicologic pathology related to emerging therapeutic modalities.

After a brief opening ceremony, followed by the inspiring keynote lecture of Richard Haworth, the congress was organized into several sessions, each diving into specific aspects of the ever-evolving field. Here's a quick rundown:

- **Nucleic Acid Technologies (Tuesday and Wednesday):** The first sessions set the stage for a week of discovery, as experts discussed the latest breakthroughs in nucleic acid technologies.
- **Gene and Cell Therapies (Wednesday):** A day dedicated to exploring the promising frontiers of gene and cell therapies, offering valuable insights for the future.
- **New Generation Biologics (Wednesday and Thursday):** This session shed light on the exciting possibilities offered by new-generation biologics, making Thursday a day brimming with inspiration.
- **Targeted Protein Degraders (Thursday):** Experts gathered to delve into the science behind targeted protein degraders, showcasing the potential for novel treatments.
- **Miscellaneous Topics (Friday):** The week concluded with an array of fascinating discussions on miscellaneous topics, ranging from impurities to in vitro complex systems, through oncology, carcinogenicity and immunogenicity lectures. The diverse range of subjects truly showcased the breadth of our field.

Moreover, the congress featured very stimulating original cases that captivated the audience, sparking thought-provoking discussions and fostering knowledge sharing within the community. Finally, an exceptionally wide participation characterized the poster session, that showcased approximately 50 posters.
Welcome Session

The scientific program wasn't the only highlight of the event. Attendees also had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the local culture and enjoy the beauty of Basel, a city renowned for its connection to the chemical and biopharmaceutical industries. Basel, a hub of innovation, provided a fitting backdrop for our congress. Its charming streets, historical and modern architecture, and vibrant cultural scene left an indelible mark on our experience.

There was also time for a social program, that was equally appreciated. Delegates enjoyed a warm welcome at a reception party held on the 31st floor of the Bar Rouge in the Messe quartier of Basel. With breathtaking views on top of the city during the sunset, and delightful drinks offered by AnaPath celebrating its 10th anniversary, this was an unforgettable evening. And let's not forget the dinner set at Klara, an informal and cool place in Kleinbasel. It was the perfect blend of Swiss hospitality, great multicultural food, and an electrifying atmosphere.

Sponsored sessions by Aiforia, Resero Analytics, Deciphex, Bio Techne, and AiraMatrix provided a deeper dive into specific topics and were well-received by approximately 100 attendees each. These sessions added valuable insights and expertise to the overall congress experience.

The congress would have not been possible without the precious support of the many sponsors and delegates who contributed to make the meeting a vibrant event. In particular, special thanks must be extended to the SOC for their excellent job in putting together an exciting scientific program that greatly contributed to the success of the congress.

An intriguing addition to this year's congress was the IATP satellite symposium on medical devices, taking place before the main event. This prelude provided a unique opportunity for those interested in this niche but vital area of our discipline. Furthermore, an expert workshop on long-acting injectables served as a fitting corollary to the congress, offering specialized knowledge and skill enhancement for those in attendance.

In conclusion, the ESTP Congress 2023 in Basel was a memorable and enriching experience, showcasing the vibrancy and innovation that define our field. We look forward to next year's event in San Lorenzo de El Escorial near Madrid in Spain, and we hope to see you all there, ready to explore new horizons and share in the spirit of collaboration and discovery.

Warm regards from the Local Organizing Committee (Josep Monne, Enrico Vezzali and Kuno Würsch)
Announcement: Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology XXXI

The annual seminar “Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology” is internationally recognized as a unique and excellent opportunity for training and continuing education. The next edition of the seminar will be held March 14-15 at the Department of Pathology at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, Germany, organized and sponsored by the Hannover Graduate School for Veterinary Pathobiology, Neuroinfectiology, and Translational Medicine (HGNI) and the European Society of Toxicologic Pathology. The program will include a broad spectrum of scientific topics, e.g. on the toxicity profile of Progesterone receptor antagonist, Gq/11 inhibitor, GPR40 agonist, Estrogen receptor inhibitor, and many more. Case presentations will be accompanied by presentations of histopathological lesions on whole slide images, which will be made available to participants online before, during and after the meeting. On Thursday evening, you will have the opportunity to meet colleagues and new and old friends during an informal gathering and dinner.

We are very much looking forward to this yearly opportunity to learn and discuss and to exchange with our scientific community from industry, regulatory bodies and academia!

For more information see the ESTP homepage at ESTP Meetings (eurotoxpath.org).

Charlotte Lempp and Thomas Nolte on behalf of the organizers

INHAND Update

Dear ESTP members,

Now, close to the end of the year 2023 one can say that as in the years before a lot of progress with regards to the harmonization of the INHAND nomenclature has been achieved. Most of it was already reported during the annual report in September 2023. In addition to this, there are two major achievements, I would like to mention:

Meanwhile, the Tumor Combination Guidance is available for the general scientific community. This document is the result of a strong collaboration between the INHAND/STP SRPC and the FDA and provides recommendations on combining appropriate tumor types for statistical analysis.

In addition, since some weeks, the proposed nomenclature for the NONRODENT OCULAR tissues is available on the goRENI website and open for comments until January 2nd, 2024. Please take the opportunity to look at the manuscript and make your comments.

As also already announced, Charlotte Keenan will rotate of GESC by end of Dec 2023. After one year as co-chair, Charlotte took over the chair position of the GESC in 2012. So many INHAND fascicles of the different organ systems for rodents as well as the nomenclature for non-rodents have been published under Charlottes leadership. As member of CDISC (Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium), she was also strongly involved in the preparation of the Tumor Combination Guidance, always close to the requests by the FDA. Close cooperation between the GESC and the Organ Working Group chairs has always been important to her. Charlotte Keenan was a...
co-author of the publication for the “Revised guides for organ sampling and trimming in rats and mice”, which was a collaboration of RITA (Registry of Industrial Toxicology Animal Data) and NACAD (North American Control Animal Database). As a member of STP and the NACAD database, she strongly supported the idea of the global harmonization of the nomenclature in Toxicologic Pathology and the collection of historical control data of rodents already in the last century. Her warm nature made it easy for me to join the GESC as a new member in 2020. Thank you so much Charlotte for all your support and work! We will for sure miss you.

At the same time, Emily Meseck will take over the Chair position of the GESC and is already in cooperation with Charlotte. I’m confident that with her, we have a great successor in this position. For now, I wish you and all your loved ones a Merry Christmas, time to catch your breath and relax and all the best for the new year.

Best regards
Ute Bach
(Councillor of Nomenclature)

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**Toxicologic Pathology Training Program sponsored by ESTP**

Dear ESTP members,

As you may know, at the Department of Pathology at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany, the residents are offered a Toxicologic Pathology Training Program in collaboration with the European Society of Toxicologic Pathology. This program represents a valuable opportunity for us as residents to enhance our knowledge and skills in the field of toxicologic pathology. The program has covered various topics related to the typical lesions in laboratory animals in different organ systems, such as the respiratory, cardiovascular or gastrointestinal system. We have also gained an insight in the role and responsibilities of a toxicologic pathologist in the pharmaceutical industry, such as conducting safety assessments, interpreting data and regulatory requirements by the authorities. We have benefited a lot from the lectures, case studies and slide seminars presented by the experienced speakers from different companies, who have generously shared their expertise and insights with us. We would like to thank them for their time and effort, as well as for creating a platform for us to communicate with them and learn from their perspectives. We would also like to thank Mara Lombardo, Laura Heydemann and Ingo Gerhauser for organizing and coordinating the program, which has been running smoothly despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate their flexibility and adaptability in switching between online and on-site formats, as well as their dedication for the program. We are looking forward to refine further this valuable training program in collaboration with the ESTP.

Sincerely,

Johannes Krüger

on behalf of the residents of the Toxicologic Pathology Training Program
This year the annual conference of the Hungarian Sister Society of the ESTP was held in Sárvár, Hungary. As usual, the venue was an attractive wellness hotel, this time The Park Inn by Radisson Sárvár Resort & Spa located in the charming West Pannon region. The resort comfortably accommodated the 3-day congress with an all-time high number of 184 participants. The language of the meeting was Hungarian; however, the Hungarian speakers of the Toxicopathology Session had been asked to prepare their slides in English to ensure that Lise Bertrand, our plenary speaker, and Matthias Rinke, the co-chair of the session, could follow the presentations. In addition to the toxicologic pathology session, the scientific program included the regularly organized sessions of ecotoxicology, forensic and clinical toxicology and quality assurance and two parallel poster sessions, one for forensic toxicology and another one for a mixture of various other fields of toxicology.

Wednesday afternoon, following the lunch and right after the welcome and introduction by the chairman of the Society of Hungarian Toxicologists, the program started off with the Toxicopathology Session. To our great pleasure, Lise Bertrand, our current ESTP Digital Pathology Councilor accepted the invitation of the Hungarian Sister Society and delivered a brilliant plenary lecture on digital pathology and AI. Our proposal to organize a Maronpot Guest Lecture, with Lise as the guest lecturer at the TOX’2023 conference had been approved by the IATP therefore her talk titled “Digital pathology and AI: real world applications in toxicologic pathology” was presented as an IATP Maronpot Guest Lecture. Accordingly, the lecture itself was followed by a short introduction of the IATP as such by Matthias Rinke as a representative of this scientific organization, being a member of both the IATP Board as the current European Regional Director and the Educational Committee; followed by some kind moments of presenting a memory plaque to Lise.

Thereafter the session included five further talks one of them delivered by Matthias Rinke on the toxicologic pathology of the heart and the other four bringing relevant topics by Hungarian speakers Róbert Glávits, Zoltán Krajcsovicz, Mihály Albert and Csaba Kővágó representing CRO-s, pharma industry, veterinary diagnostic pathology and academic research, respectively.

Thursday morning started out with an ecotoxicology session and it was followed by two sessions on forensic and clinical toxicology in the afternoon. That day was finished with the annual general assembly and the congress dinner. Friday morning was dedicated to the final session on Quality Assurance.

Based on early feedback, the congress was considered successful and, in particular, the Toxicopathology Session was well received especially by the members of the EC. Lectures on toxicopathology delivered by either foreign or domestic speakers would be very welcome in the next year’s annual conference of the Society of Hungarian Toxicologists, too.

György Selényi
A scientific workshop was organized on 10th October at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Budapest, Hungary, under the auspices of ESTP and the Society of Hungarian Toxicologists. The aim was to raise awareness of careers in ToxPath in the new generation of veterinarians, one of the key missions of ESTP. After a warm welcome given by György Selényi as the organizer and ESTP Representative for the Hungarian Society of Toxicologic Pathology, the session started with an introductory lecture on Digital Pathology and Artificial Intelligence (Lise Bertrand). It was followed by an insight into the daily routine of a toxicologic pathologist (Peter Maslej) and ended with an overview of standardized terminology and INHAND (Matthias Rinke).

The workshop was attended by a diverse audience composed of veterinary undergraduates, researchers and lecturers. ESTP is looking forward to organizing more events of this kind in future!

9th Conference and Continuing Education Program of the Indian Society of Toxicologic Pathology, October 2023, Ahmedabad, India

Upon arriving in the city, I enjoyed the warm weather and the bustling traffic, which in an amazing way offers room for everyone, from cars to tuk-tuks, bikers and pedestrians. The STPI conference addressed immunoncology therapeutics and toxicologic pathology of special sense organs, based on the INHAND diagnostics. The first day was devoted to Special Senses, presented by Tracey Carlson (hearing), Ricardo de Miguel (gustation and touch), Christine Frieke Kuper (smell), and Jacqueline Brassard and Meg Ferrell Ramos (sight). The anatomy and histophysiology of the special senses is remarkably complex and the senses are closely interconnected. It is also quite clear how much special sense histopathology depends on demanding and challenging (histo)technics. Meg Ferell Ramos rightly paid tribute to the technicians. Perhaps technicians should present also at toxicologic pathology conferences. The day ended with an enjoyable dinner and a wonderful dance event in the park surrounding the pleasing venue, the Narayani hotel.

The next day was devoted to immunotherapy of cancer, and started with a fantastic and full overview by Jagadeesh Bayry. The other presenters were Charu Gupta (humanized NSG mouse models), Dharani Ajithdoss (empowering T cells), Kuno Würsch (design of next generation molecules), Florian Colbatzky (SMAC mimetics, immune-mediated adverse effects) and Kiran Palyada (IL15-PD1-mediated
toxicity). The presentations clearly outlined the promising possibilities of immunotherapy as well as the serious problems still to be resolved. The day ended again with a wonderful dinner outside on the terrasse of the venue.

Sunday was the last day of the congress. Technical issues were presented, namely GLP-compliant whole slide image management by Tijo Thomas and the impact of artefacts on study outcomes – a topic that deserves full attention in our studies – by Klaus Weber. In addition, Aaron Sargeant highlighted points to consider by pathologists in recording findings in carcinogenicity studies, as well as error-corrected DNA sequencing to detect carcinogenicity in Tg.RasH2 mice. Thereafter Shambhunath Choudhary outlined the efficacy and toxicity of mRNA vaccines in preclinical animal models, Klaus Weber discussed vascular leakage by IL-2 agonist and Charu Gupta gave a sound overview of the efficacy and safety of mAb, bispecific and CAR T therapies in immune humanized platforms. The conference ended with concluding remarks by the president of STPI, Venkatesha Udupa.

I found the quality of the program high, the discussions after the presentations and during the breaks very lively and the overall atmosphere inviting and enthusiastic.

Christine Frieke Kuper

Audience at the formal opening of the conference. A minute silence paid tribute to Chirukandath Gopinath

Nikita Bhatt, Executive Committee Member, announced the start of the scientific part of the conference
Obituary
Dr. Chirukandath Gopinath

It was with sadness that we shared the news that Dr. Chirukandath Gopinath BVSc, PhD, MVSc, FRCPath (Gopi) passed away on 26th April 2023.

Gopi joined at HRC/Huntingdon Life Sciences/Envigo in 1977 following his early career in academia and industry in India, the UK, and the Netherlands. He became Head of the Department of Pathology in 1980. In 1984 he became Director of Pathology and, from 1996, combined that role with that of Chief Scientific Officer for the Huntingdon and Eye sites. From 2000 onwards, he moved to become a Consultant in Toxicology/Pathology.

Gopi was part of a steering committee consisting of six pathologists (including himself, Will Butler, Jega Iswaran, Bernard Rushton, Donald Rutty, and David Wright) who met at the RVC on two occasions to initiate discussions about forming a society for toxicological pathologists in the UK. This was in recognition of the fact that, although there were a number of groups within existing societies for exchange of views on slides etc., a fully represented society for the tox path discipline did not exist and the time was right to start one. Plans were formulated for the foundation of an independent new society which was named The British Society of Toxicological Pathologists (renamed as British Society of Toxicological Pathology in 2012). The six people who initiated the formation of the society became founder members.

The inaugural meeting of the BSTP was held on 4th October 1985 and was attended by 27 invited pathologists. Gopi was President of the BSTP from 1988 - 1990 and was awarded Honorary Membership in 1999 by the then President, Kevin Isaacs. Kevin initiated the Honorary membership award and Gopi and Will Butler were the first recipients. Gopi remained an active member of the Society throughout his career. He contributed to many education offerings, not only for the BSTP but for many Tox Path societies globally. He was awarded the STP Achievement Award in 2009 for his exemplary career in toxicologic pathology.

Many BSTP members have been influenced by Gopi, either directly or through his many presentations and scientific publications.

On behalf of the Society, we wish to send our sincere condolences to his family and friends – he will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

BSTP council
In memoriam
Dipl.-Ing. Gerd Morawietz

On September 9, 2023, our honorary ESTP member, Dipl.-Ing. Gerd Morawietz, passed away. Gerd Morawietz was born in 1951 in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, where he lived in the last years in his childhood home in Hemer. He was buried on September 28, 2023, in the family grave.

After graduation from high school and studies at the Steinfurt location of the university of applied sciences (FH) Münster, he started at a branch office of Fraunhofer in Münster, Germany, in the department of Aerosol Physics. In 1983, the department with almost all employees including Gerd Morawietz migrated to Hannover in a new building of the Fraunhofer Institute of Toxicology and Aerosol Research. In Hannover, Professor Ulrich Mohr as one of the three institute directors had the idea of a data base of historical control data of proliferative lesions in rodents. Looking for the best computer specialist in the institute, he discovered the talent of Gerd Morawietz. From 1987 on Gerd built up the structure of the RITA data base in close collaboration with the pathologists of the Fraunhofer Institute and many Swiss and German pharmaceutical and chemical companies which were organized in the Gesellschaft für Toxikologische Pathologie (GTP), the predecessor organization of the ESTP established in 2002. Due to his high communication skills and great ideas with regard to transferring pathologists’ knowledge into a well-structured digital world, the RITA data base got a solid foundation and stable basic framework.

As the RITA data base was in need of a structured nomenclature, Gerd Morawietz supported the collection of terminology tables, manuscripts and digitized photographs with the aid of computer technology, which was not the standard at that time. He developed the RENI program, first on DOS, the ancestor of Windows, for maintenance of the RITA nomenclature, manuscripts, pictures, and the production of incidence tables. Moreover, Gerd’s great skills in computer technology and deep understanding of pathology demands have been a driving force in the development of the RITA data base as a world-wide recognized institution and strived for integration of North American companies. As an example, he strongly supported the publication of the RITA/NACAD Trimming Procedures which are the standard until today. Moreover, Gerd was involved in the set-up of the ILSI Alternative Carcinogenicity Program. To keep up to date, he transferred everything to the challenges of the novel world-wide web. Always thinking internationally, Gerd supported the INHAND project of International Harmonization of
Nomenclature and Diagnostic criteria for lesions in rats and mice by upgrading the RITA WebRENI program 2007 to goRENI and opening it for world-wide access by pathologists.

In the early years of ESTP (2003-2007), Gerd Morawietz was instrumental in implementing the transition from GTP. He designed the website of the Society as well as the logo and in collaboration produced several CD-ROMs that provided sources of valuable knowledge for the pathologists but also funds for the Society. His creation of tools for the Secretary and Treasurer of the Society was of enormous value for the voluntary administrative work and he contributed tools for the successful relationship with Solution Office as professional congress organizer for the ESTP right from the start, which was a major driver of success for the annual European Congresses of Toxicologic Pathology.

In 2010, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to our Society, Gerd Morawietz became honorary member of the European Society of Toxicologic Pathology.

With Gerd Morawietz we have lost not only a scientist with outstanding contributions to the digitization in toxicologic pathology, we have lost an enthusiastic fighter for new ideas to improve existing structures. Being on fire, he knew to motivate colleagues and make them productive though knowing they were short in time. Upon requests, he was available more or less at any time of the day, never losing his sense of humor.

We will miss this outstanding computer specialist, good friend, and fellow human being!

Rupert Kellner, Matthias Rinke, Susanne Rittinghausen, Annette Romeike