

Report for the Head and Neck Working Group (2018)

Chairperson: Tim Helliwell, Liverpool UK (2017-20)

Co-Chair: Nina Zidar, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Members of the Head and Neck Working Group contributed to a full programme of sessions at the 30th European Congress of Pathology from 8 to 13 September 2018 in Bilbao.

A symposium entitled “Emerging prognostic and predictive markers in head and neck pathology” provided an opportunity to learn about the impact of Human Papillomavirus on the diagnosis and treatment of head and neck cancer, current concepts of radiobiology and their impact on diagnosis and treatment of head and neck cancers, how the microenvironment in head and neck cancers can be used to target immunotherapy, immunohistochemistry and FISH profiling of prognostic and predictive markers in head and neck cancer, and the role of liquid biopsy in the management of head and neck cancers.

The slide seminar stimulated discussion on the theme of “Diagnostic challenges in head and neck pathology”, attracting contributions from working group members based in Portugal, Canada, Finland, the UK, Serbia and Turkey.

A short course provided the opportunity for members to hear presentations relating to “Undifferentiated and dedifferentiated head and neck malignancies of the sinonasal tract, salivary glands, pharynx and larynx.” This covered diagnostically difficult diseases for which molecular investigations are becoming increasingly important.

The Head and Neck group held a joint symposium with the Endocrine group on “An update on the diagnosis and classification of head and neck neuroendocrine neoplasms”. This session covered diagnostic and predictive information on mucosal neuroendocrine carcinomas of the nasal cavity and larynx, medullary carcinoma of the thyroid, head and neck paragangliomas and Merkel cell carcinoma.

Members of the Group contributed to a joint symposium with the Ophthalmic Group on “Ocular and sinonasal malignant melanomas”, and to the Joint session of the European Taskforce on Synoptic Reporting and the International Collaboration for Cancer Reporting.

A poster session provided the opportunity for many members of the working group and junior colleagues to demonstrate a wide-range of interesting studies.

Outside the work for the Congress, members of the Working Group have been chairs or members of the authoring committees for the suite of head and neck cancer datasets being prepared by the International Collaboration for Cancer Reporting. These datasets were published online in September 2018 with a series of companion articles published in a special issue of Archives of Pathology.