

Welcome to the web site of **Digestive Diseases WG!**

Dear Colleagues:

If you are interested in gastrointestinal and/or hepatopancreatobiliary pathology we encourage you to join the **Digestive Diseases Working Group of the European Society of Pathology (ESP)**.

The main aims of the Working Group are the following:

1. To develop scientific collaboration among European pathologists who have an interest in gastrointestinal and/or hepatopancreatobiliary pathology, with the ultimate aim of supporting collaborative studies into a range of digestive diseases.
2. To represent a forum of discussion on “hot topics” including the practical approach to routine diagnoses and the provision of digestive diseases pathology.
3. To actively participate through scientific contributions in meetings and courses at, and between, the ESP Congresses.

If you would like to join the **Digestive Diseases Working Group**, please write an e-mail to **Arzu Ensari (aensari@tr.net)** indicating:

- Your full address / position
- Areas of your diagnostic practice and expertise (i.e. gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas, biliary tract..etc)
- Your main research interests in the field of digestive diseases pathology



> 3. Agenda of upcoming events

- Upcoming scientific meetings
22nd ECP – Florence, Italy
September 2009

- **Symposium: Role of pathologist in Targeted Therapy of GI Tumours**
Chairperson: Han van Krieken
- **Short Course: [Gastrointestinal Biopsy Reporting: What do Clinicians Want?](#)**
Chairperson: Johan Offerhaus
- **Slide Seminar: Biopsy Diagnosis of Different Forms of Colitis**
Chairperson: Karel Geboes
- **Business Meeting: Diagnostic Challenges in GI Pathology (An audience directed discussion)**
Chairpersons: Fatima Carneiro & Arzu Ensari

- > 4. News
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**MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
ESP WORKING GROUP OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES
Barcelona, 21 May 2008**

The Business Meeting of the Working Group (WG) of Digestive Diseases of the European Society of Pathology (ESP) was held in Barcelona on May 21, 2008, 17.30-19.00 during the 3rd Intercontinental Congress of Pathology.

The participants were welcomed by the Chairperson, Dr Arzu Ensari (Turkey) and the Secretary of the WG, Dr Dina Tiniakos (Greece). Besides members of the group, colleagues who were not included in the current mailing list attended the meeting.

The agenda of the Business Meeting had two main sections:

- 1) News, including upcoming scientific meetings, web page, name of the WG, membership, and
- 2) Brainstorming on research, training, practice in digestive diseases pathology

Upcoming scientific meetings

Dr Arzu Ensari informed the participants on the scheduled scientific activities of the WG during the 22nd European Congress of Pathology to be held in Florence, Italy in September 2009. The following scientific sessions were announced:

- Symposium: *Role of pathologist in Targeted Therapy of GI Tumours*
Chairperson: Han van Krieken
- Short Course: [Gastrointestinal Biopsy Reporting: What do Clinicians Want?](#)
Chairperson: Johan Offerhaus
- Slide Seminar: *Biopsy Diagnosis of Different Forms of Colitis*
Chairperson: Karel Geboes
- Business Meeting: *Diagnostic Challenges in GI Pathology (An audience directed discussion)*
Chairpersons: Fatima Carneiro & Arzu Ensari

Liver and pancreas pathology sessions were scheduled independently from the WG of Digestive Diseases.

Webpage

Dr Arzu Ensari and Dr Dina Tiniakos have been cooperating with Dr Fernando Schmitt (Portugal) who is responsible for the addition of new Webpages in the Website of the ESP, to prepare and launch the new Webpage of the WG, which will include the following topics:

- [Home/News](#)
- [Committee members](#)
- [Congresses/Courses](#)
- Protocols-terminology
- [E-mail addresses](#) of members of the WG
- [Journals](#)
- [Links](#)

The idea of the creation of the WG's webpage was positively received by the participants who also proposed interesting additions to the above mentioned topics including vacancies for pathology staff, a forum for questions needing instant answers on difficult gastrointestinal and hepatopancreatobiliary pathology cases, presentation of an interesting case each month contributed by members of the WG, links to e-groups (i.e. Yahoo), national guidelines etc.

Name of the WG

Dr Ensari opened a discussion on the name of the WG to be used on the Webpage. She mentioned that in the ESP webpage the name of the WG is shown as Gastrointestinal Pathology (GI) WG. However, previously, the name WG of Digestive Diseases Pathology has been used by the WG in all e-mailings and scientific activities.

The participants agreed that the latter name is covering not only GI pathology but also liver, pancreas and biliary pathology, areas in which many members of the group are active both in routine and research work. Dr Funda Yilmaz (Turkey) proposed the name "WG of GI and Hepatopancreatobiliary pathology" but this was thought by the participants to be rather long or complicated. It was decided that the name WG of Digestive Diseases should be used uniformly from now on in an effort to embrace more members interested in liver, pancreas and biliary pathology.

Membership

Dr Tiniakos announced that the WG has at least 101 members whose full address and e-mail is known. The geographic distribution in Europe is large with the majority of the members coming from Germany, Turkey, Italy, Greece, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland, as was shown in relevant maps. Members from Asia, South America and Africa are also included. The current mailing list includes also e-mail addresses of colleagues whose name and postal address is unknown and these were shown on a slide in case they could be identified by the participants. Dr Cord Langner (Austria) provided information on some of the unidentified members and will be in touch with Dr Tiniakos for further assistance on the subject.

Most Digestive Diseases WG members are currently members of the ESP, however non-ESP members are also included in the WG, a fact that is not contrary to the structure of the WG. Dr Ensari and Dr Tiniakos suggested that the WG should be open to all colleagues interested to join and there was no objection to it by the participants. However, membership of the ESP was strongly encouraged.

In the Brainstorming session on the future of GI and hepatopancreatobiliary pathology, many participants contributed actively with original ideas on different topics:

Collaborations

Dr Gieri Cathomas (Switzerland) proposed a scientific collaboration of the Digestive Diseases WG with the WG of Infectious Diseases starting with a joint symposium in one of the future congresses of the ESP.

Collaboration with the Pediatric Pathology WG and Molecular Pathology WG was also proposed.

The possibility of collaborative studies between members of the WG was encouraged (see below).

Scientific/educational activities

The following topics were proposed by the participants:

- Iatrogenic pathology
- Pitfalls in digestive tract pathology
- Inflammatory bowel disease and mimickers
- Molecular testing
- Screening
- Confocal microscopy
- Micro/magnifying endoscopy
- Quality assurance (number of LNs dissected from surgical GI specimens, serrated polyps...etc)
- Organization of scientific sessions on digestive tract pathology or clinico-pathological sessions in clinical congresses

Research/collaborative studies

- Angiogenesis in neoplasms of the digestive tract
- Serrated polyps
- Interobserver/intraobserver variability in diagnosis of controversial digestive tract pathologic entities with slide distribution among participants-members of the WG

Four new members were added to the Digestive Diseases WG on site [Dr Iris Nagtegaal (The Netherlands), Dr Cord Langner (Austria), Dr G. van Lijnschoten (The Netherlands), Dr Kamran Ghaffarzadehgan (Iran)]. Several other colleagues, including junior pathologists, will contact the Secretary of the WG by e-mail in order to be included in the WG in due course.

The business meeting ended with concluding remarks by Dr Ensari and wishes for more dynamic and collaborative participation of the members into the proposed activities of the working group.

Dr Arzu Ensari
Chairperson
Digestive Diseases Working Group of ESP

Dr Dina Tiniakos
Secretary



1. Structure of the WG: chairman, members

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- 2. Mission, and description of activities