

Dear Colleagues, Members of Thymic and Mediastinal Working Group of ESP

Minutes of Virtual Business Meeting of TMWG Working Group, **Friday,**
November 20th (3:00 - 4:00 PM CET).

Attendees: *Philipp Ströbel, Malgorzata Szolkowska, Anja Roden, Alexander Marx, Helmut Popper, Fiorella Calabrese, Stefan Porubsky, Jan von der Thüsen, Mirella Marino, Luka Brcic.*

1. Summary of WG status

The Thymic and Mediastinal Working Group have 60 registered members.

2. Activity of WG

In 2019 during **31st Congress of the ESP in Nice the TMWG** was involved in co-organising of a joint Session of Pulmonary Pathology and Thymic and Mediastinal Pathology: “Rare tumors of mediastinum”. Four cases of rare or unexpected tumors were presented.

TMWG is also involved in the preparing of the upcoming **Annual Review Issue of Virchows Archiv** entitled „Challenges in lung and thoracic pathology”. The issue will contain topics mostly from pulmonary pathology but also three „mediastinal” topics:

- *Molecular pathology of thymomas: implications for diagnosis and therapy*
- *Common and rare carcinomas of the thymus*

- Recent advances and conceptual changes in the classification of neuroendocrine tumors of the thymus.

Guest editors of this issue are Sanja Dacic and Philipp Ströbel. The manuscripts submitted to the Editor are currently under review. Expected date of publication - January/February 2021.

Members of TMWG are also co-authors of the **chapters of the upcoming WHO classification for thymic tumors**.

3. Upcoming congresses and conferences

32nd Congress of the ESP and XXXIII International Congress of the IAP is approaching (**December 6-8, 2020**). Thymic and Mediastinal Pathology session, „Update on Thymic Pathology” is scheduled for December 8, 17:15-18:45. Program includes among others update of WHO classification for thymic tumors, novelties in thymic NETs and mediastinal neurogenic tumors.

The International Thymic Malignancy Interest Group Annual Meeting, Warsaw - October 14-16, 2021. Within this multidisciplinary conference a **2-day pathology workshop** will be held. **PROGRAM** contains lectures, case presentations and video-microscopy sessions and covers both neoplastic and non-neoplastic pathology of the thymus. Microscopes will be also available during breaks so the participants will have the opportunity to present or consult their interesting or difficult cases.

ESP and Polish Society of Pathology patronise the workshop.

Philipp and Margaret applied to ESP board for a couple of scholarships (about 10 incl. 5 for residents and 5 for certified pathologists) for TMWG members to cover the registration fees and they received a preliminary approval. Since the conference primary scheduled for 2020 has been postponed to 2021, the next TMWG chairs may come back to this idea next year.

2020 WCLC (World Conference on Lung Cancer) - January 28-31, 2021. It seems that the program of this virtual conference will not include the topics on thymic malignancies.

33 ECP September 2021, Gothenburg, Sweden. The group discussed about the program for the conference. Two slots for thymic pathology were proposed:

1. Symposium [4-5 talks], about 90 min:

(Preliminary title of the session): **Immunohistochemical and genetic tests in the diagnostics of mediastinal tumors**

2. Slide seminar [presentations of 4-5 cases that refer to the symposium], about 90 min:

(Preliminary title of the session): **Ancillary tests in mediastinal tumors - hints and traps.**

4. Upcoming WHO classification of mediastinal tumors

Alexander Marx, who is an editor responsible for thymic tumors in the new WHO classification, told that the new publication is in its final stage (publication expected for early 2021).

In the comparison to the 4th. ed. (2015) the new book will contain 11 sections instead of 4. Thymic pathology will be a part of mediastinal pathology and will be

limited to epithelial tumors. Germ cell thymic tumors and mediastinal lymphomas will compose separate chapters. Thymolipomas will be included into mesenchymal tumors.

Despite deep changes in the architecture, the new book will not contain a lot of novelties in the substance.

5. Research and collaboration

A lot of collaboration opportunities were presented.

Stefan Porubsky talked about finished study on thymic hyperplasia with lymphoepithelial sialadenitis (LESA)–like features.

Anja Roden mentioned about ITMIG project on clinical-radiological-pathological correlation of thymolipomas and lipofibroadenomas. The project is progress but is it still not too late to join.

Philipp Ströbel would be interested in a study of thymomas with lymph node metastases and welcomes collaborations.

Alex Marx called for cases of papillary adenocarcinomas of the thymus and welcomes collaborations.

6. Upcoming election

The term of current chairs finishes at the first quarter of 2021. Philipp Ströbel will not candidate for a second term and has proposed Malgorzata Szolkowska as chair. The members were asked to propose other potential candidates for both chair positions of the next term before the next TMWG Business Meeting planned for February/March 2021. The elections will be held during this meeting.

Yours truly,

Philipp Ströbel & Malgorzata Szolkowska