

**MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING  
ESP WORKING GROUP OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES  
Florence, 5 September 2009**

The Business Meeting of the Working Group (WG) of Digestive Diseases of the European Society of Pathology (ESP) was held in Florence on September 5, 2009, 19.30-20.00 during the 22<sup>nd</sup> European Congress of Pathology (ECP).

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 included the following topics:

- 1) Past activities of the WG since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intercontinental Congress of Pathology, Barcelona, May 2008
- 2) Connections with clinical scientific societies of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- 3) Connections with national Digestive Diseases Pathology WGs
- 4) Focus on Liver and Pancreato-biliary pathology
- 5) Future plans

**1. Past activities of the WG**

**a. Webpage of the WG**

The webpage of the WG is now added in the Website of the ESP (<http://esp-pathology.org/?- Pages with the WGs Activities>) and includes the following topics: Home/News, Committee members, Congresses/Courses and e-mail & postal addresses of members of the WG. It is scheduled that the webpage will also include data on protocols and terminology, links to scientific journals and e-groups, list of vacancies for pathology staff, a forum for questions needing instant answers on difficult gastrointestinal and hepatopancreatobiliary pathology cases and presentation of an interesting case each month contributed by members of the WG.

Dr Ensari invited Dr Ari Ristimaki (Finland) to provide the first case for the Webpage and Dr Cord Langner (Austria) volunteered to provide one case as well.

**b. Scientific/educational activities**

The participants were informed on the scientific activities of the WG that took place since May 2008. These included two EScoP courses:

- "Guts in Romania" held in Craiova, Romania, 18-21 Sept. 2008. This was a 4-day course on Gastrointestinal pathology locally organized by Dr Emil Plesea.
- "Update in Gastrointestinal Pathology" held in Ankara, Turkey, 1-3 May, 2009. The course moderated by Prof. Fred Bosman covered controversial topics of gastrointestinal pathology by means of lectures and slide seminars followed by wrap-up sessions.

The Faculty of both courses included Prof. Fatima Carneiro (Portugal), Prof. Arzu Ensari (Turkey), Prof. Karel Geboes (Belgium) and Prof. Fred Bosman (Switzerland) who shared their expertise with the participants throughout the duration of the educational activities.

c. Name of the WG

All participants agreed that the new name of the WG “WG of Digestive Diseases Pathology”, which encompasses gastrointestinal, liver, pancreas and biliary pathology, is the appropriate name for the WG. The new name was decided during the previous Business Meeting held in Barcelona.

d. Collaborations with other WG

Dr Ensari stated that the WG fulfilled the goal set in the previous Business Meeting for collaborations with other WG within ESP. The KRAS study in collaboration with the Molecular Pathology WG is now in progress and information maybe found in the ESP webpage. Furthermore, the WG organized a joint meeting with the WG of Infectious Diseases during the 22<sup>nd</sup> ECP (Short course 12: Pathology of infections in the GI-tract: getting the right diagnosis). The next collaboration will most likely be with the Pediatric Pathology WG.

e. Collaborative studies

During the Business Meeting in Barcelona the members of the WG had underlined the need for collaborative studies on controversial pathologic entities of the digestive tract. Currently, the first collaborative study of the WG is underway and it is focused on intestinal serrated polyp pathology. The slide distribution among participants-members of the WG representing many national WGs has been completed and the participants were going to meet during the ECP in Florence to discuss preliminary findings.

**2) Connections with clinical scientific societies of Gastroenterology and Hepatology**

The participants unanimously agreed that there is a need to increase connections with clinical scientific societies of Gastroenterology and Hepatology in Europe. It was discussed that initially this could be done either through organization of scientific sessions on digestive tract pathology or clinico-pathological sessions in clinical congresses or by inviting clinical colleagues in clinico-pathological sessions of the forthcoming Intercongress or European Congress. It was decided that Dr Ensari and Dr Tiniakos will be in contact with officers and/or members of the United European Gastroenterology Federation and the European Association of the Study of the Liver, respectively, in order to initiate scientific and educational collaboration as discussed above.

**3) Connections with national Digestive Diseases Pathology WGs**

This topic of the agenda was suggested by Prof. Gunter Klöppel. Due to the absence of Prof. Klöppel, Dr Tiniakos provided the background of the topic and underscored the importance of a continuous and open relationship with the national WGs of Digestive Diseases. Dr Ensari, suggested that this initially could take the form of an **open forum** where suggestions for topics for scientific sessions of the Intercongress and the European Congress could be e-mailed by the chairpersons of the national WGs, as well as by members of the European WG. The participants agreed with the idea of the open forum and that relevant e-mails may sent to either Dr Ensari or Dr Tiniakos.

**4) Focus on Liver and Pancreato-biliary pathology**

Dr Ensari and Dr Tiniakos stressed the need for greater involvement in the WG of hepatopathologists and pathologists interested in pancreato-biliary pathology. Dr Tiniakos mentioned that the main focus of the scientific and training activities of the WG till now had been GI pathology and that there is increasing need for more educational activities on liver, pancreas and biliary pathology. The participants recognized that many of them practice all aspects of digestive disease pathology, while a large number of the colleagues present at the Business Meeting, including Prof. Desmet (Belgium), were liver pathologists. It was agreed that Dr Tiniakos will be in touch with liver and pancreatobiliary pathologists in Europe to ensure more active participation in the activities of the WG. Furthermore, the need for additional time allocated for liver and pancreatobiliary pathology scientific sessions during the Intercongresses and the European Congresses was stressed. These sessions should preferably be organized by the Digestive Diseases WG, similarly to the gastrointestinal pathology sessions.

#### 5) Future plans

Dr Ensari summarised the future plans of the WG which were all agreed upon by the participants. These included organisation of a microscopy workshop on serrated polyps, the development of a quality assurance scheme on surgical specimens of GI carcinomas, the addition of interesting case presentations on the webpage (in shortage of volunteers, members would be asked to contribute in alphabetical order) and the opening of a forum/discussion page.

The business meeting ended with concluding remarks by Dr Ensari and wishes for energetic and fruitful participation of members into future activities of the working group.

Dr Arzu Ensari  
Chairperson

Dr Dina Tiniakos  
Secretary

Digestive Diseases Working Group of ESP