Report for the Head and Neck Working Group (2017)

Chairperson: Tim Helliwell, Liverpool UK (2017-18)

Secretary: Nina Zidar, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Members of the Head and Neck Working Group contributed to a full programme of sessions at the 29th European Congress of Pathology from 2 to 6 September 2017 in Amsterdam which were organised by Alessandro Franchi as chair of the group 2016-17.

A symposium entitled "How is molecular pathology changing diagnostic practice in head and neck tumours?" provided an opportunity to learn about how the microenvironment in head and neck cancers can be used to target immunotherapy, the optimal reporting of HPV-related carcinomas of the head and neck, the way in which molecular assessment of salivary neoplasms influences diagnosis, the genetic complexity of sinonasal neoplasms and how molecular assessment may influence the reporting of surgical margins.

The slide seminar stimulated discussion on the theme of "Why are there so many different salivary tumours", attracting contributions from working group members based in Spain, Italy, Singapore, Finland, the UK, USA and Canada.

A short course provided the opportunity for members to hear presentations relating to the developing ICCR cancer datasets for head and neck pathology, with contributions covering oropharynx and larynx, neck dissections, salivary cancers, nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses and odontogenic tumours. This was followed by a short business meeting at which Antonio Cardesa reviewed the past and future of the head and neck working group, illustrated from his experience and valuable contributions to the group over many years

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

A joint free paper session with dermatopathology included papers on ameloblastoma, salivary and nasopharyngeal carcinomas and HPV-related head and neck diseases.

Outside the work for the Congress, members of the Working Group have made substantial contributions to the WHO Classification of Head and Neck Tumours which was published in January 2017, and have been chairs or members of the authoring committees for the suite of head and neck cancer datasets being prepared by the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting for publication in 2018.