

Report of the Head and Neck Working Group for 2020

A Business meeting of the Group was convened as a virtual meeting on Zoom on 10th December 2020, chaired by Tim Helliwell (TH) with Nina Zidar (NZ) as Co-chair. 21 members of the Working Group attended. This report is an edited version of the full notes of the meeting.

1. TH welcomed members to the meeting and presented a summary of activities during 2020:
 - 1.1. By January 2020, the original programme for the Glasgow Congress had been completed, with speakers invited by March. Following the move to a virtual Congress we were allocated half the original sessional time and the programme was substantially revised. TH and Ann Sandison (co-organiser for BDIAP) appreciated the flexibility offered by the speakers, particularly those who were willing to not present talks on this occasion and leave sufficient time for others to contribute.
 - 1.2. The head and neck pathology contribution to the virtual Glasgow 2020 Congress was completed on 6th December with a symposium on Molecular characterisation and tumour heterogeneity in head and neck cancers, a slide seminar on challenging diagnostic cases (organised by Isabel Fonseca and Cecile Badoual), a joint session with the Ophthalmic Pathology Working Group on salivary and lacrimal neoplasms, virtual posters and an oral free paper session. All presentations were recorded before the meeting with questions submitted in writing and live Q&A at the end of each formal session.

Post-meeting note: Viewing data for sessions (Jan. 2021)

Session Title	Live visits	On-demand visits
Joint Short Course - Epithelial tumours of lacrimal tract and the salivary glands	276	295
Slide seminar - Challenging diagnostic cases in head and neck pathology	1000	406
Symposium - Head and neck cancers: molecular characterisation and tumour heterogeneity	465	460

- 1.3. TH had been invited to present on recent advances in head and neck pathology in the Symposium organised by the European Society at USCAP 2020, held in Los Angeles at the end of February.
 - 1.4. TH and NZ have contributed questions to the European Pathology Progress test over the last two years.
2. Feedback was invited from members of the Working Group on the virtual Congress 2020. The members appreciated the efforts of the organising committee to maintain many aspects of the Congress in virtual form this year. The technical challenges were immense and, although largely overcome, the failure of the servers on the first morning of the Congress was frustrating and had prevented the submission of questions to

speakers in the first session. Members particularly valued the recording of sessions for later viewing so that more of the scientific content was available as required, and parallel sessions were not missed.

The lack of interaction between contributors and the audience, and of informal conversations outside the formal sessions were seen as the main disadvantages of the virtual format. In particular this was likely to have affected interactions between more senior and more junior pathologists.

All members hoped that the 2021 Congress would return to a more normal format, although it would be useful if some of the advantages of recorded sessions could be retained.

3. The documents agreed by ESP Council in September 2020 regarding the roles of, and procedures for, the Election of Chair and Co-Chair had been circulated before the meeting. The members of the Group agreed that these were appropriate.
4. Election of new Chair - one nomination was received by the closing date. Nina Zidar was elected unanimously as the new Chair of the Group.
5. Election of new Co-Chair - one nomination was received by the closing date. Stephan Ihrler was elected unanimously as the new Co-Chair of the Group.
6. Plans for the 2021 Congress as submitted to the Scientific Committee were outlined by Nina Zidar.
 - Long course on cancer stem cells and the microenvironment – clinical implications
 - Symposium jointly with the local organising committee on the molecular pathology of salivary neoplasms
 - Short course jointly with the Dermatopathology Working Group on cutaneous and soft tissue lesions of the head and neck
 - Slide seminar on challenging diagnostic cases
7. Discussion on the broader activities of the Working Group in the future. There was general discussion of the document that summarised the activities of Working groups that was agreed by ESP Council in September 2020 (circulated before the meeting). These would inform the plan of work of the new Chair and Co-Chair. TH pointed out that several activities had paused due to Covid-19, and that progress in planning for the Group's contribution to the European School of Pathology and the creation of Head and Neck training Centre(s) was also deferred. TH noted that the Group currently had 137 members listed on the ESP website. A member of the Group asked if it would be possible to circulate a list of members of the Working Group. TH and NZ agreed to ask ESP staff if this is possible within GDPR.
8. NZ thanked TH for his contribution to the work of the Group in the last 3 years.